

drumbeat...

Year 11: #8

November 8, 1991

Dates to Note

November 12-15:
Pastor of the Week

November 14:
Investment Seminar

November 15-17:
Choir Fall Mini Tour

November 17:
Open House at President's
House, 6226 Ada Blvd.

November 18-22:
Spiritual Emphasis Week

November 23:
College Christmas Banquet

November 29:
Board of Regents Meeting

November 30:
Christmas Choir Concert

December 3:
Faculty/Staff Christmas Party

December 4:
Community Orchestra
Christmas Concert

December 7:
High School Christmas
Banquet

December 8:
Advent Festival Worship
Service with Concordia
College Community Chorus;
Bethel Lutheran Church

Russ Nelson Appointed Acting Dean of Spiritual Life

Dr. Russell Nelson has accepted an appointment to serve as Acting Dean of Spiritual Life for the remainder of the 1991-92 academic year. A search will be undertaken in coming months for a suitable candidate to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Rev. Marty Kaarre.

Dr. Nelson says, *"It is an honor and a privilege to serve as Acting Dean of Spiritual Life. I look forward to working with faculty and students to enhance the spiritual life of Concordia. Towards that end I am available in my office at Faculty House 12 (ext. 230) to help with the planning of chapel worship and to consult with those who have spiritual questions or problems. I also look forward to working with the Spiritual Life Committee and joining in the Wednesday evening dorm devotions.*

Looking over the chapel schedule for the remainder of this semester, several exciting chapels have been scheduled. Beginning November 12, Rev. Len Harms from Lutheran Church-Canada will be our Pastor of the Week. Anyone who wishes to speak personally with him may make an appointment with Marilyn Grabinsky (ext. 214). The following week is Spiritual Emphasis Week with exciting chapels which will motivate our spiritual lives. Other chapels will feature the high school and college choirs, a drama, and a visiting youth ministry team.

Next semester chapels will be scheduled according to suggestions made by the Religious Studies Division to enhance the scope and variety of worship at Concordia. More will be said about this at upcoming faculty meetings.

I appreciate your help in encouraging others to attend daily chapel. If you have any questions or concerns about the chapels, please call or stop by my office."

Open House -- November 17th

Faculty, staff and their friends are all invited to an Open House at the new President's House on Sunday, November 17 from 2:00-5:00pm. Come and go at any time in the afternoon, watch the football game, relax, enjoy. The Kraemers would be glad to have you come by! The home is located at 6226 Ada Boulevard.

Long-Range Planning Committee Begins Work

Like Topsy, "We've just growed!" That was one committee member's response to the situation Concordia College finds itself in as the recently appointed Long-Range Planning Committee convened for its initial meeting on Monday evening, November 4. President Kraemer identified the College's tendency over the years to operate on a year-to-year basis, with no consistent pattern for long-range planning. The result is that Concordia as an institution has continued to grow, but not necessarily in all ways according to an intentional and coherent plan of action. The problem has become more urgent as outside accrediting agencies persist in their demand for strategic planning.

President Kraemer shared with the committee the following thoughts that were presented by Dr. Sandy Gow for the Cabinet last June. Dr. Gow had said that long-range planning should "allow us to define, in relation to our mission as a Christian college:

- . What Concordia needs or wishes to accomplish during a given period of time in order to move forward in carrying out the mission;
- . Where Concordia is now in relation to any already established objectives;
- . What factors will affect Concordia's ability to move forward;
- . What resources will be needed to support Concordia's program initiatives;
- . What programs or levels of activity need to be carried out, and in what sequence, by each functional component, to permit it to attain its objectives with the available resources."

President Kraemer announced that the Strategic Long-Range Plan will contain the following components:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| . A Mission Statement | . A Financial Plan |
| . An Academic Plan | . A Space Plan |
| . An Enrollment Plan | . A Human Resources Plan |

"The challenge of the committee," he said, "will be to coordinate and combine all component plans into a single and coherent strategic plan for the next five years." The entire campus community will be involved in the groundwork through the various councils, committees, and other meeting structures. Campus staff are encouraged to share their ideas, suggestions, etc., in these venues, or by contacting individual members of the long-range planning committee itself.

