

Student Leaders Report

Schultz reflects on third conference

By Billy Schultz

For just about anyone, an opportunity to California is hard to pass up. Combine that with fellowship with students from the other Concordia University schools, and a special weekend is born.

This is the opportunity I had in traveling with the Concordia-St. Paul delegation to Concordia University in Irvine, Calif. for the National Concordia Student Leaders (NCSL) conference.

This was my third opportunity to attend the NCSL conference, the first one at Concordia-Chicago and last year's here at CSP. Throughout my time as a delegate to this organization, I've come to appreciate what it offers not only to student leaders my to Concordia University System (CUS) schools as a whole.

We are a system in name, but not always in practice or action. It's easy to compare and contrast our schools

as separate entities, but we don't always appreciate that we are "of one heart" (which is what the word Concordia means).

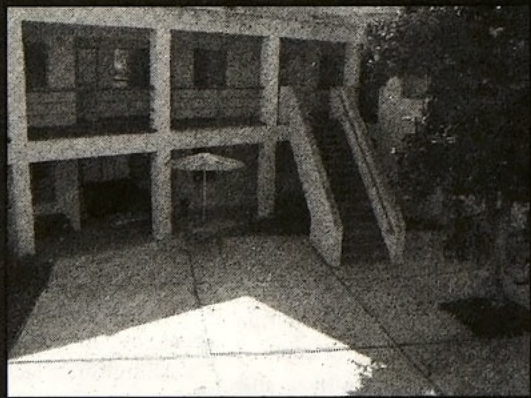
This conference gives the student government leaders the opportunity to share in the common bond we have as students in the CUS and also as student leaders. It helps to know that we share in the same struggles, joys and experiences.

This conference was personally valuable, as one speaker spoke to us about learning our leadership style and using that to collaborate with others who have different styles. It was definitely a refreshing conference, and a time for growth and development

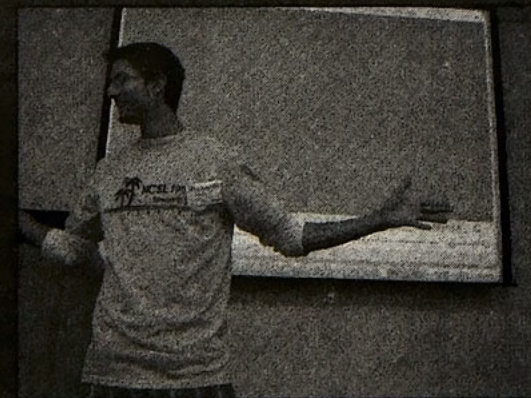
as a leader. This was my last NCSL, and something I'll miss in the years to come.



Above: a view of Concordia University Irvine's campus, the pyramid is their chapel space
Below: a view of Concordia University Irvine's dorms
Photos courtesy of Stephanie Olson



Below: CSP Student Body President Billy Schultz gives a presentation at NCSL
Photos courtesy of Stephanie Olson



A morning of shopping mayhem

By Lance Meyer

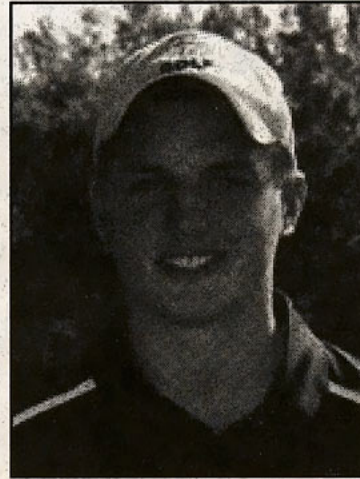


Photo courtesy of CSP Athletics

Another Thanksgiving Day has come and gone, and if you're like me, you probably spent the day like millions of other Americans.

You more than likely slept in a little later than usual, ate too much turkey for lunch and dinner, and then topped it all off with an unavoidable afternoon nap. Whether it was the tryptophan in the turkey or just an overabundance of carbohydrates in general, nothing could stop me from dosing off and missing nearly the entire second half of the Packers/Lions game last Thursday afternoon.

Even though the traditional Thanksgiving Day nap has become a joke associated with the national holiday, it's probably well liked by malls and department stores throughout the United States. There's no way I would have been able to avoid hitting the snooze button at 4:00 a.m. and gone shopping this past Friday morning if it hadn't been for the two hour nap I got on Thursday.

To survive the door-buster sale mayhem the Friday morning after Thanksgiving, known as Black Friday, one really has to be well rested and on his toes. It is amazing how fast people fill every store once the doors are unlocked.

This past Friday I decided to wait in line outside of Target to take advantage of a couple of amazing sales they had going on. I got to the doors at 5:10 hoping I would find myself at the front of the line, since they didn't open until 6:00 a.m. However, I soon realized that I had underestimated the number of people that would be there as I stood a couple hundred people back from the sliding doors.

A line of a couple hundred people was nothing compared to other stores in the area, though. Driving into Mankato at 4:45, I saw thousands of crazy people

lined up outside of Best Buy. It was rumored that people had been outside for as many as three days to get a steeply discounted flat-screen TV.

Back to my experience at Target, the doors opened promptly at 6 and quickly the situation evolved into a vicious brawl as people tried to get their hands on this year's hot items. Before the doors opened, people were talking about rushing into the store in search of everything from the latest version of Guitar Hero to flat screen, high definition televisions.

It was obvious that everyone had their minds set on getting what they came for too as the crowd piled into each other pushing and shoving as the sliding doors spread apart. One kid even tried jumping over a bench that was engulfed in the stampede only to wipe out on the other side. A man standing next to me said angrily under his breath of the kid who was attempting to cut in line, "I hope he broke his leg." This comment was a prime example of how the busiest shopping day of the year tends to bring the worst out in people. The man happened to be my dad, but I'm sure such comments weren't unique to solely this incident.

The best part about the whole situation is that most of the hot items people were after were stocked in great quantities. There were thousands of door-buster digital cameras on hand that hundreds of people including myself were after so there was really no reason for most of us to run like we did. This surplus wasn't true for all items, however, as flat screen TVs, PS2's Guitar Hero III, and the most popular Leap Frog games were quickly sold out.

I stopped a couple other places after Target, but by 8 o'clock I was sure glad to be on the road home as my nap from the afternoon before was quickly wearing off. I think it is obvious that the Thanksgiving tradition has expanded to include not only turkey-eating and afternoon napping but Black Friday shopping as well.

If nothing else there's one thing for certain, it is that mall and department store managers will always be grateful for the rest Thanksgiving feasts induce which allow people to have the energy needed for dealing with the following day's vicious crowds.