Greetings students, faculty, and staff of Concordia University, St. Paul,

I hope everyone had a fun and filling break! I think it is fair to say it was definitely needed and appreciated. For those who traveled over break, I envy you. The roads were so slick here that I was calling my mechanic to see if they made ice skates for 2001 Fords.

On that note, I thought that it would be appropriate to have an analogy about the school year at this point in the semester—enjoy.

The school year is like a very long work day. When one arrives at the office, it seems like forever to get to the fifteen-minute relaxation teaser (in our case, Thanksgiving Break). Then we wait a short time before the coveted lunch break (Christmas break) to socialize and relax. After lunch, the rest of the day (Spring Semester) seems to fly by.

During the period between the two breaks, it is always difficult to concentrate and get work done. I think I speak for everyone when I say it is tremendously easy to obsess over lunch right now. Stick in there with me, and we will be feasting before we know it!

Speaking on behalf of the entire Sword staff, we wish everyone success during finals. Have a great Christmas break!

Yours Truly,

Stephen Lybeck
Editor-In-Chief, The Sword

THIS PAPER IS A STUDENT PUBLICATION NOT AN OFFICIAL CONCORDIA PUBLICATION AND THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE NOT NECESSARILY THAT OF THE UNIVERSITY, BUT OF THE WRITERS AND STAFF INVOLVED IN THE PUBLICATION.
Concordia May Lose CTP Truck and Sports Webcasts

Fire code violations in Marshall building endanger the continuance of CTP

By Kristi Loobek

The Concordia Television Production (CTP) truck and the webcasts it produces may soon be a thing of the past due to its fire code expulsion from the Marshall building, its current home.

Television Production Manager, Zachary Schuster, said that the truck was bought in 2006 “for storage and also for storing a vehicle. There are baseball, softball, those outdoor sports that we couldn’t do before,” Schuster said. “Before we had the truck, we only did webcasts for our volleyball and basketball games, and then we moved all the equipment into the truck so we could start doing football; the long term idea was possibly soccer, baseball, softball, those outdoor sports that we couldn’t do before,” Schuster said.

Schuster explained that the problem branches, not from the truck, but from the Marshall building. “The area is being used for a weight room, for storage and also for storing a vehicle. There are issues with the fire code where if, God forbid, people had to get out of there quickly, that would be difficult.” The real problem arises when realizing the truck cannot be stored outside. “The concern is how cold it gets in the winter here. We have a lot of LCD monitors in the truck and also some other sensitive electronic equipment, whereas if it gets too cold it could actually damage it,” said Schuster. With winter temperatures dropping well below zero in St. Paul, keeping the truck outside is just not an option.

Solutions on campus and off are being considered. Schuster added “we’re hopeful in finding a place for the short term or long term, we have some challenges to face and we’ve come a long way in the last three years in having the truck. It would be a shame to see it go.”

As for the future of the truck, many things are still up in the air. Right now the truck has been given a temporary home, to be plugged in and kept warm during the winter. Webcasts for the winter basketball season should still take place. However, a long term solution is still to be determined.

On a closing note, Schuster offers up his opinion on all the benefits the truck offers Concordia: “I feel it is a valuable asset to the university as far as the department of communications studies, with students getting hands on course work. It enhances our public image, we give out a high quality product for people to watch, we’re always getting comments on how great the webcast is and that goes back to the students and the effort they put into it. It’s a great addition to what our competitive athletics already offers, we’re highlighting our student athletes in that great way and I don’t think anyone wants to see us stop doing that.”

Don’t Get Towed!

How to prevent winter parking nightmares on campus

By Victoria Vastering

Concordia Security is always looking out for its students. No matter what time of year it is, they promise they will do their best to find spots for students. In the winter time it is especially important to Security that cars be parked near one another, says Security worker Kathy Grimes. But what happens when there is a snow emergency or if a parking lot needs to be plowed? It does not matter what the situation is, students should always be in the know. Depending on the snow emergency situation this winter, Security will do its best to email students and let them know what types of plowing and parking situations will be going on at Concordia. However, there are a few things that students can do to keep themselves updated as well.

For students who choose to park on the streets, they should be aware and pay attention to any signs that the City of St. Paul may put up. These signs are usually put up 24 hours in advance of whatever action the city will be taking, and those 24 hours start at midnight. Any student that wishes to park their car for any long period of time should try to park it in one of the schools parking lot, as advised by Director of Security, Mike Mulso. Concordia Security does its best to notify students about what the City of St. Paul is doing on the streets around the school, but are often not given enough warning to do so in a timely fashion—especially when it comes to snow emergencies and plow routes. Mike Mulso encourages students to be aware of what is going on with the weather, and to be checking for any possible changes in parking rules. The City of Saint Paul’s website, http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=905, has information for students on what snow emergencies and other parking issues might be going on at any point in time. In order to avoid parking tickets from the city students should be alert and stay aware of what plow and emergency plow routes might be.

To avoid getting tickets from the school, students should pay attention to their emails. Concordia Security does its best to keep students informed when it comes to what parking lots they should not park in due to snow plowing. Students are given 24 hours of notice when any certain parking lot is going to be plowed. Security may ticket or drop-tow (which means towing your car to another appointed parking lot on campus, in which you will be responsible for the up to $60 fee) cars that are not moved within the 24 hours. According to Mike Mulso, students will often be called and told to move their car before ticketing or towing will happen. In their emails,
The Second of the Scholarly Series Raises One of Life's Great Debates: Are Women and Men Equal? Does the Bible Say Different? By Shon Haastrup

We all can finish this quote, “Behind every good man there is a good ______.” Certainly many believe there’s no exception when it comes to the Bible. Women are to stay in their place and play like good little house wives while men go and save the day, right? Or is it vice versa? Well many would beg to differ.