As Sandy Gow further commented to the Cabinet in June:

1. There will be missing pieces: 'It takes a nonentity to think of everything.' Honore de Balzac.
2. After a lot of discussion and soul-searching we will have to agree that we must live with some imperfections in our overall institutional plan.
3. It's more important to select one of a half a dozen alternatives and get on with the job than it is to prolong the debate until the last shred of doubt as to which is the perfect one can be removed.
4. The existence of a long-range plan which all divisions, functions, and special groups have helped to create can often be an important means of creating and maintaining greater harmony and co-operation in an institution.
5. You have to have clearly defined long-range goals for an institution in order to keep you from being frustrated by the short-term failures.
6. You've got to be very careful--if you don't know where you're going, you might not get there.
7. Planning will involve change, and for some people change will be hard to deal with."

The committee has identified a goal of May 1, 1992 for presentation of a (hopefully) finished report to the Board of Regents. Members of the committee who will work with existing committees and structures to coordinate planning in the designated areas are:

- . Mission Statement: Richard Kraemer, Betty Dorn, Lynn Gergens
- . Finance: Joel DeBlock, Ed Klarenbach
- . Academic: Sandy Gow, Catherine Eddy, Bob Jerrard
- . Human Resources: Mary Wagner, Gail Gilbert, Don Schweyer, Lisa Scherer
- . Enrollment: Lowell Eckert, Lynn Gergens, Dave Eifert
- . Space: Sandy Gow, Lowell Eckert, Dave Eifert

Paid Parking About To Be Launched

Paid parking is coming--but with it more parking spaces for students. Here is what is happening.

The area behind Faculty House and the avenue north of Faculty House are being developed to accommodate fifty more stalls. The construction area should soon be downsizing and 8-12 stalls will be returned to our use. In conjunction with these developments, 71st Street will be restricted to visitor permit parking only. The avenue in front of the District Office will be converted to a no-parking zone (except for the restricted ten minute parking area) because better emergency access is needed for that area. The net result of these changes should be the provision of approximately 35-40 more student parking stalls. The cost for parking will be \$1.00--coin-operated machines have been installed to provide tickets for display on car dashboards.

These new developments are only possible because of the anticipated revenue from both student and staff parking fees. The College has seen fit to advance the funds so that the additional parking areas can be developed now, in advance of the receipt of funds, according to the plan that was endorsed by the Student Association last year.

Paid parking will not come into effect until the additional parking area is ready. At that time notices will be placed and signs erected identifying parking areas. Paid parking will begin a week later. The tentative beginning date is November 12.

Student parking will be available in all areas except the parking lot east of the playing field, the avenue in front of the District Office, and 71st Street from Ada Boulevard to the District Office.

During the course of the current year, parking revenue will be used to pay for snow removal, grading of the lots, and the cost of the current parking lot expansion. As funds come in within the next few years, further improvements to the parking areas will be made using the revenue received from parking. These changes will not be done without some disruption, but the College will make every effort to minimize the inconvenience it causes.

Questions about parking can be directed to Ed Klarenbach, Comptroller.

"Walkway" from 112th

Pedestrians walking from 112th Avenue and 73rd Street to the campus will not have to use the street during the winter months. Concordia's maintenance staff will soon be clearing a pathway inside the fence along the western edge of the football field. Ultimately, plans call for a sidewalk to be constructed in this area.

Investment Seminar

Linda Tailleir, a financial planner from Investors Syndicate Limited, will be giving a seminar on basic personal financial planning for retirement on **Thursday, November 14**, at **4:40pm** in **Room 222**. All faculty and staff are invited to attend.

Linda gave this seminar to the staff last year. It was well received. For further information, contact Bill Freed (ext. 229) or Linda at 437-6560.

Charity Auction Donations

The Charity Auction Committee is looking for YOUR help to make Charity Auction 1992 the best ever! If you have an item to donate, or have a contact in the business community that may be willing to donate an item or service, please contact Ted Holtby at 459-6393, or Marselle Jobs Thompson in the Development Office. Ideas for items range from hockey/football tickets, antiques, clothing, handicrafts, books, toys, clocks, jewellery, weekend packages at hotels, gift certificates for Edmonton restaurants, sports memorabilia, theatre/opera/ballet tickets, golf packages, air travel, artwork, and much, much more!

Book Friday, January 31, 1992 as a Concordia College event you don't want to miss! Tickets are available from Arnold Dyke or Holly Dahl in the Development Office.

Construction Update

Look next for basement and main level floors to be poured. Steel for the walls will start going up about the end of November.

**Invitation to CCDI Employability
Enhancement Services Open House**

On
November 15, 1991
the
Employability Enhancement Services
Program
will be celebrating our
FIRST ANNIVERSARY
and the arrival
of our new
PROJECT MANAGER, SHAUNA MCNICOLL

We invite you to join us
on this occasion
by attending our
OPEN HOUSE
on Friday November 15, 1991
from 1-4 pm.

