

## Staff Member Chosen for Upbeat, Encouraging Approach

By Emily Marcus

Students may have noticed photos of a familiar face added to the wall of Concordia. This face belongs to none other than Rosemary (Rosie) Braun, who has received February's award for "Positive Attitude" from the new Moments of Excellence program. Developed by the Staff Recognition Task Force, the purpose of this group is to recognize staff members who possess certain qualities and provide an enriching environment for everyone involved in Concordia. Each month, a new theme will be presented, encouraging students, staff and faculty to participate by nominating as many candidates as they feel meet the criteria for the designated award. By accepting the honor, the staff member will receive either an eight-hour or a four-hour day off, depending on full-time or part-time status, which can then be used in the next calendar month.

Braun is a 19-year member of the Concordia staff and



Photo by Ben Fink

Rosie Braun displays a cup half-full, as she shows why she was awarded the Concordia Award of Excellence for a positive attitude.

and staff, Braun was described as "upbeat, with an encouraging approach to colleagues and students, always going the extra mile." Her work includes assisting students in determining and organizing their majors and classes, as well as motivating and working with those individuals placed on academic probation.

Braun's photograph, located in the tunnel, shows her displaying a "Fear Not!" cup from this year's Concordia theme. She explained that she chooses to look at life as being half-full rather than half-empty, which explains why she decided on this particular pose. In a recent conversation, she expressed her honor over being chosen, as well as the humility she says the award brings. By being nominated, Braun feels she has more support and encouragement to continue to do well in whatever she does and always keep a positive attitude and smile, because sometimes, "that is all someone really needs."

Make sure to stop in and congratulate Braun on her wonderful accomplishments. Also, remember to keep your eyes open for next month's "Moments of Excellence" recipient.

## New Wireless Network Changes

By Michael Marvosh

Over Christmas break, the network technicians at Concordia made a few modifications to the campus wireless network. The network, not yet two years old, was not as reliable or flexible as it could be, and these alterations are a big step forward for the Information and Technology (I.T.) Department. Not only do the upgrades provide better service to the students, faculty, staff, and visitors at Concordia, but they also open the door for future network upgrades.

The first and most noticeable change to CSP's wireless access was the division of the network. Concordia's old network, Aethera (derived from an ancient Greek word meaning 'airy'), is

no more, and has been replaced by three sub-networks. These networks are used by faculty and staff, students, and guests. Ideally, there will be no crossover of network information between these sub-networks. Mike Bruder, I.T. employee says, "It's as if they were separate networks, but they're not. They're virtual networks." The benefits that these changes bring are mostly security-related. When a student

logs into the student sub-network, they are given a typical student's access to the network. When a faculty member logs in, they are given the extended privileges of CSP employees. The addition of the CSP open network allows anyone with a wireless-capable computer to access the internet through Concordia's wireless network, but they have no access to any of CSP's network resources.

There are not any specific plans for future wireless upgrades

except for the wiring of the newly-acquired Water Works building on the west side Hamline. The I.T. Department is also hopeful that they will be able to place wireless access points for the Knoll, although no specific plan exists at this

time. Bruder, one of CSP's resident network technologists, had this to say about the new network security system, Perfigo SmartEnforcer™. "Perfigo is a system for registering computers on the network so that we have a better idea of who is using our network. It is also a way for us to scan these computers to make sure they have the latest updates and are clean of viruses that can wreak havoc on

### Some things students should know about Perfigo:

1. When you log into your computer, you will be prompted with another login screen which will scan your computer for viruses and patches and register your computer on the network. This will not collect any personal or private information from your computer.
2. Perfigo will affect both the wired and wireless networks. This means that there is no way onto Concordia's network other than through Perfigo.
3. Most importantly, Perfigo is not being implemented to be an inconvenience to you, but to increase network security and stability for all network users. One compromised computer can shut down a whole network if left unchecked. Perfigo prevents this from occurring at Concordia.

is currently employed as the Director of Academic Advising, as well as working as the advisor for PSEO coordination. In a recent newsletter sent to faculty

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# Snowcoming Hits Concordia by Storm

By Erin Jolie Thompson

Because the wintry weather can have the dismal, dull, dreary effect on students, faculty and staff alike, Concordia Activities Board (CAB) and the Student Alumni Council (StAC) merged for the second annual Snowcoming festivities, hitting Concordia University by storm.

The week of Feb. 7-11 was deemed Snowcoming Week, offering a variety of activities for students, faculty and staff to participate in, including Snow Football on Monday night, Ice Skating on Tuesday night, the Surge Run on Wednesday night, ComedySportz on Thursday night, and ending with a hoopla of fun, the Masquerade Ball on Friday night.

Jan Haworth, the Student Union Director and Coordinator for Student Activities, summed up the week by saying, "Snowcoming is turning into a great tradition for Concordia students to get involved with. CAB and the Student Alumni Council have done a fantastic job of putting together a week of fun events for



Photo by Abby Fink

Participants stood in the cold as they prepared for the Surge Run during Snowcoming Week.

students." Many students agree.

The Surge Run was one of the highlights of the week. Drawing an enormous crowd of about 60 people, 20 students ran their hearts out in the snow, attempting to defeat the icy conditions, frigid

temperatures, and the urge to surge in this annual snow race. These "surgers" certainly had some interesting experiences, including one valiant, but unfortunate athlete, Aaron Cawthorn.

Here is his story: "The surge run was a blast-cold, slippery, fun; what more could you ask for? It was a little taste of the spring. I tried to jump over the

bush in front of Luther hall and this attempt was a failure. I ended up jumping and landing on top of the bush, scraping up my whole side and getting a stick impaled a half inch into my knee. That was the sharpest, toughest bush I have ever met in my life. I need about a year to recover for next year's race. Bring it on next year, I will defend my title to the death, even if I have to have a reencounter

with that bush again." With that determination and a little bit of practice dodging bushes, Cawthorn may take that winning title away next year.

On Thursday at ComedySportz, Concordia students encountered more than just athletes, but ACTletes. What is an actlete, one may ask? According to Mike, the ComedySportz referee at Thursday's show in the Buetow Auditorium, it is "a mix of an athlete and an actor." ComedySportz, an improv comedy group that operates all over the country, sent a team of actletes to Concordia's campus. Not only did these "professionals" entertain students, but several members of the audience got to participate in this interactive comedy, either going up on stage or offering suggestions for the pros. Kat Schaefer said, "ComedySportz was really fun! It made me laugh a lot. It was a really nice break towards the end of the week. Dan Gillson [an audience volunteer] did a great job too! I'm impressed with the talent individuals have to be able to do improv!" Steven Namany agrees, "It was nice to get together with our friends in the middle of the week and laugh our heads off."

## Anita Perez Ferguson Visits Concordia

By Eric Cannedy

Anita Perez Ferguson, Woodrow Wilson Visiting Scholar, visited Concordia University during the second week of February to meet with students and lead discussion in selected classes. Among the issues Perez Ferguson came to discuss were the changing face of American politics, the intersection of Wall Street and Main Street, building leadership skills, inter-generational solutions for the aging society, public speaking, grassroots development and organizing, crisis management and media relations.

