

"A Hmong Tapestry" called "A Mystical Journey"

By David Her, contributing writer

The Concordia University Theatre Department gives birth to "A Hmong Tapestry," which ten enthusiastic theatre students and professor Mark H. Rosenwinkel adapted last fall. Receiving various folk tales from Dr. Gary Lee and Lee Pao Xiong of the Center for Hmong Studies, they've woven five different Hmong folk tales into one beautifully designed play containing action, drama, questions, beasts, quests, suspense, and lament.

Dr. Gary Lee, a renowned Hmong anthropologist from Australia and a professor at CSP for three semes-

amazing" said Tommy Boutilier who plays the River Dragon King. Boutilier stated, "I enjoy other cultures and tales and getting to participate in [this play] is pretty cool." Janesian Xiong's perspective matched the others and included the tiger scene as a favorite because of the roaring action.

In order to write this article, I had to make sure the cast allowed me to have a sneak peak before the opening day. When the lights blacked out and came back, I was taken on a mystical journey. The soft lights and mystical acoustic music relaxed me and I was fixed in this story.



Members of the cast for "A Hmong Tapestry" perform on stage in the Pearson Theater. Performers were commended on their ability to understand the folk tales and social values of a different culture so well. Photo by Colby Reinking

ters, stated "I was amazed and impressed by the results [of A Hmong Tapestry]. I want to commend their creativity and the able guidance of their teachers, especially when they are not Hmong but manage to understand Hmong folk tales and social values so well."

I had an opportunity to meet with some of the cast members during the week of the play. Dia Lee, who plays the primary character Mau, said that she "gets to work with many different people." Lor Cheng who plays Shau, agreed with Dia and added how he is able to "learn" from his peers through this process. Moreover, Michael Rokenbrodt who plays Good Brother and other characters, commented on how "wonderful everything comes together" in the final form of the playwriting and rehearsals. Despite having approximately 45 days to put everything together, "everything went

It really moved me and I had to fight the tears when Mau, the rejected orphan, recorded stories about "love and goodness" but ended seeing hatred and deceit everywhere. I was truly impressed with director Randy Winkler's way of making me believe I was really there. Not only that, this is the first Hmong play at Concordia University, which is great in promoting diversity as well as encouraging future actors and actresses. As professor Randy Winkler said, "These plays are open casting and anyone is welcome to try out."

The Stranded-in-St. Paul Version of Spring Break

By Nathan Leckband, contributing writer

Does anyone recall Concordia's spring break last year? During this supposed "spring" break, the city of St. Paul was pummeled with roughly 94 inches of snow. Nothing like enjoying some spring weather after two months of winter classes.

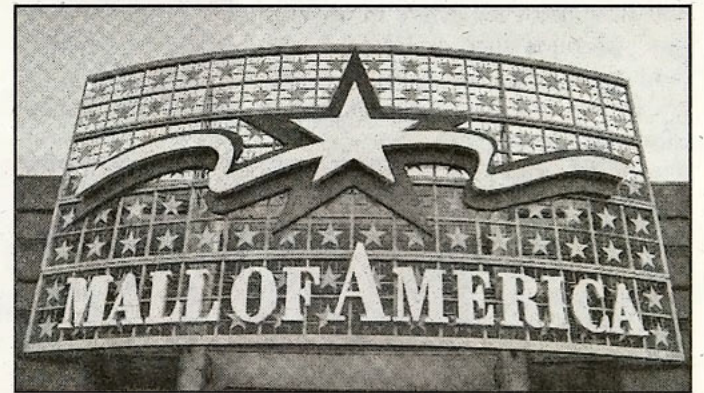
Fortunately for us, this year spring break will be—oh, wait a minute. It's in February again, isn't it? I guess it's time to start getting creative and thinking of ways to stave off (?) the cabin fever that's bound to happen when your flight to South Padre Island is canceled because the St. Paul airport is buried under eight-and-a-half feet of snow.

Get ready to be stuck in St. Paul, waiting to fly or drive home until the weather gets better. Don't worry—lots of your friends will probably be here too and there are lots of things you can do to have some fun.

One evening last spring break, a couple of friends and I decided it would be a good idea to drive over to the Mall of America to "hang out." There's nothing that brings back high school nostalgia quite like going to the mall—especially when one of your friends gets stopped by a security guard because she looks like she's under 16. Even though her driver's license showed she was 22, the guard still gave her a warning and told her to grow four inches and get a different haircut.

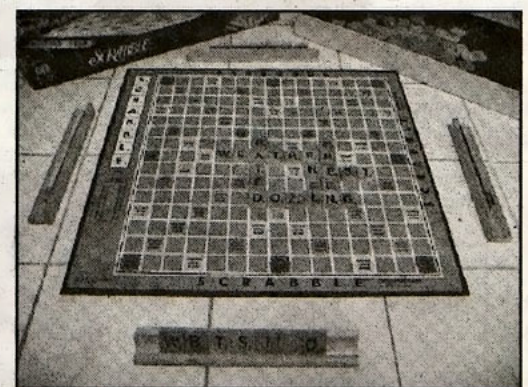
If hanging out at the mall doesn't sound like a sufficient cure for CSP

cabin fever, try bowling! There's this charming little bowling alley several blocks from Concordia's campus called "Midway Pro Bowl." Don't let the name fool you—there's nothing "pro" about it. The bowling alley is located in the basement of a strip mall and although smoking is no longer allowed, Midway Pro Bowl stills retains the delicious odor of cigarette smoke, sweaty bowling shoes,



and stale beer. Concordia students have affectionately referred to this rustic bowling alley as "ghetto bowl."

After you check out the mall and the bowling alley...



Mall of America photo courtesy of Holiday Inn-Burnsville.com. Bowling graphic courtesy of www.allposters.com. Scrabble photo courtesy of www.mobile-woblog.com

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