We are located at
Rm. 210, 12781-50 Street

We all look forward to
meeting with you!

December Payroll and Other Dates

In conformance with annual practice, the December payroll will be distributed this year on Tuesday, December 17. The next payroll date is Friday, January 24 (the 25th is a Saturday).

The campus closes for the Christmas holiday period at 4:30pm on Friday, December 20. It reopens at 8:00am on Friday, January 3, 1992.

The Teaching Professor

The October issue of The Teaching Professor is now available in the Staff Lounge.

It includes an article on "Making Students Think" (angled towards the sciences), one on "Documenting Excellence in Teaching," and one on "Twelve Ways of Looking at a Blackboard."

Corporate Culture Survey

The Enrollment Management Task Force, with the approval of Cabinet, is asking all Concordia College employees to participate in completing a corporate culture survey called the Vision Integrated Performance Audit. This audit has been developed by the Achieve Group (a private company with a centre in Calgary) in conjunction with Dr. Tom Janz who works at the University of Calgary. The questions have been designed to reflect major issues common to all organizations.

Through this environmental scan, the Task Force hopes to receive input from all employees that will help it to better identify the nature of the climate at Concordia College. An analysis of the statistical data from the Achieve Group will enable the Task Force to make recommendations for improvements to the Cabinet. The audit must be completed no later than November 20 and will be administered at the times listed below:

- . Tuesday, November 12; 2:30pm, Auditorium
- . Tuesday, November 12; 4:15pm, Auditorium
(Just prior to the faculty meeting. If you are unable to come before the faculty meeting, please feel free to stop in the Auditorium to fill it out right after the meeting.)
- . Thursday, November 14; 2:00pm, Auditorium
- . Thursday, November 14; 3:30pm, Auditorium
- . Tuesday, November 19; 2:00pm, Auditorium
- . Tuesday, November 19; 3:30pm, Auditorium

If you are unable to fill out the survey at any of the above times, please see either Mary Wagner, Lynn Gergens or Sheri Dalton to arrange a more suitable time.

Publication

By Dr. Rene Gadacz: reprints of the following monographs previously published are available in the Library.

Towards an Anthropology of Law in Complex Society: An Analysis of Critical Concepts (1982, Western Publishers)

Employment Equity: Issues and Perspectives (1986, CSC Consulting Services)

Challenging the Concept of Citizenship (1986, CSC Consulting Services)

Excused Classes

Friday, November 15, from 8:00am: Concordia College Choir members; for Fall Mini Tour.

Heather Belke	Elizabeth Hansen	John Reisdorf
Stacey Bennett	Marcene Jacobi	Jodi Robertson
Kirsten Bergstrom	Krista-Dawn Jenner	Renee Rocheleau
Shelley Bischke	Lisa Johnson	Cathy Rust
Raylene Boesch	Dan Kitsch	Grace Scheetz
Teresa Bogda	Darren Kitsch	Blair Schmaus
Lisa Bontkes	Deborah Knoll	Joel Schmaus
Laird Borst	Cheryl Kraemer	Kristi Schuelke
Carol Bustard	Jonathan Kraemer	Lori Schulz
Jennifer Carter	Wendy Kruger	Jennifer Scott
Cheryl Constable	Jarod Lanning	George Sellmer
Mary Jane Cormier	Patricia Lavender	Valerie Siemens
Paul Dressler	Ken Maher	Josanna Smith
Sandra Evans	Kari Montgomery	Anders Sorenson
Janice Fishburne	Shawna Olson	Leif Thorarison
Sherry Fisher	Sun Park	Shawna Unger
Kathleen Flynn	Staci Parrottino	Graham Van Tighen
Glen Follweiler	Mark Peebles	Neil Verkland
Jeremy Fritsche	Derek Persson	Tom Walker
Jayson Galbraith	Jason Platt	Brian Way
Corey Haberstock	Scott Priebe	Kelly Wiebe
David Haberstock	Joshua Quast	Cathy Wilson

You will be interested to know that 'Happy Together' sang the National Anthem (an arrangement by the group's director, Darren Kitsch) at the Edmonton Eskimos' last season football game on October 27th. Since that event, they have received an invitation to sing the National Anthem for the Opening Ceremonies of the Special Olympics floor hockey tournament in January. There is also a possibility that the group may sing Christmas carols at a prestigious function at the MacDonald Hotel in December at which special guests will include Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski and other notables.