Friday, November 5th marked the second of this year's scholar series, which was held in the Bueto Music Center between 12-12:50 p.m. Professor Theresa Fitzpatrick from the department of English and Modern Languages, led the presentation about gender and its role within Christianity. The lecture touched on the power indifference between women and men within Christianity, how both are viewed within society, and how both should really be viewed.

This event presented more questions than it did answers, which wasn't a negative. It was stated that the seminar would do that very thing. Yes, many questions were asked such as: what is at stake with challenging the line between women and men, how do men/women to what has occurred in the Bible, and the timeless “what would Jesus do?” question was also asked. No clear cut resolution to this issue was presented. Again not necessarily a bad thing, for a mathematical/scientific type maybe, but otherwise the open-endedness drove thought. Humans are obsessed with the unknown until it's solved, so most will want to answer these questions that have been fueling discussion and debate for some time. The presentation was only about thirty minutes minus the question period. All and all, it was great for those short on time but it may have been disappointing for those who were thoroughly interested.

Though it may have been short, Mrs. Fitzpatrick did a wonderful job and made everyone's time well worthwhile.

Re: Student Complaints

Article
Student Senate
is on the Job*
Kyle Sorkness
Vice president of
Senate Relations
Austin Ertelt
Student Body President

Students of Concordia University, St. Paul, your voices have been heard. In time for the next issue of The Sword, we, the Student Senate, will work to construct detailed responses to as many of those concerns listed in last issue’s “Student Complaints” article as possible.

Now, you may be thinking, “This is just the tip of the iceberg as far as complaints go,” and that's true, so don't be afraid to send any more complaints, concerns, questions, or suggestions to your Student Senate via email at student senate@csp.edu. You can also bring your comments to a Student Senator or Student Senate Executive Board member.

As Duke Ellington said, “A problem is a chance to do your best.” We as a Student Senate will strive to do our best in representing the student body and the concerns that the body has raised. Again, look for our comprehensive response article in the next issue of The Sword.

RLC Trash: Sanitation Issues

Concordia Housing
By William Lange

In the past, residents have been able to bring their bagged trash to the trash room and put it in the bins. This year, the floors of the 3rd and 4th floor of the RLC were not waxed so the trash bins cannot be rolled across them. Residents have been told to take their trash out to the dumpster adjacent to Wollaeger Hall and their recycling to the dumpster closest to the RLC.

In an interview with RLC resident Andria Schwalbe, she gave her account of the current trash situation in the RLC: “It's ridiculous. People leave bags of trash in the halls because they are too lazy to take it downstairs to the trash bins. I've taken four bags of other people's trash out because it has ended up in front of my door. It's no wonder we have mice in the RLC.”

According to RLC Manager, Heidi Goettl, last year RLC had a full time custodian. This year, the sanitation is left up to one student who only works two hours a day. It is this student's job to clean the bathrooms, hallways, stairways elevators. The third and fourth floors of the RLC have not been waxed because of uncooperative students. The halls are to be waxed over winter break. Due to a custodial change, there are not enough hours to take care of trash rooms.

Student workers are responsible for the cleaning of Luther and Wollaeger. If you have any issues with mice, pests, or other problems, students are advised to contact their RAs or Heidi. Since the trash problem has gotten worse, RAs have sent emails of how to prevent mice and bugs from entering their rooms.
Volleyball Sets to Kill Another Opponent

By William Lange

The Golden Bear volleyball team finished the regular season undefeated in conference play, 20-0. They carried this success into the regional tournament. The Bears rolled over the heavily stacked competition. Concordia was ranked 2nd in the region behind hosts, Southwest Minnesota State. En route to their fourth consecutive regional tournament victory, Concordia only dropped two sets. The Bears were led by All Tournament Team members, Amanda Konetchy, Cassie Haag, Megan Carlson, and Emily Palkert. The Golden Bears are now set to win their fourth consecutive National Title heading into the tournament 29-4. Taylor Fieldsted credits the Bears' success to staying "cool, calm, and collected" and Palkert adds by saying, that the team will focus on their game and not worry about the other team's game plan. Megan Carlson had a great tournament, putting up double digits kills and digs in each game. Senior Emily Palkert enters her final tournament with Concordia as CU's all time leading points scorer, most kills all time, most blocks in a season, and the most kills in a match with 34. CU has been in the post-season in over the last four years, they look to win their 4th national title and send off Senior Krista Erickson and Emily Palkert a perfect 4-4. The Golden Bears head out to Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky California State; San Bernardino, being the first road block on the road to the championship.

Women's Basketball Team Looking to Re-Jumpstart Season

By Kristi Loobeek

After devastating loss to DI University of Iowa the team looks to get back on track.

The Concordia women's basketball team is looking to shake off their 59-101 exhibition loss against the University of Iowa and regain confidence going into the regular season. Coach Paul Fessler is hopeful that the team will quickly rebound from this loss claiming that "the worst part of the Iowa game was what the scoreboard said." Fessler is happy with many aspect of the game despite the loss. "There were plenty of positives, we shut down their leading scorers and held them in check, we played even with them on shot attempts, free throw attempts, turnovers, those were all very good positives for us," said Fessler.

The team moves into the regular season with seven new players, six freshman and one transfer student. Fessler explains that these new players need to have a quick learning curve and also be quickly acquainted with the intensity of college ball. With so many new players the team looks to its four seniors, Zoraa Quoie, Maurika Hickman, Jineen Williams and Marlayna Graff, to lead by example and give guidance on and off the court. When asked who is the rock of the team Fessler confesses they have three. "We want our point guard Rika (Hickman) to be our rock as far as keeping us poised and in control of what's on the court, Jineen should be our go-to person on an offensive standpoint, and Zoraa should be established defensively. We can look to her to shut down their main player."