Perez Ferguson is a professional speaker, an experienced trainer and a published author in the areas of leadership, diversity and public policy. In 2000, she was appointed by President Clinton to Chair the Inter-American Foundation, and the U.S. Senate confirmed her appointment. She has served as the President of the National Women's Political Caucus and earlier as the White House Liaison to the US Department of Transportation. Currently, Perez Ferguson serves on the Board of Directors for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

On Thursday, Feb. 11, Perez Ferguson visited Prof. Marilyn Reineck's Family Communication and Public Speaking courses.

Reineck had each student come prepared with a question to ask Ms. Perez Ferguson relating to the topic of their respective courses. In the Family Communication course, the discussion centered on "bridging the gap" between generations in today's society. Perez Ferguson spoke on how to relate to younger generations, as well as the importance of listening to those around you.

Rachel Feldman, a student in Reineck's Family Communication class, said that "Her accomplishments were astounding... After a short conversation with her I realized

*"Her accomplishments were astounding... After a short conversation with her I realized that she enjoys and gains fulfillment from what she does."*

- Rachel Feldman

that she enjoys and gains fulfillment from what she does. She travels around the world giving seminars and experiencing the diversity of other cultures." Feldman also commented on the content of Perez Ferguson's class discussion: "A good tip for life that Anita had was to gain the communication skills needed for life, then add the knowledge and experiences of other scholarly goals. Having the ability to communicate will drastically help you achieve other goals in life."

Concordia students enjoyed Perez Ferguson's visit, and they experienced discussion that helped to broaden their understanding of business and leadership in the United States.



Photo by Abby Fink

Snowcoming Queen, Professor Basma Ibrahim Devries, and King, Professor Jim Gimbel.

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Concordia's Student Newspaper

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## M's Answers: How Do I Know If I'm Ready?

Dear M,  
I have a rather serious question, and I need advice. My significant other has been talking about sex a lot lately, and I know that I need to make a decision about it soon. I just don't know if I'm ready. How do you decide if you're ready?  
~ In Need of a Little Sex Ed

Dear In Need,

First of all, I applaud you for coming forth with this question. Sex is something that many people do not talk about seriously. Also, I am encouraged by the fact that you are trying to make the decision before something happens. It is easier to make a decision about boundaries before anything happens; then you are able to stick with those boundaries later.

Today, our culture says that sex is something that is O.K. in any situation and that it is something with no consequences. In actuality, both of these are often untrue. A person must be emotionally and physically ready to have sex. In Genesis, God outlines the sequence of events—marriage, leaving father and mother, and sex—purposefully. Sex within a marriage, a union made between two people before God, is the safest bet.

Emotionally, a person must be prepared for sex. Sex outside the confines of marriage does not guarantee that a couple will stay together. In fact, sex oftentimes complicates relationships because of the emotional attachment that

one partner may feel toward the other, while the other partner may feel no emotional attachment. You need to decide whether or not you are ready to have sex with someone who may or may not be with you forever.

An important thing to remember about sex is that there are often consequences that outweigh the enjoyment of having sex before you are married. You must be physically prepared; being physically prepared means having some sort of contraceptive. However, with most contraceptives there is still

the chance of pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs). Are you prepared for pregnancy? Are you going to protect yourself against STDs?

If you cannot answer either of these questions, then you are definitely not ready for sex. Outside of marriage, sex is a scary thing with no guarantees. You have to decide if the person with whom you would like to have sex with is someone that you really care about and trust. Is he or she emotionally and physically prepared?

Talk about these issues and

questions with your partner. If you cannot talk about sex in a mature way with your partner, then you are probably not ready. Sex should always be a mutual decision between two people for the right reasons.

This answer is in no way a thorough checklist about the questions to ask or consequences to consider before having sex. For more help, advice, and information check out <http://www.scarleteen.com/sexuality/readiness.html>.

All decisions have consequences,  
~ M

Dear M,  
I just got engaged! I am so excited to start planning the wedding. I know that I should start planning the place, the flowers, the food, the dress and so much more. There are an endless number of things to think about for the next few months. Do you have any advice?  
~ Waiting for Wedlock

Dear Waiting,  
Elope.  
~ M

## Ward Churchill Owes Americans an Apology

By Matt Griepentrog and Jake Borkhus

A picture of the American flag in Ward Churchill's office is surrounded by the words "USA Oppression Racism War Ignorance Education Peace Unity Freedom." The stars on the flag are made out of skulls and crossbones. The words "Stop the Lynching, Open the Borders" are spray painted over the flag.

What does Ward Churchill stand for? The oppression, racism, war and ignorance? Or the education, peace, unity, and freedom? Let's take a look.

Ward Churchill is the head of the Multicultural Studies Department at Colorado University. He got his degree at Sangamon State University in Illinois, a

"radical university for radical people," as its old Rolling Stone advertisement explains. He has been married at least four times and is a Native American. He has recently come under fire for displaying enormous insensitivity and flat-out ignorance in his essays and public appearances.

Ward Churchill recently called the innocent Americans who went to work on Sept. 11, 2001 in the World Trade Center "Little Eichmanns." Adolf Eichmann was one of the Nazis who spearheaded the extermination of the Jews. After much outrage erupted over his comments, Ward Churchill had this to say to the families of the innocent who were brutally murdered by Islamic terrorists: "I'm not backing off an inch. I

owe no one an apology."

He owes no one an apology? I couldn't disagree more. Ward Churchill owes every single American an apology for taking his First Amendment rights and using them to compare 9/11 victims to Nazis. Did we miss something? We must have. We thought the World Trade Center was an office building, not Auschwitz. Churchill is flat-out delusional.

Going beyond rejecting an apology request, Churchill goes so far to believe that he is fit to serve as an educator to our nation's young adults at a public university. Of course, universities are a place where a variety of opinions are warmed, welcomed, and even embraced,

but comparing victims of 9/11 to Nazis holds no educational value to the future of our nation. In the coauthors' opinions, it holds no value in any public arena, especially in public education. Churchill does not stand for the peace, education, and unity of our nation. He stands for outrageous bigotry, hatred, anti-American sentiment, and flat-out stupidity.

Churchill says, "I do not work for the taxpayers of the state of Colorado." Ward, I think you're getting a little ahead of yourself. Wait about two more weeks, and that statement will be true enough.

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## Concordia Observes Lenten Rituals

By Andy Herzberg

On Wed., Feb. 9, the Christian church around the world entered the season of Lent. On that Wednesday, many people had black crosses or marks on their foreheads because the Concordia community celebrated Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season.