Positions Available

Accounts Receivable Clerk (Support Staff/Clerical)

General Duties: Receive and receipt all incoming funds and relate to all entities making payments to the College.

Qualifications: Neat and accurate record keeping ability; familiarity with computerized accounting systems; office and organizational skills; experience in bookkeeping and/or accounting an asset; public relations/communications skills; awareness of academic and church community.

Applications (with resume) should be delivered to Ed Klarenbach, Comptroller, by Friday, November 15, 1991.

Development Assistant and Alumni Affairs Coordinator (Staff Officer)

Responsibilities:

Development Department--research and assistance in preparing a master plan for foundation and corporation proposals; proposal writing.

Alumni Affairs--liaison between College and Alumni Association; managing Alumni Direct Mail and alumni functions; research and long-range planning to build alumni relations.

Qualifications: Bachelors degree; writing and editing skills; computer literacy; interpersonal skills; awareness of College's academic and church constituency; Concordia alumnus preferred.

Send cover letter with resume to Donna Kayne, Director of Development, by Friday, Nov. 15.

Staff News

Our Christian sympathy is extended to **Miriam Johns** (Business Office) on the recent death of her father-in-law, and **Mark Broverman** (CCDI-EES), whose father passed away late last week.

We rejoice with **Gerald and Helen Krispin** on the birth of their second daughter, **Elisabeth Marie**, on Sunday afternoon, November 3.

From **Marilyn Westbury**: *To All the Concordia Family, My sincere thanks for the beautiful floral arrangement and the many warm and sensitive expressions of sympathy after my father recently passed away.*

High School Students are Real Achievers

The first quarter honor roll and honorable mention lists for the high school indicate that approximately 65% of our high school students have averages of 70 or above for the first reporting period. One Grade 12 student has an amazing 99.75 as her first quarter average!

Koerschen Accepts Call to Ann Arbor Presidency

Dr. James Koerschen recently announced his acceptance of the call to serve as the fourth president of Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Koerschen is currently Dean of Student Affairs at Concordia College, Seward, Nebraska. His previous positions include Dean of Students and Director of Admissions, and Assistant Professor of Music at Concordia College, Austin, Texas. He is an alumnus of Concordia College, Seward, Wayne State University and earned his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Texas.

Koerschen succeeds Dr. David Schmiel who accepted a call last April to serve as Director of Theological Educational Services, a staff position of the LC-MS's Board for Higher Education Services. He will complete his obligations for the current academic semester at Concordia-Seward and plans to start at Concordia-Ann Arbor in January.

Notes for Faculty

1. Reminder: The deadline for applications to the College Academic Council for a reduction in teaching load for research purposes in the 1992-93 academic year is Tuesday, December 3. Faculty members planning to make an application or wanting suggestions on the kind of data to submit should consult their Division Chair or Dr. Catherine Eddy, Dean of Academic Affairs.

2. Please announce the following to your classes:

Free information sessions for Concordia's new **Career Development Service** will be held in the Auditorium on Wednesday, November 13 (5:00-7:00pm) and Thursday, November 14 (6:00-8:00pm). Students will receive information on career planning, and have an opportunity to provide input on specifics of the services (i.e., a questionnaire on convenient days/times, and a "menu" of preferred workshop topics to prioritize).

The workshops will be held at the Highlands Campus. One-to-one counselling (depending on student interest) will be scheduled at the Braemar Campus.

This service is subsidized by Student Services and delivered by the Centre for Career Development Innovation.

LC-C Mission/Social Ministry Executive Is Guest 'Pastor of the Week'

Dr. Leonard V. Harms from the Lutheran Church-Canada Office in Winnipeg will be on campus from November 12-15 as guest Pastor of the Week. He is LC-C's first Executive for Mission and Social Ministry Services.

Dr. Harms served two parishes in Montana after his graduation from Concordia Seminary in 1965. In 1983, he accepted a call as secretary for American Indian and Southeast Asian ministries with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Dr. Harms' previous responsibilities have prepared him in a unique way to help Lutheran Church-Canada face the challenges of cross-cultural, ethnic and aboriginal ministry. He will also provide leadership to LC-C's worldwide mission activity in places such as Zaire, Congo, Thailand, Japan, Korea and Eastern Europe.