Fessler admits that because the team is so young they are behind in strategies, but is excelling past expectations in work ethic. The team is looking to rely on what Fessler calls a "dribble, drive and kick" motion offense rather than set plays. Along with a motion offense the team also needs to focus on a few small things, including rebounding and post defense. The team went 26-6 last year and is looking to secure at least twenty wins again this season, making it the tenth season in a row of twenty-plus season wins. But more importantly, the team is looking to improve on where they finish the year, last year being in the Sweet Sixteen. Like any other sport on campus the women's team is looking for support from all the students on campus. Big rivals for the Bears include Moorhead and Winona. The Moorhead game is away, but the Winona game will be played at the Gangelhoff Center on Jan 1, 6pm.
Cross Country Falls Short at Regionals

Despite Failing to Advance, Golden Bears Had Terrific Season

By T.G. Schoenber

Concordia's cross country team wrapped up its season at Regionals in Wayne, Nebraska, and did so in a convincing manner. Running against some of the top teams in the nation, the women's team showed record improvement on their times, while everyone on the men's squad ran a personal-best time.

For the women, senior Katie Monahan led the way, finishing the 6k race with a time of 24:58.9. Her time was 49.5 seconds faster than her efforts at last year's Regional Meet and 29.8 seconds better than her time at Conference last year, two weeks before, which were also held at Wayne. Freshman Becca Richter finished in 25:51.1 seconds, which is the fastest time by a Concordia freshman since 2006.

In the men's race, a 10k run, senior Jake Womeldorf led the way with a time of 34:38.2, which is a personal best time by 41.3 seconds. Travis Wagers, Matt Eicheldinger, Jonathan Erber, and Chris Kotlarek all posted the best times of their careers as well.

Concordia faced some stiff competition at the meet, stacking up against teams from the Northern Sun and Rocky Mountain conferences. The Golden Bears found the schools from the Rocky Mountain Conference to be the most challenging at Wayne. Western State and Rocky Mountain conferences. The Golden Bears had terrific season.

Golden Bears Bowl Bound

Accept Invitation to Mineral Water Bowl

By C. Cody Wilcoxson

St. Paul, Minn. - The Concordia University football team capped off an 8-3 regular season with a 32-14 victory at Southwest Minnesota State on November 13th in Marshall, Minn. The victory completed the Golden Bears first winning regular season since 2005 and earned them their first Mineral Water Bowl invitation since that 2005 season.

The Mineral Water Bowl is one of two NCAA sanctioned Division II bowl games, and matches the top non-playoff teams from the Northern Sun Conference and the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association. The Golden Bears, who finished fourth in the final NSIC standings, will take on Pittsburg State (KS) in the event held December 4 in Excelsior Springs, MO.

Coach Mauer was ecstatic when approached the following Monday. Mauer said, “As a head coach you have to take the good with the bad and in recent years we have struggled, but this bowl invitation means an awful lot to our players, coaches, and administrators. Everyone in the Concordia community has worked hard to help us experience the success we are having on the field this year.” Mauer went deeper with this sentiment saying, “It comes down to everyone being involved turning us into a winning team. The guys have put in the work necessary to compete at the highest level, the administrators have lobbied for us to have improved facilities and the opportunities to get better, the faculty has worked diligently to make our guys successful in the classroom, and the community, especially our student body, has come out to support us all season long. We are all in this together at Concordia, and it is an unbelievably meaningful thing for our program.”

Junior linebacker Al Quaye has been a leader on the defense all season long with his tough-nosed play, and he echoed the sentiment of coach Mauer saying, “Everyone is extremely excited. It gives us an opportunity to play a well know team in the country, and it also helps put Concordia football on the national map.” On a personal note Quaye said, “this bowl game means a lot to me, this is the first winning season I’ve had at Concordia and I wouldn’t want to experience this moment with any other guys than the guys that I have on my team right now.”

Coach Mauer was happy to see the hard work of his players finally paying off. He declared, “This bowl game is a reward for the hard work and commitment the guys put in during last off-season and all fall long.”

The turnaround from last year has been drastic in the win-loss column, but came as no surprise to the coaching staff and players. Quaye and Mauer both touched on a few keys to the success of the 2010 Golden Bears. Quaye said, “We worked extremely hard this off-season to get here and we have a good group of upper classmen that lead the team. Leadership is extremely important if you want to be successful. Going from 3-8 to 8-3 is a big change. It comes from our combination of experience, hard work, leadership, and everyone being focused on one task, winning and playing for each other.” Coach Mauer took this one step further saying, “We are the team we are this year because of the hard work of our players and coaches. We had a lot of guys gut through last season and take it on the chin at times when they were younger. Those guys are now veterans leading this team in the right direction. When you combine those veterans with some of the talented recruits we’ve had coming in, it makes for a successful team on the field.”

Two of those veterans experiencing breakout seasons are junior quarterback Spencer Ohm and junior running back Sam Campbell. Ohm is currently tied for the single-season record for touchdown passes, and a touchdown pass in the Mineral Water Bowl will officially etch his name alone on top of the record. Campbell has rushed for 878 yards on the season, and needs just 122 in the bowl game to have the first 1,000 yard rushing season for a Golden Bear since 2005.

One of the talented recruit’s coach Mauer talked about is junior college transfer Charles Gilbert, who has come in and made a difference at the wide receiver position. Gilbert enters the bowl game one touchdown reception short of the single-season record, currently held by his position coach, Tyrone Ruffin. If Ohm and Gilbert can connect for a touchdown in the Mineral Water Bowl, both will be on top of the Concordia record books. The football team will take some time to rest up before preparing for their December 4th date with Pittsburg State. The team will have 11 total practices by the time they head south to Missouri. “This gives players time to heal up from nagging injuries and prepare for a tough opponent” said coach Mauer.