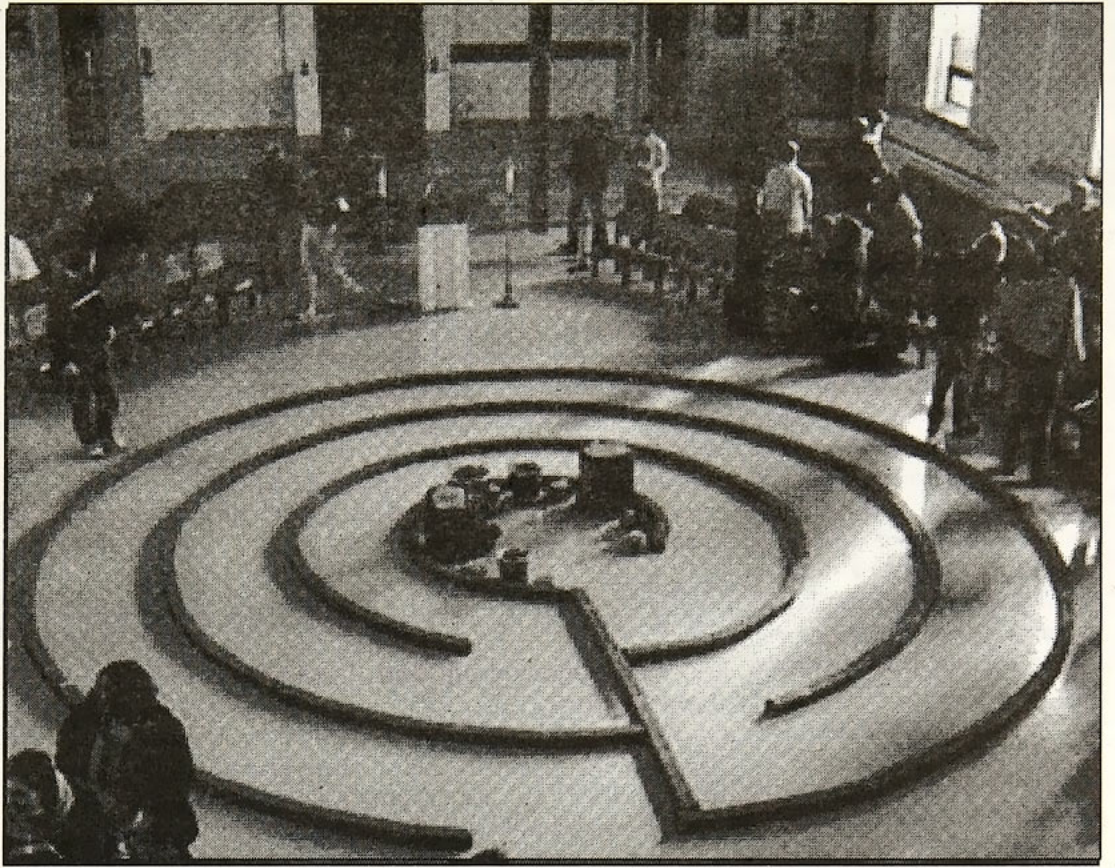
Lent commemorates the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting, meditating, and preparing for the start of his ministry. Lent is a time for reflection, confession and preparation before the Christian church celebrates Christ's resurrection on Easter (Mar. 27). Some people might say that there are about six weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter, but Lent is only supposed to last 40 days. The Lenten season does last for 40 days, but the church does not include Sundays because the resurrection is celebrated every Sunday.

During Lent, many people choose to partake in Lenten traditions or rituals. Many traditions include fasting or giving up something that one loves, like chocolate. Giving something up, Lenten fasting, is simply an option. Lenten fasting is a way to "join" Jesus as he fasted and was tempted in the wilderness for 40

days. Many Lutherans use this as a time to prepare for Easter. This preparation includes fasting from food, giving up a habit or slowing down. It can also include starting to study the Bible more, praying, or reflecting on the word of God. Lenten fasting helps to remove the clutter from life.

At Concordia, there are several ways to observe Lent. One can start by noticing the changes in the chapel. The word "alleluia" is removed from banners, liturgies, and conversations. The Baptismal font remains dry in remembrance of the desert in which Christians walk. The Prayer Path, set up in the chapel, is designed to take people on a three-part journey of prayer: the journey through the "inward" release of things, central time with God, and the "outward" relationship between each other and the community. Campus Ministry is providing resources for praying the scriptures, morning and evening chapels, and private devotional times. These resources are available to the campus in the Campus Ministry Center or in the chapel.

May God bless each student's journey through Lent, awaiting the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.



Graubner Chapel hosts the Lenten prayer path.

Photo by Ben Fink

## Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: A Lenten Devotion

By Aaron Gehrke

Every morning, one of the first things I do is take a look in the mirror. Some days, my hair looks a little more disheveled than other days. Some days, I am satisfied with my reflection, but other days I am not.

This is common for most people. Many people live and die by the reflection they see, because their looks make them who they are. For some people, the mirror can be a judge, and for others, it can be a friend filled with compliments. In either case, it is hard to imagine a world with no mirrors. If there were no mirrors, what would we use to judge our appearance? Would we care what we look like? How would we know if our hair looked all right or if we missed a spot shaving?

Perhaps mirrors are a barrier. Without them, our focus could shift from what we think we have made ourselves and be placed on what God has made us. 1 John 3:1 states, "How great is the love the

Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" God has made us his beautiful children through our salvation, which was given to us freely by Jesus' death on the cross.

In this time of Lent, many people take time to fast and give up things that they enjoy. This narrows the focus on ourselves and centers our attention on what Christ has done for us. We focus on what Christ has done, while looking forward to the incredible celebration that will take place on Easter. As children of God, we are called to be mirrors of Christ's love to the world. What an amazing responsibility this is.

### Prayer for the Day:

Heavenly Father, help me not to worry about what the mirror tells me I am. Turn my focus to what you have made me to be. Thank you for making me your beautiful and saved child. Help me to be a mirror of your love to the rest of the world. Amen.

## Intern Spotlight: DCE Stephanie Randolph



provided by Eric Cannedy

Stephanie Randolph is spending the semester in Hawaii.

By Eric Cannedy

Imagine beautiful green mountains, rushing waves, gorgeous beaches, and oceans stretching as far as the eye can see. For most people, that place is an escape that one does not often get to experience. How many times have you longed for a place like that during the cold winters of St. Paul? For Director of Christian Education (DCE) Intern Stephanie Randolph, those kinds of sights are just part of the job at her internship in Aiea, Hawaii.

Since June of 2004, Randolph has been on internship at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Aiea. Part of every DCE student's road to certification, the year-

long internship provides unique opportunities for students to experience real-life church work and become accustomed to life working in a church. Typically, DCE interns at CSP leave for internship just before their fourth year of school, spending one year at their internship site. Interns are sent all over the country, literally from coast to coast. In recent years, Hawaii and Alaska have been internship sites as well. Some students also decide to go the international route, with three students interning in Tokyo, Japan. After one year of internship (or two-and-a-half for international interns), the students return to more traditional student

life at Concordia for one last year of classes.

Every morning, Randolph takes the 10-minute walk from her apartment to the mission center at Our Savior, the house in which the church offices are located. At work, she does planning for her work at the church, meets with youth, and absorbs a great deal about church work.

As DCE Intern at Our Savior, Randolph leads Bible studies, organizes events, and generally participates in the life of the congregation. Since August, Randolph has started a weekly young-adult Bible study aimed at college-aged students. In addition, she delivers the children's message every other week during the Sunday services. On Thursday nights, the church sponsors "OASIS" (Our Answer Stands In Scripture), a weekly event aimed at middle school-aged youth. OASIS includes small group time, games, prayer, and a message that typically centers on some current events that reflect issues that the students might face.