Meetings

Tuesday, November 12:

- **Administration Council**
9:00am, Braemar Campus
- **Vice-President/Student Services Search Committee**
11:10am, Conference Room
- **Support Staff Committee**
2:30pm, Conference Room
- **Faculty**
4:40pm, Room 321

Wednesday, November 13:

- **College Convocation Committee**
11:05am, Conference Room
- **Furnishings Sub-Committee of Building Committee**
2:30pm, Conference Room

Thursday, November 14:

- **President's Cabinet**
8:30am, Conference Room
- **Student Life Committee**
12 noon, Conference Room
- **Admissions & Scholarships Committee**
1:00pm, Conference Room
- **Library Staff**
1:30pm, T-4
- **ALDE (Association of Lutheran Development Executives)**
3:00pm, Conference Room

Friday, November 15:

- **Support Staff Handbook Committee**
9:00am, Conference Room
- **November Birthdays Celebration**
11:05am, Conference Room

Monday, November 18:

- **Education Degree Steering Committee**
3:45pm, Room 224
- **Mission Statement Committee**
4:45pm, Conference Room

Tuesday, November 19:

- **Religion Division**
11:10am, Conference Room

Wednesday, November 20:

- **Faculty Personnel Committee**
8:00am, Conference Room
- **Academic Services Council**
2:00pm, Conference Room

Thursday, November 21:

- **College Academic Council**
11:30am, Conference Room
- **Admissions & Scholarships Committee**
1:00pm, Conference Room
- **Charity Auction Committee**
4:30pm, Braemar Campus

Friday, November 22:

- **Social Sciences & Education Division**
9:50am, Conference Room
- **Development Council**
3:00pm, Robert Guebert residence, Leduc


Light Everlasting

The Concordia College Choir
Conducted by:
Gordon Hafso

November 30, 1991
8:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
10025 - 105 Street, Edmonton, Alberta

with
The Concordia College
Community Chorus
Douglas Jahns, Director

Tickets:
Adults \$5.00
Seniors/Children (6-12 yrs.) \$3.00
Available at the door or phone
479-8481

 **CONCORDIA COLLEGE**
7128 Ada Boulevard, Edmonton, Alberta T5B 4E4

Directory Questionnaire Reaches Alum in Malaysia

This response to a request for information for the Alumni Directory was recently received from Janet Jin Yau, Shim (Concordia '83), now a resident of Sabah, Malaysia:

It is my great pleasure to receive the 'ALUMNI DIRECTORY QUESTIONNAIRE' TODAY. The mail sent by old address and causing all the delays. I hope I got in time to send you the correct information. How is every one in CONCORDIA? Best regards to every staffs, students, and alumni members.

I am now working in a computer company owned by myself. After graduating from Concordia in 1983s, I went to University of Regina to continue my Bachelor degree in Arts majoring in Economics and Psychology. After graduated in 1986, I came back to Malaysia to start my own business in 1987 until now.

I am still participating actively in my home church--Basel Christian Church of Malaysia and serving in the church council, choir and singing group. I missed Concordia Choir a lot especially Professor Hafso--my great teacher in music classes! Send my best regards to him also.

It is my prayer that Concordia will continue to grow with determination in serving our Lord and remember our motto is ----

**'THE CONTEXT IS CHRISTIAN,
THE PURPOSE IS PEOPLE'**

Goodies Galore!

The Concordia College Guild Bake Sale, originally scheduled for November 7th, will take place on Thursday, November 21 from 11:00am-2:00pm. The delectables will be sold across from the glass lounge and in the foyer to the Auditorium. Proceeds from the sale will be used to reupholster furniture and purchase vertical blinds for the women's dorm.

Of all God's creatures there is only one that cannot be made the slave of the lash. That one is the cat. If man could be crossed with the cat, it would improve man, but it would deteriorate the cat.

MARK TWAIN

Cosmopolitan Music Society Christmas Concert

The Cosmopolitan Music Society will present its 26th Annual Christmas Concert featuring all 300 members of the bands and chorus on Sunday, December 15 at 8:00pm at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.

The varied program will consist of seasonal selections highlighted by a grand finale with audience participation.

Tickets are \$8.00 and are available at the door.

Messiah Sing-Along

The Friends of Rutherford House in co-operation with Alberta Culture & Multiculturalism-Historic Sites & Archives Service present A "MESSIAH SING-ALONG" on Thursday, December 12 at 7:00pm, 11153 Saskatchewan Drive.

If you have always wanted to sing the Messiah, have sung it a hundred times but want to sing it again or would simply like to listen, you are invited to call and reserve a space for an evening of music, fun and entertainment.

Please call 422-2697 for more information or to register in your voice section or in the listeners gallery.