Kickoff in Excelsior Springs, MO is set for 12p.m. on December 4 at local Tiger Stadium.
**The Sword**

**Just For Laughs:**

**CU Swimming Meets with Phelps**

Concordia’s Swimming Team spent a day with 14-time Gold Medal Winner

By C. Cody Wilcoxson

St. Paul, Minn. — On Saturday, November 13th the Concordia Swim Team was surprised at practice by Olympian Michael Phelps. The 16-time Olympic medal winner, including a record 14 gold medals, walked into LA Fitness while the team was beginning their practice session on Saturday. Phelps, a Baltimore, MD native, was in the Twin Cities swimming in the Minnesota Grand Prix, the first event on a seven-stop tour that will prepare Phelps, fellow U.S. Olympian Ryan Lochte, and other swimmers for next year’s World Championships in Shanghai.

Phelps had Saturday afternoon off from the Grand Prix that went from November 12-14, and decided to pop in on the collegiate practice session. Senior butterfly specialist William Lange was the first to spot Phelps as he was about to dive in to the pool. Lange said, “I couldn’t believe it! At first I thought it couldn’t be him, but I kept staring, and it was definitely Michael Phelps.” Lange alerted teammate T. G. Schoenberg who was also preparing to enter the pool for practice. Schoenberg said, “I wanted to run over and shake his hand, but I didn’t know if we were allowed to. I didn’t want the coach to get mad for us not being in the pool on time, even if Michael Phelps did just walk in the natatorium.”

Phelps was introduced to head swim coach Eric Dregni through a mutual friend at the 2008 Olympic Trials in Omaha, NE, and decided to check in on the team’s preparation for the upcoming season and maybe share some words of wisdom.

Dregni said, “He just talked to the guys about what it takes to compete at the world-class level. Practicing and dieting were the big things he touched on. I really think our guys can get a lot better from listening to Michael talk.” Lange talked about listening to Phelps speak saying, “It was awesome to listen to Phelps speak, and he told us all about his special diet. He said the way to be the best possible swimmer is to eat 4,000 calories a day. He said he eats two or three Big Mac's after each swim session.”

The team was surprised with the Olympic champion’s eating regimen, but most did say that after practice they would be heading to the nearest McDonald’s to give it a try. The swim team will get to put Phelps’ advice to work when they host the Concordia University Aquatic Jamboree to start the swim season at LA Fitness this Saturday, December 4th. Races begin at 9am for the meet that will include the University of Hawaii, the University of Florida, Ohio State University, and cross-town rivals the University of Minnesota.

**Hard Knock Season**

**CU Soccer falls short of preseason goals**

By Phil Barlow

The Golden Bear’s Soccer Team had a season filled with ups and downs. Their goals were to have a winning record and to make play-offs, but they fell short of both. Their season record was 5 – 11 -1 and they finished 11th overall in the NSIC. Early on in the season, Coach Joe Aliaiello became the winningest coach in the team’s history. Even though this season was not exactly what the team was hoping for, it is a good experience for their young team. They relied on a large amount of freshmen this past season to play a significant role.

The experience that they gained this past season should really help them next year. Replacing Lauren Nelson, Brittany Brandt, Sarah Sather, and Kari Janes (who was All Conference Honorable Mention) will be a tough task. The team is returning a strong nucleus of players that should help overcome the loss of the seniors. Some of the players to watch next season are goalie Kayla Kuczaboski, defensive specialist Chloe Moore, mid fielders Chloe Weinberg and Savannah Nolen, and forwards Arielle Stimson and Brittany Kapala. This is just a short list of the returners who played important roles in last season. With all of the experience returning and the sour taste from last season you can expect a highly motivated squad that’s going to surprise some folks in the NSIC.

Returning offensive powerhouse Arielle Stimson gave her predictions for next season: “Next year is going to be completely different mentally, which is going to result in a successful season.”

**Men’s Hoops Tips Off**

By Aaron Krason

The 2010 men’s basketball season is in full swing. This year’s team will have several familiar faces as well as a couple of new additions. They return seven seniors and three juniors. This year’s team is led by senior captains Andrew Kuderer and Chris Hamblin. They are also returning several notable pieces of last year’s squad. They return both of their interior starters, Dan Vandervien and Brent Barz, look for these two players to provide a physical presence to this year’s team. Their near seven-foot frames give the team a unique size advantage for this year’s team. Many teams in the NSIC won’t be able to provide an answer to type of match up. Brent was a force in the post last season, leading the team in rebounds per game and garnered second team all conference for his efforts. These two savvy starters will out man their upcoming opponents. Concordia also welcomes a couple of new additions that are expected to immediately contribute, transfers Kenny and Peter Olafeso. These twins have the skill set to be able to shut down most guards exit from the conference tournament left them with a sour taste in the mouth of the team and their fans. The expectations of the players are much higher coming into this season than they have been in recent years. This year’s team is looking to prove to the rest of conference that their initial preseason ranking of seventh is too low. This relatively low ranking has set a small fire under the team. Senior Matt Hackl discussed how this ranking has acted as a form of motivation “to go out and earn everyone’s respect.” It has served as a catalyst to unite the team. CU started off their exhibition season on a relatively positive note. Their first exhibition contest against the University of River Falls raised a few eyebrows because of how close the score was. Hackl attributed the closeness of this game because they “posed a unique matchup problem that we don’t often see in the NSIC by playing four guards and forcing our big men to match up to slashers and shooters.” The team rebounded nicely in their final exhibition game with an eighteen point shellacking against Hamline. The team plays two home games in December before winter break begins. They play Mankato on the 10th and Southwest State 11th. Do not miss these heated rivalries.
Mission Log: Thursday, November 18th

Cleaning my room, becoming an adult, and other farfetched notions

By Chloe Taipale

Every once in a while, I get the funny urge to try existing as a functional human being. After all, I've legally been an adult for over two years now, so I figure there's no better time to learn how to fold pants and wash my hair all by myself. Normally, I'm quite content living in my alternate universe of naptime and Lunchables, but occasionally I'll be struck with such a powerful feeling of horror and shame that I am suddenly driven to turn my life around—like, say, the eye-narrowing moment of realization when I'm watching Hoarders and the camera pans over a bathtub filled with dog hair and Christmas decorations.