With five months left in her internship, Randolph is working hard every day to learn about life in church work.

## CSP Speaks: "What did you give up for Lent?"

photos by Abby Fink



Andy Jones: "I'm giving up watching the Family Guy."

Katie Baxter: "I gave up seconds!"



Cameron Helliger & Billy Schultz: "We gave up drinking pop."

## Science Museum Invites Visitors to Dig Deeper

By Alissa Kness

The inspiration for ancient Chinese dragon myths, dinosaur fossils, is widespread throughout the Gobi Desert region of China. As the St. Paul Science Museum of Minnesota states in their brochure, "in China, new and spectacular dinosaurs are being discovered at a faster rate than anywhere else on Earth, and its fossil treasures span 135 million years." From now until May 1, 2005, visitors to the St. Paul Science Museum can experience this extraordinary collection in their newest exhibit, "Chinasaurus: the Great Dinosaurs of China."

Different from the Science Museum's permanent dinosaur exhibit, "Chinasaurus: the Great Dinosaurs of China" is the "largest collection of real and rare Chinese dinosaur fossils ever to tour North America." Through its rare fossils and life-sized recreations, this giant-sized special exhibit "takes visitors halfway around the world and back in time to experience some of the largest and best preserved dinosaurs on the planet." Focused on dinosaurs that lived in the Gobi Desert of China, it offers a different view of dinosaurs than what other exhibits do. "Chinasaurus" features several

reconstructed dinosaurs, and even a bed of rock in which the bones are not completely dug out; visitors can see the fossils the way that they are found in the Earth.

This exhibit is home to the fossil remains of some of southern China's ancient Giants, such as the Mamenchisaurus, with the longest neck of any known animal, over 30 feet long. It also includes fossils from the smaller animals that lived in their shadows. Visitors can "see fossilized dinosaur eggs the size of softballs, compare dinosaur footprints as big as an elephant's and as small as a robin's, get up

close to a fierce, meat-eating Velociraptor, and be among the first in the world to see a tiny and unusual feathered dinosaur fossil."

Admission to "Chinasaurus" is included in the regular Science Museum exhibit gallery admission (\$8.50 for adults and \$6.50 for kids and seniors). An audio tour, describing each of the fossilized dinosaurs in detail and offering more information about the eras in which these dinosaurs lived, is available for \$2 per person. In conjunction with this exhibit, the Science Museum has invited some of the "world's most esteemed geologists, museum curators, art experts, and paleontologists" to host a lecture series at the museum. Held on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons, the "Chinasaurus" lecture series "dives into topics like dinosaur growth rates, recent fossil discoveries in China's Liaoning Province, and the significance of the dragon in Chinese culture." Admission to these lectures is free, and more information can be found at the Science Museum's website [www.smm.org](http://www.smm.org).

**Upcoming and ongoing St. Paul Science Museum of Minnesota events:**

**In the Omnitheater:**  
"Kilimanjaro: To the Roof of Africa" **Jan. 14, 2005 - June 16, 2005**  
Travel with six spirited adventurers through Mt. Kilimanjaro's five climatic zones, with conditions ranging in similarity from the moist humid heat of the Amazon to the barren, dry climate of Antarctica. The audience will be right there as the trekkers encounter strange and beautiful landscapes while continually

testing their inner strength and endurance against the legendary African peak.

**In the 3D Cinema:** "Mars 3D" Get ready for a stunningly realistic journey to Earth's closest neighbor. "Mars 3D" reveals real images captured by the rovers' 3D cameras on the surface of Mars, as well as cutting-edge animations created from the data acquired by Spirit and Opportunity. The audience is immersed in the eerie desert-like landscape of the red planet-seeing the same footage NASA uses to navigate the rovers and gather information.

**Celebrate African Americans in Science:** Sat., Feb. 26

A daylong annual event that introduces Science Museum visitors to some of the best and brightest scientists, inventors, and educators from the Twin Cities' African American community. From 1 to 4 p.m., visitors will meet science and educational professionals, learn about what they do through interactive displays and presentations, and discover the inspiring contributions they've made to technology, education, health care, and innovation in Minnesota.

**Omnifest 2005:**

Mar. 18 - April 17, 2005

This spring, everyone's favorite giant screen film festival returns! Beginning Friday, Mar. 18, Omnifest 2005 will bring six giant screen film favorites to the Science Museum of Minnesota's Omnitheater: "Antarctica," "Seasons," "Stomp's World Beat," "Journey Into Amazing Caves," "Kilimanjaro: To the Roof of Africa," and "Extreme." The six films will play daily in rotation throughout the run of Omnifest.

## Viaggiare Italia: "Travel Itay"

By Alissa Kness

Over Christmas break, a group of Concordia students and faculty traveled to Italy. The students who went were Kim Anderson, Bethany Ash, Candice Bicondoa, Patty Boettcher, Nathan Burrows, Angela Carroccio, Rob Dunlop, Heidi Durband, Marie Faulhaber, Elizabeth Jacobson, Nick Koewler, Susan Krass, John Kruger, Theresa Luzinski, Monica McNamara, Danielle Niehls, Amy Ohmann, Erik Quarberg, Matt Scherger, Sam Seefeld, Sara Ulman, Melanie Vasterling, and Kelly Vinz. Accompanying and instructing these students on the trip were faculty members, Dr. Susan Pratt and Dr. Thomas Saylor.

The group traveled much of the country, spending time in Venice, Florence, Pisa, and Rome, and learning about what each has to offer. Some of the highlights of the trip included visiting Brunelleschi's Dome, The Basilica San Marco, the Vatican City, the Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps, the leaning Tower of Pisa and the Uffizi Gallery. "It was great visiting these places as a group, but it was also nice to have our afternoons and evenings free to do what we wanted," Carroccio stated, adding that in her spare time she was able to do things such as "riding on a gondola or going to see a football

game." McNamara agreed, pointing out that the trip was "very educational, yet you have an adequate amount of time to do your own touristy things. I think students need to take advantage of this, because you don't get many opportunities to travel, much less to Europe."

Each student was affected differently by the trip, and of course, everyone had his or her own favorite memories. When asked, Carroccio said, "It's so hard to choose just one favorite, but the gondola ride is definitely at the top of my list. The food and shopping were fabulous too!" Bicondoa added, "My favorite part of the trip was being able to see the places that you read about in history books. It was amazing to go to all the sites because you could feel how rich the history of it was. For me, the most memorable place we went to was the Forum and Palatine Hill. These ruins were once the center of Rome so it was amazing to imagine what it was like. Every place we went was amazingly beautiful!" Burrows agrees that seeing these old ruins was a wonderful experience, and

that "being inside something as old as the Coliseum in Rome was really cool."

