NEWS

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ST. PAUL SINCE 1966

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Davina Bellinger

MANAGING EDITOR
Rebecca Beasley

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Avery Wetzstein

ART DIRECTOR
Molly Dekarski

NEWS EDITOR
Thomas Presnall

SPORTS EDITOR
Jaid Perry

OPINION EDITOR
Abigail Westling

ARTS & VARIETY EDITOR
Alexandria Gosen

PHOTO EDITOR
Rene Elias

LAYOUT DESIGNERS
Daniel Erickson
Amaya Nordos

WRITERS
Travis Andrews
Kacie Duncan
Faith Fitzhugh
Alexandria Gosen
Louisa Hammond
Dylan Holtmeier
Hamza Ismail
Erikka Langemo
Ethan Langemo
Jaid Perry
Thomas Presnall
Ryan Skille
Sirak Theodros

Masks Return to St. Paul

BY RYAN SKILLE

THERE WERE MANY groans from the people of St. Paul as Mayor Melvin Carter and Governor Tim Walz issued a number of executive orders from January 3 to January 20, 2022. The original order stated that masks must be worn by all individuals in city-controlled buildings. City-controlled buildings include parks, libraries, and government offices. Subsequently added were requirements on all businesses licensed by the city to have the same requirement in all their indoor facilities, requirements on restaurants to limit their capacity and require patrons to have proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within the last 72 hours, and exemptions for homeless shelters so that they don't have to deny people. These regulations will expire on February 28, 2022 unless the government declares we are no longer in a state of emergency.

Clearly, there is a reason for these regulations to be put in place, but the question on most people's minds is: Do we really need another mask mandate?

The executive order states that as of January 3, 2022, there were 82,602 reported cases of COVID-19 in Ramsey County, and 1,073 COVID-19 related deaths. According to the CDC, there have been over 1,000 new confirmed cases reported every day since January 10 in Ramsey County alone. The highest number of cases in one day was over 3,000 on January 19TH. The daily COVID-related death count is also the highest it has been since January 2021 at an average of 4 deaths per day. However, this is still significantly lower than it was at the beginning of the pandemic, which averaged 10 to 15 deaths per day.

The executive order states that the delta variant is still rampaging across the city, and the omicron variant has now been found in Minnesota. It seems as though the trend of the new developing variants is to become more contagious but less deadly. It may eventually be comparable to the flu. Many people would get the virus, but few people would die from it. This is just speculation, but it may provide some hope for the near future. In the meantime, we must continue to look out for our fellow humans and care for the weak and immunocompromised.

Twelve Carjackings Reported Within First Ten Days of 2022 in Minneapolis

BY ETHAN LANGEMO

CARJACKINGS ARE NOTHING new to people in the Twin Cities. There have been multiple cases where students at Concordia University, St. Paul have reported stolen cars, car break-ins, or stolen catalytic converters. However, these incidents typically happen over a period of weeks and, although not uncommon, are usually not something to stress too much about. In Minneapolis, on the other hand, several carjackings alone have been reported in the first ten days of the year, in which vehicles are stolen directly from the handling of the driver, much like in the Grand Theft Auto games. This is not terribly surprising, as last year there were 641 (attempted) carjacking reports in the city. Out of the 87 neighborhoods which comprise Minneapolis, only seven had no reports.

Prior to the fall of 2020, the Minneapolis Police Department had not counted carjackings as a unique crime statistic because there weren't enough instances to justify the categorization. In total, 2020 saw 170 incidents. This equates to a nearly 300% increase between 2020 and 2021. With a daily rate of around one carjacking per day in Minneapolis, it is already easy to tell that the numbers will stay high. What will be hard to predict, however, is what trend the numbers will follow. Last year, numbers wavered in the first six months and then began to increase at the beginning of the latter half of the year. By early fall, the city started to see its highest rates yet, and even those kept climbing. One could infer that with this information along with the fact that in the fall of 2020 the MPD started specially categorizing carjackings due to increased numbers, that this year could follow a similar trend. Reports are already high, but they may decrease and return throughout the next few months, and then skyrocket once again in the fall. There are only two years of information to go off of, so it's not a clear prediction, but it could be a helpful measure to reference when that time comes around.

As far as preventing these incidents from occurring goes, police aren't quite sure what to do. Most of these crimes are committed by teenagers or young adults, some of whom are not even of driving age. It is difficult to justify initiating a car chase with these individuals as they may not know how to properly handle a car and may cause serious accidents. Some of these chases have already resulted in deaths. However, police from various metropolitan cities have found that by analyzing data on suspects over a period of time, successful arrests can sometimes be made. As for what citizens can do for their own safety, some recommendations include not being in your car alone, not staying in your car for unnecessary amounts of time, and being aware of your surroundings.

ONLY 7 OUT OF 87
neighborhoods in the Minneapolis area did not have any carjackings.