My beloved mother spent the entirety of my childhood and adolescence trying to mold me into a neat person. She cleaned often. She made it look so easy. Enjoyable, even. Now, I have no problem with cleaning in theory; I simply have a hard time accepting the fact that you need to do it more than once. When my carpet has been petrified into a gravel path by a thick layer of spilled Sunny Delight and pretzel crumbs, I become irate. The idea that things in life keep progressing even after I tell them to stop—that laundry doesn't become clean if left long enough, that dirty dishes don't dissolve over time—makes me very, very upset.

Still, today, I find myself in one of those strange let's-play-grown-up moods. Not only am I staring down an impressive load of due-yesterday homework, but my room has become a fetid Gollum's cave, a sprawling expanse of laundry stalagmites and swirling humid air. I am determined to remedy this situation. I picture the new me sprawled flat across the immaculate floor, high on personal gratification instead of the current me, hunched in a darkened corner, slobbering and wringing my hands as I dine on insects and small rodents.

I get done with class, and after a brief Dairy Queen interlude, I am ready to construct my oasis of tranquility and light. I stand at the entrance to my bedroom, and as my eyes sweep over the cesspool of water bottles and cereal boxes that is my sleeping quarters, my heart shrivels up and bursts into dust. I am unprepared for this.

Uneasily, I begin delicately picking through my room for articles of trash. As I collect the tumbleweeds of old assignments and pocket lint, I make a series of pleasant discoveries. My floor is covered with change. I'm finding all of my lost hair clips. I locate my treasured copy of Backstreet Boys: All Access VHS and am flooded with nostalgia. Two hours and eight rewinds of "We've Got it Goin' On." later, I am laying on the floor in the fetal position, crying and wishing for carefree days gone by, the days before I was expected to read things and do stuff.

"Write a one-page paper, Chloe." "Please brush your hair, Chloe." "Change your shirt already, Chloe. It's been like a week." When will it stop? I'm only one woman! Morale is low, but I've come too far to give up now. I press on, gathering stiff, crusty socks and brittle Taco Bell wrappers. Behind my dusty laundry hamper, I spy a glass that's been sitting on the floor for months. I peek inside. Crusty nickels, bobby pins, and one long, coiled dead centipede. Eyes wide with horror, I place the glass on the ground and back away.

I decide to shift my focus to homework—specifically, an essay that's due tomorrow. Brow furrowed in determination, I put on my reading glasses (a sure sign that SERIOUS BUSINESS is afoot) and open my computer. I reason that I should quickly check my school email before beginning my assignment, just in case classes are cancelled forever or I've received all As based on charm alone. You know, just in case.

I somehow end up on YouTube for several hours. My assignment remains unstarted. "Okay," I tell myself. "I mean it this time. We're going to write an essay." With a pained expression, I close "Rico Suave" and return to my blank Word document. I buckle down. I write a paragraph. I receive a text message. Uh oh.

The Harry Potter midnight premiere is tonight. Before I even realize what's happening, I'm halfway to my friend's house, the crisp pages of my untouched textbook left flapping in my wake. My dreams of a clean room and dazzling essay have been discarded. (It does not escape me that these are the only things I've discarded in months). I feel a vague tickling of guilt at the back of my mind, but, I say to myself, even the most responsible of adults can't resist Harry Potter. No one can fault me, right? I mean, I've only had a week to write this essay. Who can possibly write 3 pages in a week? Who even cleans, anyway? Remember that centipede? It'll take weeks to recover from that.

My friend suggests we go to Dairy Queen to waste time before the movie. As I nurse my burger, my Sharpie lightning scar already smeared, I contemplate telling her that this is the second time I've been there today. Ultimately, I decide against it. My hair is matted from weeks of neglect, I've been wearing the same pants since Halloween, my room is a dungeon of squalor, and I am now most certainly going to flunk out of school. I can't put my finger on it, but something tells me that it goes without saying.

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Concordia Presidential Candidates Named!

There are 14 people who are potential candidates to fill the role as the President of Concordia University, Saint Paul. Here is the list of the respectable nominees:

- Rev. Dr. Jan Bruss- Lawrence, Kan.
- Dr. Donald Christian- Round Rock, Texas
- Rev. Dr. James Gimbel- St. Paul, Minn.
- Ray Horton- Brainerd, Minn.
- Rev. Dr. Nathan Jastram- Mequon, Wis.
- Rev. Dr. David Kluth- Round Rock, Texas
- Lonn Maly- St. Paul, Minn.
- Dr. Marilyn Reineck- Roseville, Minn.
- Dr. Alan Runge- Cedar Park, Texas
- Rev. Dr. William Schumacher- St. Louis, Mo.
- Rev. Gregory Seltz- Irvine, Calif.
- Dr. David Thomas- St. Louis, Mo.
- Rev. Dr. Glen Thomas- House Springs, Mo.

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Fun activities for the winter season

By Victoria Vasterling

What is a student supposed to do when they are stuck at home for Winter Break? In case you aren’t from around here, or even if you ARE from around here but still have no clue what goes on during winter time, I will let you in on some of our secrets.