Perhaps one of the greatest aspects of visiting a foreign country through a school activity is the option of gaining course credits while also taking a trip. On the Italy trip, students were able to earn credit

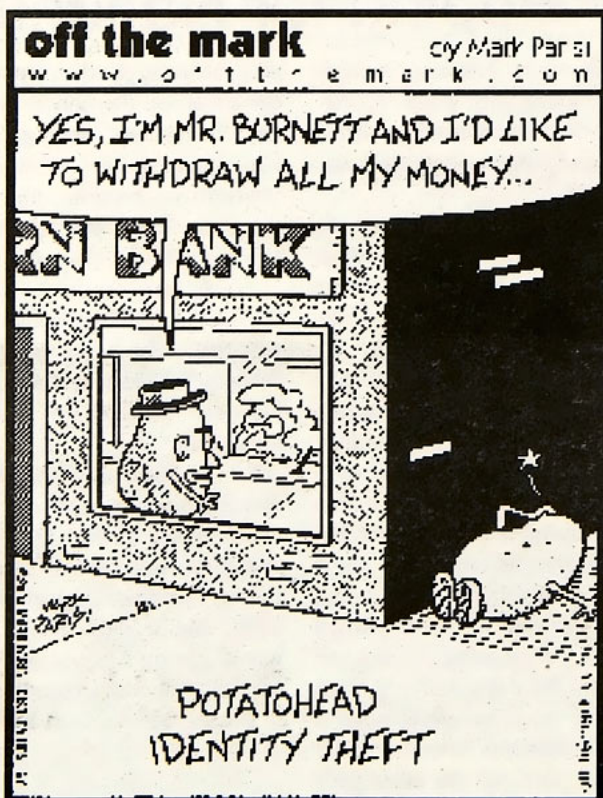
*"It's so nice to get credit for going somewhere so amazing and experiencing their culture."  
- Angela Carroccio*

for several courses, such as Intro to Literature, Western Civilization, Topics in European History: Images in Italy, or Topics in European Literature: Images in Italy. When asked if she would

recommend this experience to other students, Carroccio stated, "Absolutely. It's so nice to get credit for going somewhere so amazing and experiencing their culture. I would definitely recommend it to anybody who doesn't want to sit through a whole semester of one of those classes!"

Jacobson agreed that it is nice to get credit for taking a trip, saying, "With the combination of experienced professors (they're also fun!), other CSP students and earning academic credit- I can't think of a better way to travel. My advice (especially to freshmen) is to save your History and/or English Gen. Ed. because it's well worth your time!" Boettcher agreed that she would "definitely encourage students to take advantage of this trip because it gives them an opportunity to see many wonderful sights in Italy. I learned a lot of interesting concepts on this trip, but in a fun way. I think it's a great opportunity to see some of the most important sights in Rome, plus considering all the places you go, it's not that expensive."

Bicondoa adds that taking a trip like this through the school makes it much easier than just planning a trip all by oneself. She concludes, "I would encourage anyone to go on this trip. It is such an opportunity of a lifetime. I probably would have not gone to Italy if it had not been for this trip. Taking the trip through the school was very easy and it was a great experience."



## Chicken Caption Contest!

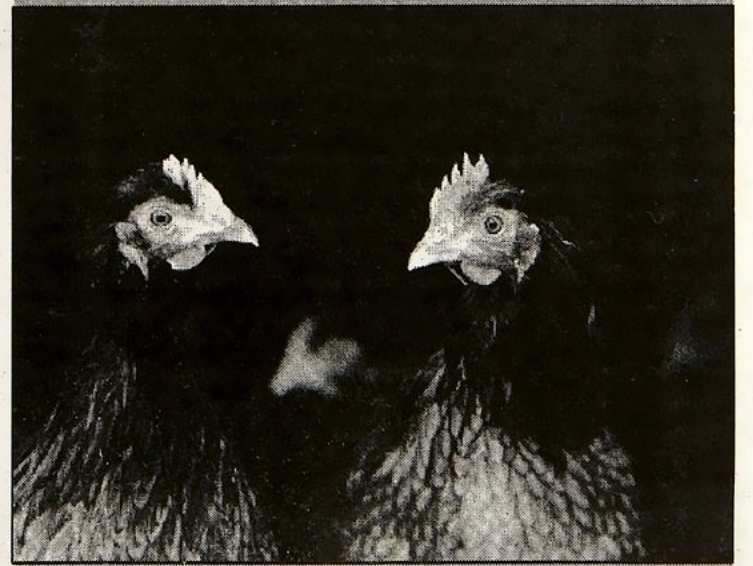


Photo by Cate Vermeland

Our caption: "Would you rather be remembered as the winner of a cock fight or as a really good sandwich?"

Think of the **funniest, clean** caption and win a dozen eggs laid by these chickens, plus a signed copy of this photo!

Email your captions to [sword@csp.edu](mailto:sword@csp.edu). Winner's caption will be posted in the next issue of *The Sword*.

## Softball Poised for Strong Season

By Ben Johnson

With the winter coming to a close and the snow slowly melting away, the Concordia Golden Bears women's softball team is looking to take their stand among the elite teams in the nation. Last year the Bears were ranked number 13 in the Nation, with a 42-20 record, and are looking to keep that tradition alive as the new season starts. With a solid mix of power pitching, solid hitting, and outstanding defense, the Bears are going to be hard to beat.

The offense is going to be led by a variety of hitters that are all going to play their part to lead the Bears to some wins. Junior Kristen Schmidt finished last season with a .313 batting average, 21 runs, 52 hits, 11 doubles, two triples, and nine RBIs. These are solid numbers, and the Bears are going to look to her to keep that up as this season starts. Junior Kelly Schwietz knows what her role is, "My role is to play good defense, get on base, and hit people in. I also listen to what the coaches have to say." Schwietz had a team leading 174 at bats that produced 34 runs, 53 hits, 13 doubles, two home runs, and 26 RBIs. The power hitting comes from the