Canadian Environment Week Projects

The next Canadian Environment Week will take place June 1-7, 1992. Environment Canada provides some funding for Environment Week projects, and it also provides some promotional support. If your church, or any other group to which you belong, is interested in applying for EW project funds, or in getting assistance from Environment Canada in the promotional area, please let me know. I have application forms in my office.

Sheri Dalton

It is twice as hard to crush a half-truth as a whole lie.

AUSTIN O'MALLEY

Reports, Rankings, and Rumors of Resignations

by Dr. Sandy Gow
Vice-President, Academic

Canadian post-secondary education has been in the news lately and our colleges and universities in particular have been receiving more than the usual amount of media coverage.

First there was the Commission of Inquiry on University Education in Canada headed up by Dr. Stuart Smith. Dubbed the "Smith Inquiry," this commission toured Canada from coast to coast holding hearings at which briefs were submitted by colleges, universities, students, and interested citizens. (Concordia and the other private colleges were represented when the commission came to Edmonton.) As the former chair of the Science Council of Canada and now president of his own management consulting firm, Smith had an understanding of how colleges and universities could and should function. The final and public version of his report, released only last month, gave Canadian universities a mark of 'Pass' and one of the most quoted portions stated that "Canada's universities today are fundamentally healthy and are serving the country well" and that "...most, if not all, Canadian universities would, on balance, rank with the top half of United States universities, taken as a whole."

The report does not whitewash our institutions, however. The most serious shortcoming, he says, is in the area of teaching. In short, teaching is undervalued, with Canadian faculty averaging 6 1/2 to 7 hours per week, and even this small total is decreasing. Other sections of the report deal with such subjects as the proportion of women university professors and administrators compared with

men. Smith found that there was still a great deal to be done to make Canadian institutions gender neutral.

The commission bears Smith's personal thumbprint in terms of the practical nature of the recommendations. For example, he argues for increases in government funding if our institutions are to survive, but at the same time he pushes for increased student fees, on the understanding that provincial governments provide adequate student loans which could be repaid through the income tax system. In all he provides 63 recommendations which deal with a full range of topics such as the transfer of earned university credits from province to province; mutually agreed upon performance measures; average minimum teaching hours per week (8 are recommended); that a graduate Ph.D. should demonstrate "reasonable competence in the teaching function"; and so forth. It was a serious and well thought out look at our colleges and universities.

Dr. Stuart Smith is not in the business of selling ideas for profit. MacLean's magazine is, however.

"A Measure of Excellence" appeared in a 'special report' format in the October 21st issue and has since provided the media with grist for the mill. A measure of the coverage that it has received is evidenced by the fact that Morningside picked up on MacLean's 'ratings' of Canadian universities and carried it across the nation. So did most of our major provincial and national newspapers--the Globe and Mail, Le Devoir, etc.

The rating chart published by MacLean's is very similar to the 'ranking' of American colleges and universities published in Kipling's Personal Finance Magazine, U.S. News and World Report, and Money Guide. Canadian officials, like their American counterparts, are questioning both the accuracy of the data published by this type of magazine and the appropriateness of the methodology used to collect them. Despite this, a few Canadian universities are giving the MacLean's report their stamp of approval. Witness the comments of Dr. David Johnston, Principal of McGill University, published in a recent Globe and Mail. Not surprising, perhaps, given that McGill is rated as Canada's "Number One." American officials have found that ratings such as this can send the number of applications for positions soaring. Here in Canada it can cause the president of Carlton University to consider handing in his resignation.

Administrators in American institutions have raised a number of objections to the ranking of colleges and universities. One is that the data which is submitted to the magazines is sometimes fudged in order to improve an institution's position on the scale. A second is sloppy reporting by the magazine's researchers and editors; they do not have an understanding of education finance, for example, and they have been shown to have erred on such simple matters as the actual percentage for tuition increases. (An actual tuition increase of 7% is reported as an increase of 18%.) A third is perspective. Money Magazine,

in an article entitled "100 College Buys" (even the title is offensive), did not consider academic reputation or prestige to be important, and therefore ranked Trenton State University third out of 100 top American institutions and Princeton twentieth.

A reading of the MacLean's report must be done with care because the quality of the information is open to question. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (A.U.C.C.), of which Concordia is a provisional member, has begun to study "A Measure of Excellence" and has noted already that it is based on "incomplete and often questionable data" which is "so open to misinterpretation as to confuse and mislead rather than clarify and assist." But there's more. The report, the A.U.C.C. points out, does not take into consideration whether an institution meets its stated mission or whether it responded to the particular needs of the community, region, or province. The CEGEPs and the Universite du Quebec are one example, while closer to home we have Athabasca University. Another problem is using the grade point average of entering students without any reference to an output indicator. What did university do for the student and what did s/he accomplish while there?