The Holidazzle Parade:
The Holidazzle is a parade that is hosted annually by Target, and is includes over one million bright lights, storybook characters on light floats, musical groups, and all sorts of costumed characters for you and your friends/family to enjoy. It runs Thursday through Sunday at 6:30p.m. throughout the Holiday season (beginning November 26th and running through December 19th). The wonderful Minnesota tradition is located near the Nicolet Mall between 12th Street and 4th Street. The event is completely free. To gather any more information about the Parade, go to www.holidazzle.com.

Ice Skating and Sledding... Of Course!

If you happen to own your own skates and are looking for somewhere fun to skate, try exploring one of our Minnesota Lakes! A few you might try are Lake of the Isles, which is located in downtown Minneapolis near Lake Calhoun. Another lake which is actually a relatively close distance to Concordia is Lake Como. Not only can you enjoy ice skating on a patch cleared off on the lake—assuming that the weather is cool enough!—but you can also find various heights of sledding hills and cross-country ski trails throughout Minnesota.

Wells Fargo Winter Skate:

is located in downtown St. Paul this year, near the Landmark Center in Rice Park. They will have a FREE refrigerated skating rink set up for your enjoyment! There are skates to rent here, if you don’t have your own, and are on $2.00 to rent! However, if you have a Wells Fargo card of some type that you can present, you would get the skates for free. There is also a warming house, and hot chocolate and snacks for sale. For additional ice rinks, visit rinkfinder.com

Minnesota Winter Carnival:
The Minnesota Winter Carnival is also a thing not to be missed. It is located near the Landmark Center and Rice Park, where there are elaborate ice sculptures created each year. Other special events related to the Carnival include parades, a winter playground, a giant snow slide, ice carving contests, and a treasure hunt for the Winter Carnival Medalion which is worth thousands of dollars to the winner. For more information about the Winter Carnival visit www.winter-carnival.com

Tribute to Holiday Food

What to nibble on this holiday season

By Levi Gribbon

The holidays are coming around once again and that means one thing: tasty food. Things that should be included in holiday meals are some kind of tasty meat, mashed potatoes, gravy, pie, yams, various holiday themed cookies, candies, and chocolates.

As far as meat goes, I think it goes without saying that your first choice should be between a smoked turkey, a delicious smoked brisket, or a tasty spiral sliced ham. You vegetarians are missing out. Just look at the wonderful and magical animal we call the pig. Ham, bacon, tenderloin, and pork chops all come from this fantastic beast.

As far as mashed potatoes go, all I have to say is be sure to use whole milk or butter in your mashed potatoes. That will maximize the fluffy deliciousness. Gravy is one of the best inventions in the history of mankind. It is not a holiday meal if I do not end up passed out and face down in a river of gravy. That being said, do not skimp on the gravy. When getting gravy, make sure you get enough for leftovers as well.

When picking out a pie for dessert, make sure to get one loaded with sugar and calories. As far as pie choice goes, I always vote for apple and pecan. If you don’t like apple pie there is probably something wrong with your taste buds. However, there are always those in my family who prefer pumpkin pie.

Marshmallow covered yams are a must for any real holiday feast. As a little kid, I definitely did not want any green bean casserole but I could not get enough yams on my plate. Make sure to use a plethora of marshmallows. The more marshmallows the sweeter and tastier the yams and their juices will be. The juices may be the best part of the yams. I like to dip anything that isn’t covered in gravy already into the juices to give my food a hint of that sweetness.

Make sure to pick up some holiday themed cookies and cooking. You have to snack on something while waiting for all the other scrumptious food to finish. If you don’t have something sweet to snack on while waiting the fragrant odors emanating from your kitchen will drive you mad.

Marshmallow, whipped cream, cinnamon, and marshmallows! By their powers combined they are hot chocolate! It is simply a known fact that chocolate is delicious. Especially when in a liquid form. As a general rule of thumb, if your meal does not have a risk of inducing type II diabetes or cause you to pass out into an irreversible food coma, you are not trying hard enough. Anyway, have a happy holidays and a tasty meal.

Art of Native Americans

The MIA shows great art isn’t only found in Europe and Asia

By Laura Gunderson

The new exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts is not just a display of Native American art; it’s a venture back in time through 2,000 years and different regions. This representation of both ancient and modern Native American art brought me a greater appreciation for these cultures and reverence for these heroes.

The pieces of art come from the Thaw Collection, a body of 800 Native American works collected by Eugene and Clare Thaw. About the exhibition Eugene says, “Indian material culture stands rightfully with ancient art, with masterpieces of Asia and Europe, as their equivalent.”

Eugene was dead on: these works are a great representation of Native American art and why it should never be forgotten. The exhibition starts in the Arctic and Subarctic with the Yup’ik people. What I love about this show is that every room displays art from only one region, and creates a setting with a wall-sized photo of that terrain. There is also a subtle ambiance because every room is painted a different color according to the environment. The Arctic is purple and sets the stage for how the Yup’ik people survived under conditions even worse than Minnesota. They were heroes for surviving in the frigid tundra and made innovations that left my jaw dropped.

Art of Native Americans

Minneapolis Institute of Arts

Now-Jan 9th

I recommend reading the captions for all of the items because they bring new meaning when one sees the symbolism, the use, and how it was made.

For example, the Yup’ik people made goggles with thin slits—perfect for keeping reflected light out of the eyes and acting as binoculars. A coat made from seal intestines resembled coats that people wear today but was made over a hundred years ago! Every room is filled with treasures of human ingenuity created by Native Americans in the Northwest, California, the Southwest, the Great Plains and the Woodlands. Representations of weaponry, basket weaving, and beading are all here; the exhibition also features pottery from the Pueblo, whom actually invented pottery. One can see how animals, the Americans’ habitat, and settlers influenced their art.