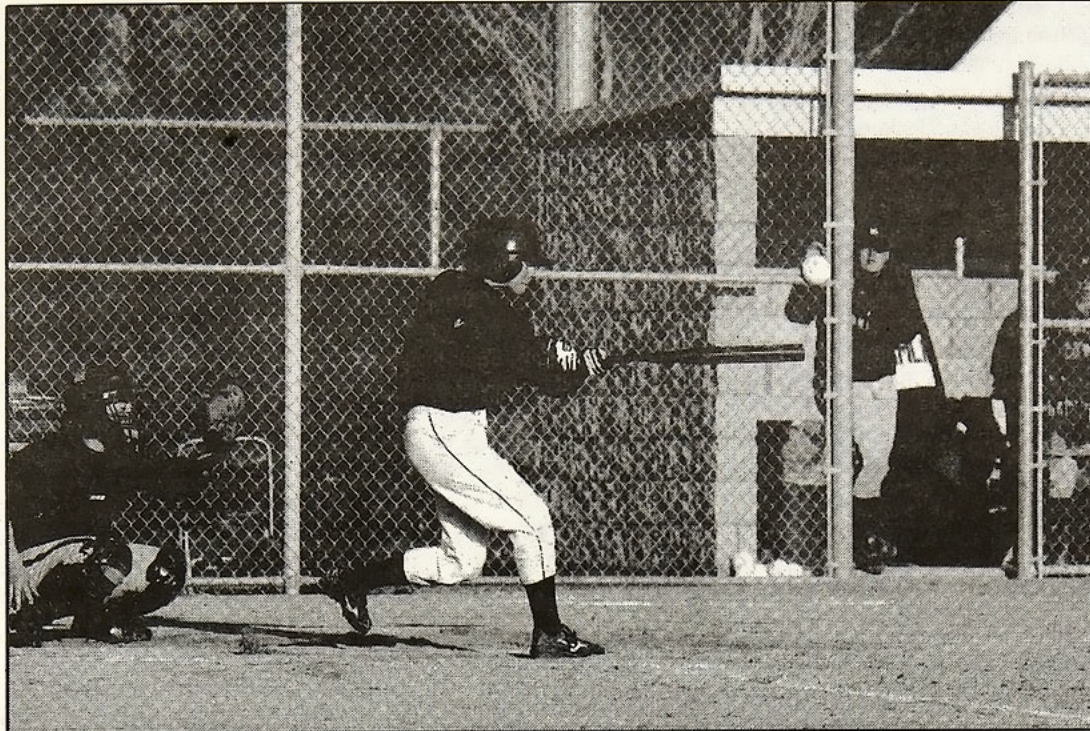


Photo by Jonathan Nelson

The softball team is looking to keep the momentum from last year for a big 2005 season.

Bears' junior catcher Kristen Linell. Last season, Linell had 26 runs, 41 hits, five doubles, two triples, nine home runs, and 34 RBIs. She also posted a .478 slugging percentage. She is a dominating force that will really help the Bears out this season.

The Bears have solid defense all

## Women's Basketball Heating Up

By Ben Johnson

The Concordia Golden Bears basketball team is not going to go away anytime soon. The women currently sit at a record of 15-6 and are still an impressive 8-0 at home. This record puts them at a tie for third place in the NSIC standings with only a few games left in the season. The standings currently read as follows: MSU Moorhead (7-1), MN-Crookston (6-2), Concordia University (5-3), Northern State (5-3), and South West State and Wayne State holding up the bottom at (4-4). The ending is going to be close, and the Bears are definitely in the hunt.

The Bears' offense is led again by the outstanding performances of the Bears' senior guard Jennifer Pozzani, who is averaging 14.7 points a game with a .599 field goal percentage, senior guard Kayla Christensen, who is averaging 12 points a game

with an 80 percent average from the free throw line, and junior guard Nakia Carlisle, who is averaging 10 points a game with a .345 average from three-point land.

Along with the strong offensive performances comes an incredible defensive mentality that the entire team has seemed to have adopted. Freshman guard Megan Kirchenwitz says, "We just continue to work together as a team; we communicate well on and off the court and as long as we continue to execute on defense we will continue to win games." The Bears have held their opponents to just under 65 points a game, only allowing 1,352 points to be scored on them so far this season. The high-pressure defense that

around the field with solid pitchers leading the way. The pitching staff posted a 1.95 ERA last season and is made up of senior Allison Paitich, who posted a 15-4 record with a 2.00 earned run average (ERA) and sophomore Mandy Turba, who had a 5-3 record and a 3.39 ERA as a freshman. The staff is anchored by Schmidt, who had a remarkable 22-12 record with a 1.62 ERA, striking out 246 batters. Schmidt was also named NSIC Pitcher of the Year. These women will help lead the way to yet another solid season from the Concordia Golden Bears.

The season starts on Mar. 18 with preseason games and practices already happening. The Bears are going to be a domination force and are looking to make yet another surge at a conference title and birth to nationals.

the Bears exhibit has caused their opponents to turn the ball over 489 times, and they have 297 steals so far. Most of these steals have been done by Pozzani, who has 53 steals on the season. If defense wins championships, then the Bears are looking pretty good to make a great run in playoffs.

With playoffs rapidly approaching, the Bears are looking to win all of their conference games and make a push for a conference championship. Kirchenwitz says, "It's going to be a very close conference race. We have the potential to win out our conference games and do really well in the tournament. Our goal since day one has been to make it to the Elite Eight, and we are looking good to do just that."

*"It's going to be a very close conference race. Our goal since day one has been to make it to the Elite Eight, and we are looking good to do just that."*  
- Megan Kirchenwitz

## 4x400 Relay Hoping for Nationals

By Ben Johnson

They are strong, they are fast, and they have a lot of pride. This year's track and field team is showcasing itself as one of the elite groups to take a stand on the track. With a month left in the season, the team has already had some amazing accomplishments, personal bests, broken records, and future goals that are yet to be met.

The highlight of the season thus far is the outstanding performance of the men's 4x400 relay team. At the ISU Open in Ames, Iowa, the team dashed for an amazing record-breaking performance. They posted a 3:20.44, which broke the old Concordia record by

three seconds. The team is made up of sophomore Kyle Warren, senior Darrion Branscomb, senior William Moore, and senior Aaron Stumvoll.

Warren describes the team by saying, "I think the best words to describe our 4x400 team chemistry are faith and pride. Each of us has a lot of pride. We all want to win, and all you have to do is see us racing and pushing each other in practice to see that. We work hard together, and we're constantly trying to get just a little bit faster and beat each other, but we do that because we know that is what we have to do to get better. All four of us need to get better if we are going to reach our goals, so there is a unifying drive between us. The other word I chose to describe us is faith. We all have faith that the other guys

will run well, so when I'm out on the track and the gun is about to go, I'm not just running for me. I'm running for the other guys on my team too, because I know they are going to run their heart out, so I'm going to also."

The team hopes to qualify for NCAA D2 Nationals, a feat that they missed out on by two seconds last year, and a feat that they are confident of achieving this season.

The team has some very important meets coming up in the months of February and March. On Feb. 25 and 26, the team runs in the NSIC Indoor Championships at Bemidji State, and if they qualify, they would run on Mar. 11 and 12 at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Boston, MA.

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## Baseball Team Set to Dominate

By Ben Johnson

With the winter coming to an end and the sun coming out, the Concordia Golden Bears baseball team is looking to start up where they left off last season. With the same offensive power and improved pitching staff, the Bears are looking very strong, and they know it. The only thing that held them back last year was pitching, but Coach McKenzie helped solve that problem and so now the Bears are set to go for what appears to be a monumental season.

The Bears pitching staff last year was manned by senior Adam Flaherty (4-2 record), sophomore Jake Champion (4-0), and junior Robert Dunlop. This season, the Bears recruited the pitching of freshman Eric Utoft, freshman Ryan Fixell, and freshman Bryan Bach; also helping the staff is transfer sophomore Rob Maslowski and transfer Junior Geoff Bray, who transferred from South Dakota State (Division I). With the additions, the Bears are looking very strong on the mound and look to cover up some of the pitching woes of last season.

The Bears offense is again looking to be stronger than ever. Last season, the Bears were

17 in the Nation in hitting, 19 in home runs, 13 in slugging percentage, and 39 in runs scored. The outstanding offense attack is led by junior shortstop Jon Schemmel, who was the NSIC 2004 Newcomer of the Year, and he also posted a .449 batting average, 41 runs scored, 12 doubles, and 35 RBIs. Along with Schemmel is junior second basemen Galen Wetzell, who posted a .414 batting average, 30 runs scored, and 26 RBIs. To finish off the attack is junior first basemen Erik Quarberg (a.k.a Q) who posted an average of .392, 40 hits, 40 RBIs, and 10 home runs. Quarberg said this about the offense, "I see it being even better. We have now played together for a while and are getting that much better. We have some new guys coming in to add to the offensive end, Bobby Meier, who was drafted out of high school to the New York Yankees, and Chris Duda, who was an all-region player at Junior College. I see us being a very fun team to watch this spring." The Bears are looking to these men to help lead the way to yet another solid offensive year.