It is true that Dr. Smith said that undergraduate teaching was undervalued. However, he did not say that there were Canadian universities or colleges that failed to offer excellent undergraduate experiences, where others did not. MacLean's does, but what is it based on? Smith did not say that there are Canadian undergraduates that are poorly prepared or unlikely to be

accepted into postgraduate studies in competition with graduates of other institutions. The MacLean's study implies that this is very much the case.

One of the key factors missing from the MacLean's report is that each institution has succeeded in its own way in offering quality programs while serving a wide range of goals. In this regard Linda Frum did a better job when in the late eighties she published a student guide to Canadian colleges and universities. Frum, to her credit, talked with undergraduates from coast to coast and got a consumer's view of how effectively these institutions were preparing undergraduates.

MacLean's, unfortunately, took a broad-brushed approach and went the survey route. Initially it informed the A.U.C.C. that it had decided to do a 'top 10' ranking only due to the difficulties with, and gaps in, the data. Despite acknowledgements of these limitations and without any further indications of their intentions to the A.U.C.C., the magazine opted in the end to go with a full national ranking.

Finally, where are the mature and part-time students? Look at the photographs--MacLean's staffers are working on the assumption that colleges and universities are populated by and serving only young, middle class people who come to urban centres to study. That was largely true of the sixties, but not of the nineties. Students are older now, often part-time, more frequently from minority or disadvantaged groups in Canadian society, and taking classes at non-traditional times and in unusual settings, such as hospitals, schools, offices, the shop floor, and board rooms.

The media has a critical role to play in ensuring that the public's need for information and assessment is filled. With this role, however, comes an equally important need on the part of the media to carry out the necessary research, to evaluate the data in accordance with nationally acceptable guidelines, and to represent as clear a picture as possible of the quality of undergraduate education in particular. The A.U.C.C., our national college and university organization, has stated that it would be pleased to assist MacLean's with this task. Let's hope that in future MacLean's will take them up on the offer.

It was one of mother's hectic days. Her small son, who had been playing outside, came in with his pants torn. "You go right in, remove those pants and start mending them yourself," she ordered.

Some time later she went to see how he was getting along. The torn pants were lying across the chair, and the door to the cellar, usually kept closed, was open. She called down the stairs, loudly and sternly:

"Are you running around down there without your pants on?"

"No, ma'am," was the deep-voiced reply. "I'm just down here reading your gas meter."

News from Brent Kilback

Greetings from Guatemala.

October 8, 1991

If you have not yet heard, I have arrived safely in Quetzaltenango. I am now working as the principal at a small mission school called the Inter-American School. Things are going well despite the many challenges of running a Christian school in a land of harsh contrast.

Before I tell you about my work I must tell you about the trip down. The trip was problem free, even though there were many opportunities for disaster! I drove the entire way. The most uncomfortable part of the trip was driving alone from Seward, Nebraska to San Antonio, Texas. It was a hot two day drive. (hot...hot...hot)

It cooled down in Mexico. But Mexico brought with it another set of concerns. The roads and conditions through Mexico were very rough. We drove through some areas of Mexico that seemed very poor, and the people seemed very interested in our possessions. I was travelling with a caravan of Guatemalan car traders (as guides). It reminded me of stories out of the wild west. There were 11 cars in total, but only 6 people. That meant that five cars were in tow, and I was tagging along. I was told to buy my food and drink in Texas and then our trek began. We would drive from five in the morning until ten at night, stopping only for gas. At night, we parked our vehicles in circles, like chuckwagons, and slept in our vehicles (to prevent theft and save on the cost of the trip). That would have been fine if I had a motor home, but I had a jeep that was over-packed. The jeep did well on the trip (considering the roads and that several of the newer cars in the caravan did break down--delaying our trip). I was proud of the jeep and pleased that God had protected me in this trek across Mexico.

All border crossings went very smoothly. Warren Steckelberg, my pastor, had bought me a front plate with a Canadian flag. That was a wise gift. At one point on the trip through Mexico a border guard wanted to charge me tax on all of the equipment I was carrying (corruption). Because of the plate and my paper work, a boss intervened thinking that I was from the Canadian Embassy. I didn't take the time to explain I was just an average citizen, and I had no connection with the Canadian Embassy. My Spanish just was not good enough to explain those details.