With work spanning from around 100 A.D. to the 1900s, this exhibition offers a look at how Native American art was influenced by the coming of Westerners. With the introduction of horses and silver among other things, the Native Americans had the “ability to absorb without being absorbed,” especially in the creation of artworks.

The exhibition also features videos of modern and traditional dance and interviews with contemporary Native Americans. They speak about the complexities of keeping their traditions alive in a modern Western world.

People of all ages and experiences should see this exhibition because it will give them a new appreciation for Native American art and people. After leaving the galleries, I felt nothing but veneration for a people who were able to endure hard times and still make beautiful and aesthetic art. And even better— it’s free for college students!

Art of the Native Americans will be on view until January 9. For more information, visit artsminia.org.
Are you broke as a joke and out of ideas for gifts? Read below.

And last but not least, here is a little secret for the online shoppers,

1. Books from Urban Outfitters:

I hope this helps ease the pain of shopping on a college budget, Happy Holidays!

All That Jazz
Vox 9 Musical Group Hits All the Right Notes at Concordia

By Victoria Vasterling

On Friday November 12th, Concordia Music Department hosted a concert of the vocal jazz group Vox 9 and the jazz ensembles. This concert was absolutely astounding! When the concert started off with the Jazz Ensemble, it was evident that the concert was going to be fun for all.

During their first song, "Do Lord" by Julia Ward Howe - they invited the audience to sing along. They continued with their energizing performance with "Caravan" by Janis Tizol and "La Murga" by Willie Colon and Hector Lavoe. The Jazz Combo then took over the stage with a very smooth and easygoing performance of "Satin Doll" by Duke Ellington and "Autumn Leaves" by Joseph Kosma.

The evening progressed with the Contemporary Ensemble giving an exciting presentation of "Jackie Wilson Said" by Van Morrison and "Chain of Fools" by Don Covay. Vox 9, the vocal jazz group, then performed the longest set list of the concert. They performed seven songs including "I'm Glad There Is You" arranged by Phil Mattson, "Getting to Know You" by Rodgers & Hammerstein (arranged by Gene Puerling), and "What a Wonderful World" by Thielemann and Weiss (arranged by Phil Mattson).

Vox 9 gave a lovely performance with amazingly complex eight part harmonies. They had a very bright sound that gave new life to familiar songs. The final song of the event, performed once again by the Contemporary Ensemble, was "Superstition" by Stevie Wonder. This was a spectacular way to end the evening and make even better by the ensemble moving to the rhythm in unison.

All the performers did an outstanding job. The soloists played skillfully and the instrumentalists played in beautiful unity. From the beginning to the end, this concert was engaging and fun. While, at the same time, showing vast amounts of performance from all the performers. We are very blessed to have access to such an abundance of talent here at Concordia.

Follow the Sword on Twitter
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TOP FIVE HOLIDAY GIFTS

By Savannah Nolen

Are you broke as a joke and out of ideas for gifts? Read below.

1. Books from Urban Outfitters: Starting at prices from fifteen dollars on you can find intriguing books that will suit any person that you are shopping for. There are eclectic books such as *How to Design a Chair* by Design Museum and even *I Hate Everything* by Matthew Diebenetti.

2. Products by Burt's Bees: Burt's Bees makes natural products for the earth friendly individuals. There products can be for men, women, and even babies. With everything from toothpaste to feet lotion, you can find many individual gifts, or even gift sets to please friends on your holiday list.

3. Gift Certificates: For the hard to please, gift certificates are always the best option. You can please a tricky individual by throwing a gift certificate to Chipotle, or even gift sets to please friends on your holiday list.

4. Mittens: Let's face the truth: in Minnesota mittens are always a necessity. I found mine—which are wool with a fun design—at Quince on Grand Avenue for fifteen dollars.

5. And last but not least, here is a little secret for the online shoppers. The15dollarsstore.com Here you can find clothes and accessories for only fifteen dollars. Everything is marked down to the same price and you can find anything from Geneva rhinestone watches, to Perry Ellis wallets for your dad or boyfriend.

I hope this helps ease the pain of shopping on a college budget. Happy Holidays!

Moby Dick Play Review

A whale of a tale earns 

By William Lange

Concordia’s Theater department put on a four cast member showing of Moby Dick. Located in the Black Box, this single set play adapted from Herman Melville’s book lasted 70 minutes with no intermission.

The play starred Brennan Blomgren as Ahab, captain of the Pequod and Brittany Pitts as Ishmael. They were supported by Andrew Eckhardt as Queequeg and Kelsie Lee as Stubb. Together, the four brought Melville’s play to life through the direction of Mark Rosenwinkel.

The play started out with a shaky solo, which was turned into an empowering four part melody to set the tone of the show. After the song, Ishmael requests to be a part of Ahab’s whaling crew.

Ishmael is warned by Queequeg and Stubb about Ahab’s drive to get the white whale who took his leg. Once aboard the ship and apart of the crew, Ishmael begins to log the journey in a diary. At this point in the tale, Queequeg opens up to Ishmael, revealing his past and how he is home sick.

Queequeg’s desire to go home could not come at a worse time. Ahab returns from another whaling ship, the Rachel, to set a new course to hunt Moby Dick. Ishmael and Queequeg are then struggling to keep their sanity: Queequeg builds himself a coffin, paranoid of dying and left at sea. Ahab and his shipmates make the three days journey to find Moby Dick.

On the third day, Moby Dick arose from the ocean and crushed Ahab’s ship. Ismael, the ships only survivor, floated in the ocean until picked up by the Rachel, in the area looking for its lost children, only to find the Pequod’s orphan.