In addition to the outstanding

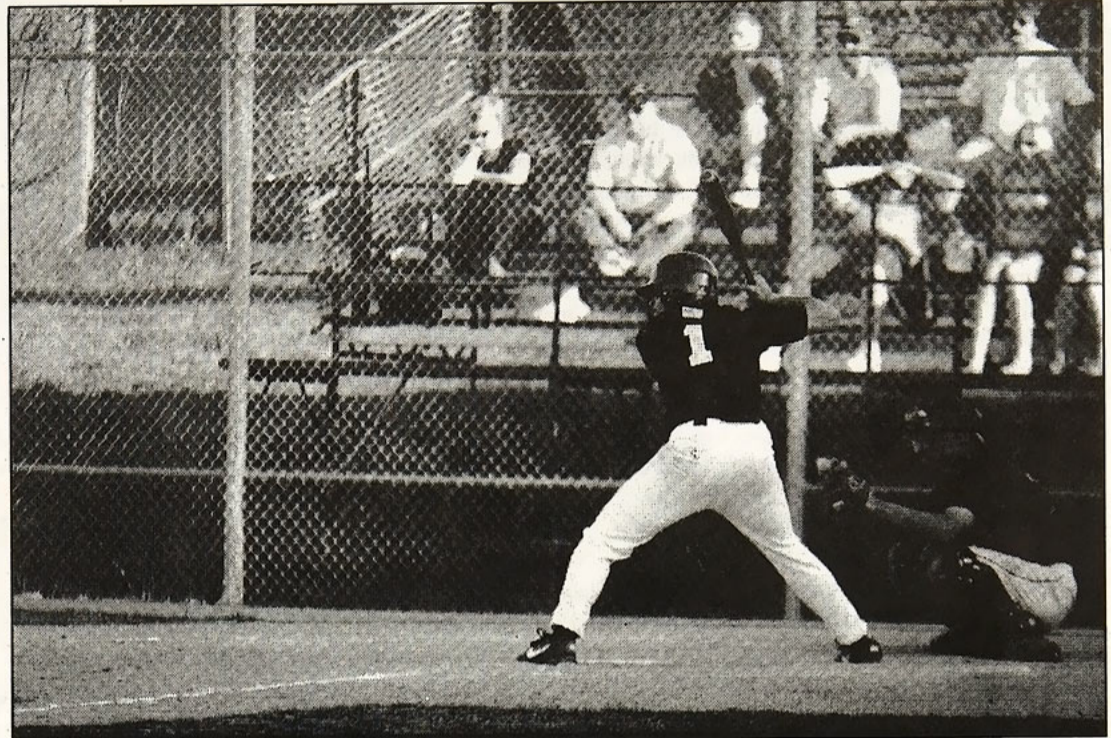


Photo by Jonathan Nelson

The baseball team begins the season with their spring trip to Florida, Feb. 26 to Mar. 5.

offense, the Bears have one of the superior defensive teams around. Quarberg is an All-Conference first baseman, Wetzell is an All-Conference second basemen, and Andy Hanson was named 2003 NSIC All Tournament Outfielder for his performance in center

field. With the new pitchers, solid defense, and outstanding hitting, the Bears are going to be a dominant force and are looking for that magical season for which they believe they are in store. Quarberg says, "I believe that we have the potential to have it all.

I know we will have the offense. Defense and pitching have been our main focus during practice. Working on the little things, I believe, will get us the wins that we didn't get last year."

## Men's Basketball Gains Confidence

By Ben Johnson

The Concordia Golden Bears men's basketball team is looking for a big push as the season's end is rapidly approaching. The Bears are currently at 13-8 overall with a 7-2 record at home and a 6-5 record on the road. They have been competitive in every game that they have played in and this gives the men a lot of hope as the playoffs approach. The Bears are currently tied for fifth in the NSIC standings with

*"The team confidence is our biggest improvement on the season so far.*

*We believe we can and should win every game we play."*

**- R.J. Allen**

just a few games left to go. The conference is led by Northern State (7-1) and Bemidji State (7-1), followed by Winona State (6-2) and Wayne State (4-4). The Bears have a tough road ahead of them but believe they can win every game. As junior guard R.J. Allen says, "The team confidence is our biggest improvement on the season so far. We believe we can and should win every game we play."

Four Bears have been leading the way on the offensive side of the ball all season and are continuing to do their part to help their team win. Senior captain and guard Brian Jamros is averaging 16 points a game and is putting in 32.8 minutes a game. Senior captain and forward Justin

Vandenberg is averaging 15.4 points a game and is putting in 31 minutes a game. Sophomore guard Kyle Marxhausen is averaging 11.6 points a game, and junior guard Kenneth Pointer is putting up 10.4 points a game. With the season winding down, the Bears

are going to look to these players to help them make a big surge into playoffs and help lead the way in their quest for a conference championship.

The Bears are confident that they have the

ability to bring the championship to Concordia, and with a little bit of luck and some solid performances from individual players, they just might do that. When asked about the chemistry on the team, sophomore post Marlon Walker says, "I think the chemistry on this team is unbelievable. They are all great guys, and I know that if I would ever need one of them they would be there for me." The Bears are going to need this kind of togetherness as they head to playoffs and hopefully head past even that.

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## Selle Propels Forward to New Roll

By Emily Marcus

Eric Selle is taking on a new role. This time, however, one will need to look further than the Campus Ministry Center. From Feb. 25 to Mar. 20, the Howard Conn Fine Arts Center, which is located on Nicollet Avenue in Minneapolis, will be running a Gilbert and Sullivan musical entitled "The Gondoliers."

This two-hour, family-geared production begins with two Venetian Gondoliers who are brothers. They discover that one of them is to become an heir to the throne of Barataria. During the performance, Giuseppe, played by Selle, and his brother take on a co-rulership of the small kingdom until a final turn of fate brings the truth, and the story, to a wonderful finish.

In a recent conversation with this up-and-coming performer, Selle emphasized the important role music plays in his life. He encouraged students to "become involved in activities located

near Concordia, because the Twin Cities has a lot to offer in the area of fine arts." He also mentioned that he has come to realize how much music is a part of who he is. Performing in "The Gondoliers" has encouraged Eric to continue to explore other aspects of performance. His thoughts include the hope to participate with the theater company in the following year. When asked to summarize the experience in one word, Selle decided on "delightful," which happens to be the last word spoken by his character.

"The Gondoliers," which rehearses each evening, looks to be a promising performance; however, tickets are already quickly selling out. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.gsvloc.org](http://www.gsvloc.org), or by calling 651-225-6947. Students can support an alumnus, avoid homework and soak up a little bit of Italy, all in one evening, by attending this entertaining presentation.