The border crossing into Guatemala went very well. In fact, I got through in 45 minutes while the others I was travelling with took a day and a half. I decided to part with my Guatemalan friends to find my own way to Quetzaltenango. This was not an easy job at 10:30 at night, with no detailed map, no signs that could be read at night and many roads that seemed to be closed. Needless to say, I was lost by 11:00pm. I stopped to ask people for help. Finally, around 11:30 I stopped at a bus stop on the highway and found a young man that was going to Quetzaltenango. We traded favours. I asked him to guide me, and he got a free ride to Quetzaltenango.

I am enjoying my work and my life in Guatemala. To the tourist, Guatemala is beautiful with many flowers, lush rolling hills and colourful birds. It may at first seem like paradise. However, the longer you stay the more you see the harsh reality of life in this country.

For many of my first weeks here there was no rain (during rainy season). In a country that depends on hydroelectric power, no rain means no power. No rain also means poor crops as it would in any country. Except here poor crops means poor nutrition, and poor nutrition means people are more susceptible to disease. And sure enough, Guatemala is facing a cholera epidemic.

Quetzaltenango is at a high enough altitude that it has been spared the epidemic for the time being but many of the neighbouring communities have been hit. It is hard to get a figure as to how many have cholera because the Government wants to prevent panic, particularly with its export customers. No exports means no significant income. It is a vicious cycle.

It is raining now and the land is becoming lush with green and the flowers are beginning to bloom. Unfortunately, it's a little too late and a little too hard, because the heavy rains are causing mud slides. Several towns have been hit and several roads also have been temporarily out of service. (Even with the rain, for some unknown reason, the power is not back on.)

I have been working at the school to help educate and protect students from cholera. However, we have had an outbreak of chicken pox. The elementary had been hard hit, but students are recovering quickly. On the brighter side, we can thank God that it was not cholera.

One of my projects at the school is to plan emergency evacuation and review earthquake procedures. We have a very serious earthquake nearby and the tremors were strong at the school. They say over 35 people were killed by the quake. I rigged up a temporary alarm system with parts from my jeep, because we often do not have power to run the bells. I pulled the battery, some wires and the horns out of my jeep to make it all work on the roof of the school. I hope to eventually install an alarm that is permanent.

More importantly than rigging up bells and teaching students about cholera, my job here is to build a Christian atmosphere that strengthens young Christians for the rigours of life. There are many sincere Christian students at IAS. (As well, there are some that are not Christian but are carefully watching their Christian friends.) Many of the students that go to the school come from a very small affluent class in Guatemala that have opportunity to make a difference in the country. These students clearly will be the church, business, agricultural, medical and political leaders of the next generation making this school's mission tremendously important for the future of Guatemala.

As well, the school has four students from disadvantaged families, which are on full scholarship. I believe that my function as an administrator is to keep this school operating and to help it grow so that it will become a permanent part of the Christian witness and academic excellence in Guatemala. This desire of the faculty and myself to promote Christian love and desire for high academic performance will give the students the tools and foundation they need to improve their lives and to enhance their country.

Finally, the school secretary paid the school a compliment the other day. She works two jobs to make ends meet. (By day, at our school 8-4:30 and by night at a national school in town 6-10:30pm.) She said that the difference between the two schools was like heaven and hell. I asked what it was that made her like our school so much more. Her response was because of the sincere Christian care and concern of the people at IAS.

There is still a lot to do. Never a dull moment here. I often think that the reason I am here and the reason that I can boast about the work of God at this school in Guatemala is because of the contributions that many of you made before I came down. Your support clearly has helped me and has helped to solidify the witness of this school. My training and support from Concordia College, the financial donations, the medical supplies, the keyboard, the photocopier, the books and the prayers that many of you have contributed has made it possible to keep this mission school high in the hills of Guatemala open to claim the love of God. I am deeply thankful to those of you who have provided personal and financial support for my ministry here in Guatemala.

If you are interested in a statement of my account or in contributing to the school or to my personal support, cheques should be made payable to LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA. Canadian donations may be sent directly to the following address and a receipt will be issued. Otherwise, your church may be able to give the appropriate tax deductible receipts. The church can then direct all donations to:

Dr. Leonard V. Harms, Mission and Social Ministry Services
Lutheran Church-Canada
#200, 1625 Dublin Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W3

In Christ's Service,

Brent Kilback

(Brent Kilback served as Men's Dormitory Counselor and high school biology instructor at Concordia College from 1984 through June, 1991.)

Value friends who, for you, find time on their calendars—but cherish friends who, for you, do not even consult their calendars.

It is a universal law: The other line moves faster.