

Crime on and Around Campus

By Zara Abdi

On Monday November 16th, the Concordia Security department notified students through e-mail about the increased thefts around and on campus. Dozens of reports have surfaced that unattended items are being taken in areas such as Pearson Commons, Tier Zero, the Gangelhoff, and classrooms. Students have reported that the items being taken are backpacks that contain laptops, iPods, purses, and cell phones. A young woman was attacked and kidnapped at knifepoint a few weeks ago and a Concordia student and *Sword* editor was attacked while walking, by a number of boys. The reports of these disturbing activities have been worrisome for Concordia students and staff.

The young woman that was kidnapped for a short while at knifepoint was standing in front of the Super America gas station on Portland and Snelling a few weeks ago. She was getting gas, and when she finished fueling her car, the attacker let himself into her car by opening the passenger door. He shoved a knife in her side and yelled at her to "start your car and drive," he then ordered her to drive to Yankee Doodle Road in Eagan. The attacker then took off with her purse and keys and got into the car that was following them. The victim is now home safe, but is suffering from emotional and physical trauma that may take some time getting over.

Concordia student and *Sword* editor, Brennan Blomgren was attacked by juvenile delinquents while he was walking down Hamline Ave. The young men walked up to him and punched him in the face and then laughed. Brennan ran away thinking they were going to do something worse. The young men were arrested by authorities because they had posted video of the beatings on YouTube.

The numerous crime reports on and around campus have become something to be wary about. I as a commuter am definitely disturbed by this because I stand on the bus-stop by the gas station every evening to catch a bus home. As a security reminder we should all be aware of activities around us, never leave items unattended and if we see suspicious people loitering and hanging around campus, we should notify security immediately.

Dr. Chatman Receives Alumni Achievement Award

By Eman Abdullahi



On October 17th, Executive Vice President and Dean of Diversity, Dr. Cheryl Chatman received the Alumni Achievement Award from her alma mater, Iowa State University, College of Human Sciences. Dr. Chatman received the award in recognition of her commendable achievements in the areas of business and industry, education, family, and consumer sciences, and health. When asked what the award meant to her, Dr. Chatman replied, "It is very rewarding to have an institution that you have matriculated, affirm your accomplishments and contributions to society."

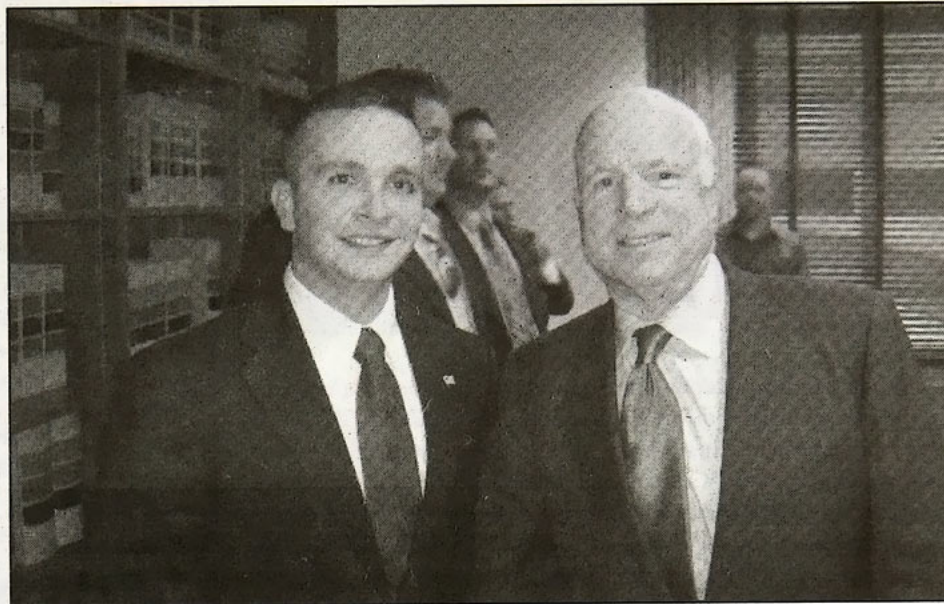
This award is particularly valuable to Dr. Chatman because her nomination came from the mentor that inspired her as an undergraduate. "To have been nominated by my advisor makes it even more special because, she is the one individual that I have worked closely with and for us to have maintained contact and our relationship for over 30 years is very special to me," said Dr. Chatman.

When asked to provide words of advice to the students of Concordia, Dr. Chatman said, "Treat people the way you would want your parents or any one you care for to be treated. Be responsible; let your word be your bond. Whatever you say you're going to do, do it. That's the key to being successful. People should set high goals for themselves and follow through on these. Go as far as you can in the giving of yourself and the rest should come."

Mr. Flaherty Goes to Washington

A Chronicle of a CU student's DC Adventure

By William Lange



Eric Flaherty with Senator John McCain

Wednesday, November 4th, Eric Flaherty, SMP Army National Guard, paid his way to fly out and stay in Washington DC for the chance of a life time. Eric landed at the Reagan Intl. Airport and stayed at the Best Western Pentagon Inn for the night and woke up early for an exciting day. Thursday morning at 5:00, Eric's day began with a briefing from his travel group, 'Vets for Freedom.' Vets for freedom—a group in favor of General McChrystal's opinion. Gen. McChrystal was appointed by President Obama to, Commander of all US forces in Afghanistan. Gen. McChrystal wrote out an assessment stating that more troops are needed in Afghanistan for military success. This assessment was sent out to members of Congress as well as Obama including information about why he is requesting more troops. Eric, along with Vets for Freedom used this day to spread awareness to other law makers about Supporting Gen. McChrystal's request for more troops.

After the briefing, Eric was a featured guest on a DC, talk-radio show. From there, Eric headed over to Capitol Hill and met up with the other members of Congress. On the agenda was the situation in Afghanistan. The first Congressman he met was US Rep. Betty McCollum of Minnesota's 4th district. Eric debated policies with Rep. McCollum and her Chief of Staff, Bill Harper. Eric then met with Senator, Tim Johnson of South Dakota. Congressman Ron Paul surprised Eric by giving him ten min of personal time to discuss issues in Afghanistan.

Eric was fortunate enough to meet with Senator Amy Klobuchar. Eric described meeting with Sen. Klobuchar as, "great... very smart." To Eric's surprise, Sen. Klobuchar had personally read the assessment from Gen. McChrystal, a task most Congressmen write off to their staff. Sen. Klobuchar gave up a lot of her time to meet with Eric.

Eric was most pleased to meet, Senator John McCain. When Sen. McCain met with the Vets for Freedom, he discussed with the group of eight, how to gain more support with Afghanistan. After the twenty minute meeting, McCain had to leave for a separate meeting. Once McCain had another moment of free time, he met up with Eric for a one on one meeting, taking up his personal time in Sen. McCain's office. There, they talked about issues surrounding Afghanistan, Iraq, Health Care, and the National Debt. Sen. McCain asked Eric about his personal opinions on health care and how to make things affordable. Eric suggested buying health care across state lines.

McCain asked for his thoughts and said, "It showed that he is a public servant...refreshing to see." To Eric, Sen. McCain was the, "smartest man I've ever talked to about foreign policy." Eric went on to say, "it was a great experience to be that close to a man who almost became president." Eric was given this illustrious opportunity through CU alum and Professor Jayne Jones. What can your professor do for you?