A preview of other happenings at the Howard Conn Fine Arts Center:

- "Home on the Mornin' Train." The Howard Conn Fine Arts Center presents "Home on the Mornin' Train" by Kim Hines. Following the paths of a young Jewish girl in WWII Germany and a young runaway slave in the deep South as they clamber for safety, "Home on the Mornin' Train" examines the unflagging search for freedom that unites us, even across oceans and countrysides.

- "MVP: The Jackie Robinson Story." The Howard Conn Fine Arts Center presents "MVP: The Jackie Robinson Story" by Mary Hall Surface. The play is a moving tribute to an amazing American athlete, Jackie Robinson. Faced with overwhelming prejudice as he forged his way, Robinson showed 1940s America that it is the talent of the player and not the color of his skin that makes him belong. A story of hope,

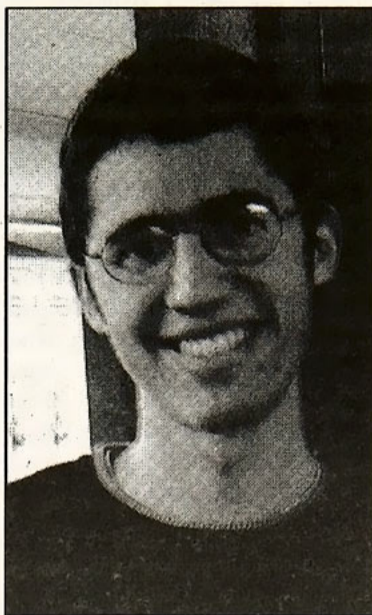


Photo by Ben Fink  
Eric Selle will be performing in the musical, "The Gondoliers," from Feb. 25 to Mar. 20 at the Howard Conn Fine Arts Center.

friendship, and courage, "MVP" is the story of an American icon... truly one of baseball's most valuable players.

## Hey, it Beats Studying: Academy Awards

By Morgan McLaughlin

It is that time of year again: the time of year for bad jokes and unbelievable travesties to be committed. Yes, once again it is time for the Academy Awards (77 for those keeping count). This time of year Hollywood and busybodies alike are abuzz, wondering who will take home what award. For those Concordia University students who will be too busy studying to watch the awards this year, the "Sword" has its picks right here.

There is some tough competition for Best Picture this year. The two goliaths of the year, "The Aviator" and "Ray," are going head to head in this category. But, this is Jamie Foxx's year. Look for him to be taking home multiple awards, including Best Picture.

Best Actor in a Leading Role will also be a very tough battle. Jamie Foxx is competing against both Leonardo DiCaprio and the legendary Clint Eastwood. Though Hollywood loves Clint Eastwood, they loved Ray Charles far more, so look for Jamie Foxx to take home this award as well.

That takes care of the men, but what about the amazingly talented leading women who are up for the role of Best Actress? Hollywood loves giving awards to the independents, so look for Hilary Swank to win this award for her amazing role in "Million Dollar Baby" (considered the best boxing movie since "Rocky").

Although often overlooked, the supporting cast is what makes a movie great, and none of these Best Actors/Actresses would win any awards without them. Look for Cate Blanchett to take home the Best Supporting Actress award for her role in "The Aviator." Best Supporting Actor is perhaps the

closest competition of all the categories. Jamie Foxx made the film "Collateral" such a success; Morgan Freeman ("Million Dollar Baby") is a legend, Thomas Haden Church might be the only reason that "Sideways" was nominated for anything, and of course, the much loved and legendary Hawkeye, Alan Alda, from "The Aviator." As stiff as this competition is, Alda will likely be taking the award home.

Best Original Screenplay could very well go to "Hotel Rwanda," and it would be very well deserved if it did. However, Jim Carrey's popularity might give "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" the edge it needs to take home this award.

The category of Best Animated Film has become increasingly tough to win in past years, and this year is no exception. "Shrek 2" has an excellent chance to win this award, but look for the award to go to "The Incredibles."

Likewise, the category of Best Visual Effects has also been increasingly tough in the last few years. Look for "Spiderman 2" to take it home this year, partly because it is the only real award for which "Spiderman 2" was nominated.

The award for Achievement in Cinematography will be watched very closely. This award is one of only three for which the "The Passion of Christ" is nominated. Although "The Passion" should win, there is an old saying, "there are no atheists in fox holes," and that is because they are all in Hollywood. Because Hollywood is historically reluctant to show any kind of favoritism to religious movies, look for one of

the biggest travesties of the year to happen when this award goes to "The Aviator."

As for the rest: Best Documentary Feature should go to "Super Size Me," if nothing else than for the groundbreaking and dangerous work that Morgan accomplished with this film. Achievement in

Art Direction will go to "Phantom of the Opera"; Achievement in Costume Design to "The Aviator"; Best Film Editing to "Ray"; Achievement in Makeup to "The Passion of the Christ"; Achievement in Sound Mixing to "Ray"; and Achievement in Sound Editing to "The Polar Express."

## CAB Community Critic: Swarming to See the Swarm

By Abby Gimbel

Tackling, catching, throwing, scoring. No, this isn't football, it's lacrosse, and it's intense. Watching an invigorating, physical battle can be a great way to release some of the energy that is not used up while listening and taking notes in class. "Lacrosse is such an intense and fast paced game. It is one of the most enjoyable things I have seen," exclaims Marcus Huff.

The sport of lacrosse is swarming the nation. Even at Concordia, many students are becoming interested in this formerly little known sport. Some students don't know what it is. Others are just learning and know vaguely about the sport. According to student Aaron Cawthorn, "Lacrosse is a very physical game, more than I thought it was. It's like football, but with sticks." And yet there are some students who are ahead of the game and have already been spotted sporting the lacrosse sticks around campus. As student Racheal Menden claims, "Lacrosse is a cool sport because you can play it almost anywhere, like in the snow." Well, if lacrosse can be played in the snow, it certainly fits in Minnesota. And it certainly is fitting in.

Students have the opportunity not only to watch an intense physical

game, but to learn about the sport of lacrosse. Minnesota has a team in the National Lacrosse League, and games are easily available to students. Of late, lacrosse has continued to become more known to people, and this league is becoming increasingly popular. The exciting part is that there is a team in Minnesota, and games are cheap and available to students. The Minnesota team, the Swarm, is up and attacking the other lacrosse teams around. Concordia students now are privileged enough to have the opportunity to discover the invigorating sport of lacrosse by watching live professionals battle in the game.

The Xcel Center is the home arena of the Minnesota team, the Swarm. This close location makes it easy for Concordia students to get tickets and hop in a car for a quick ride to watch the fierce Swarm surround the other teams. As games go from January through April, students have many chances to watch these professionals show their skills with the net and ball. For more information on getting tickets to go check out the Swarm, students can check out the web site <http://www.mnswarm.com> and swarm on over.

The Sword is the work of students, faculty, and staff at Concordia University, St. Paul. We welcome and encourage feedback from readers both inside and outside the Concordia Community.

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PUBLISHED BY:  
Lillie Suburban  
Newspapers, Inc.  
2515 7th Ave. E  
North St. Paul, MN 55109  
Phone: 651.777.8800

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