Although the play had only four actors, they did a good job at filling out the entire black box, leaving the audience feeling surrounded. Queequeg’s outstanding makeup design and Brennan’s convincing acting helped make the play unique and moved it along very well. Overall, I give this production 4.5 stars out of 5.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

Book Study Guide

Refresh you memory or preview new themes before seeing the movie

By Tara Rupiper

Say goodbye to Harry Potter because this is the last in the series! *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* is the last installment of J.K. Rowling’s epic series. In the last installment, Harry and his friends embark on a wild adventure that will decide if Harry will live another day or face the deadly Lord Voldemort. This is not another year at Hogwarts of Witch Craft and Wizardry. This year Harry, Ron, and Hermione are on the run to find the deadly Horcruxes to be able to defeat the notorious Lord Voldemort. Along the way they meet more wonderful and terrible creatures. They also run into some friends along the way like Dobby, Griphook, Luna Lovegood, Dean Thomas, and the famous wand maker Ollivander. This book is full of adventure, surprises, and the ability to look death in its face. I personally have been a fan of the Harry Potter series since I was in elementary school. When this book first came out, I wanted to get it right away. I thought that the book was beautifully written. J.K. Rowling does an amazing job at bringing the characters, creatures, and surroundings to life. Her characters are very relatable to a lot of people. People like to be able to relate to a character in a book because it makes the character more real. There was a lot of debate on whether or not Harry was going to die or not. Some people thought that he should have died while others thought that if Harry died all of the things that Dumbledore had prepared Harry for would have been for nothing. This epic tale is an intense and somewhat depressing story about a boy coming into himself and finding that there is good in the world even in the darkest of places.
Holiday Crunch Time: Financial Decision Making
Finding the true meaning of the holidays
By Arielle Stimson

It's that time of year again. It's the time to pull out your barren wallet and be giving. Isn't that what Christmas is all about, getting the best Christmas present for all to see? Well this Christmas I'm getting a little disgruntled with the whole process. After configuring my wages up unto Christmas; sociology book $54 + Mass Comm. Book $32 + Comm. Fund Book $43 + Biblical Heritage story bible $5 = a grand spanking total of $134. This is under the assumption that the book store doesn't decide to change each course book so you can't get any money back. But thinking like the frugal college student that I am, is under the assumption that the book store doesn't decide to change each course book as a whole; hence four Christmas presents in one. I could give the Biblical Heritage book to my one friend for next semester; hence one Christmas present down for my one and only friend. Now it's on to the real test of Christmas, the present for the significant other. The problem with Christmas is the unwritten rule that if you are officially dating someone, you are expected to get them the perfect gift. Whether it has been 10 years or 10 months, you are trapped in that "Well, just surprise me honey" stage. I don't want to surprise you! Knowing that the Christmas holidays are the time when most couples break up doesn't make it any better! Is it because they didn't get the right colored shirt or the pookah necklace didn't fit? The only way I'm going to make anything out of my $40 is to wake up at the crack of dawn to enter the shameless battle of the infamous Black-Friday. I will equip myself with an iPod (for motivational purposes), two water bottles strapped to my waist, running shoes and brass knuckles. I'm destined to fight the statistics and still be in a happy relationship after the holidays whether that means tripping an old lady to a present or not.

"I'm destined to fight the statistics and still be in a happy relationship after the holidays whether that means tripping an old lady to a present or not."

Call of Duty: Black Ops Review
(PS3, Xbox 360)

Treyarch keeps the Call of Duty train on right track
By Charlie Wirth

Call of Duty: Black Ops, set in the Vietnam era of warfare, is the newest installment to arguably the most prominent first-person shooter franchise in all of gaming. Annually, developers Treyarch and Infinity Ward alternate in creating the new Call of Duty with publisher Activision, and this year, it was Treyarch's turn. To say the least, many of the same concepts of last year's game reside in Black Ops, but there are a few new features that help distinguish it from the others.

Notably, the newest features are usually in the online multiplayer part of the game, where players go online with and against other players in the battlefield. Treyarch really elaborated on the number of different multiplayer options adding new modes such as Wager Match and Combat Training on top of what returning players can expect from the standard game modes. There are some fun new kill streaks such as an explosive remote control car, as well as increased customization to the characters and weapons.

Also in online multiplayer, players earn a type of currency called CoD Points from playing online matches. For those who like to gamble, and open an exciting new batch of game modes, Wager Match sets it so players exclusively earn CoD Points, which allows for the purchase of new guns, perks and all things used to upgrade the standard fare. Spending CoD Points yields no refunds or going back on what is purchased, so careful planning is advised.

For those who don't like to face the sometimes harsh reality of facing other players online, they have been given the nice option of Combat Training, which gives them the opportunity to battle computer controlled enemies that can be set to any level of difficulty. Of course, there is also an all new campaign mode where one player follows a theatric storyline, playing in numerous battles as a soldier named Alex Mason. The campaign seems a little strange at first, and it is filled with intense and graphic moments (that can be turned off or on at the player's discretion), but it is a solid campaign, and rewarding if played through entirely. Back by popular demand is the Zombies game mode, which barricades the player(s) in a creepy mansion, making them fend off rounds of flesh-eating zombies.

Giving the new CoD game a score out of 10, I would give it an 8.5. Even though it can be a really fun game, online multiplayer can be frustrating, and there always seems to be issues with the network connections dropping games. For longtime players, it can seem like parts of the game are just copied and pasted from previous installments, but Treyarch did however, try to load this experience with different features to keep players from getting too frustrated with one aspect of the game. For those avid Call of Duty fans, Black Ops won't disappoint.
If you stay up all night waiting to see him, then you're a tool, and you won't get your presents.

*Buyback price based on need—limited quantities will be purchased at retail price, so hurry in to get the most for your books! See Concordia Bookstore for more details.