



# Opinions



## EDITORIAL

### A Paper's Got to Do What A Paper's Got to Do

For those of you who are avid Concordiensis readers and sprint to Reamer every Thursday morning, you've been bound to notice some changes in those two stacks of papers (besides the decreasing amount of them since our readership has been increasing and the papers are quickly snatched up). If you don't even make it past the first page, you've still had to notice some slight changes as the front page of the paper has in the past few weeks come to reflect some different attitudes.

Even by glancing at this week's front page the pictures of some colorful pills have got to strike you as a different visual than typically seen. No, a speaker did not come to campus who spoke about Adderall or illegal prescription use. This story is one of this student newspaper's first of many steps to bring to light more issues that are of pertinence to this campus.

While this editorial board realizes that it takes risks in covering issues that are more controversial such as a story on students' illegal use of Adderall and the faculty's and administration's blindness to it, we also realize that this is journalism. While it may not be fair to some to print a story about rumors that have been swirling around campus for weeks now concerning the commencement speaker, it becomes the Concordiensis' job to relay what the editorial board has uncovered in its research.

What kind of newspaper would not print what it heard to be the truth? What kind of newspaper would be read and respected if it sacrificed sharing the truth and its opinions and instead only reported the position of its administration?

Imagine if the New York Times constantly waited around to present a story that was approved by all members involved. "Excuse me, Saddam is it ok if we write a story about how you have ruthlessly killed many?" Or "President Bush can we write a piece on how your healthcare reform has left many with no hope of decent medical care?" Maybe we shouldn't let our readers know about the 12 American soldiers killed today in Baghdad?

We somehow doubt these are the questions that reputable journalists are asking themselves before they print their stories. Solid journalism is not about catering to the powers that be, it's about communicating the truth and not being timid about challenging the status quo when existing policies and issues may need to be investigated and improved.

We Concordy kids are working passionately these days to make the Concordy the mouthpiece of the students, not a vehicle of the college's administration. But don't get us wrong, we will hold the door open for you anytime or maybe even let you cut us in the line at Dutch.

While we are not The New York Times and have far less experience than the top journalists of our country, the Concordiensis' staff prides itself on our commitment to quality journalism and the pursuit of the truth within the Union community.

While we are really interested in bringing to light topics such as the ones that appear on this issue's front page, we are also strongly committed to making this paper a force in this community. We strive to be a hard line paper that doesn't just print articles given to us for the front page. Instead, we are striving to be a true member of the press corps and give careful consideration to the value of everything we print.

Above all else, we want nothing more than to make this paper a reflection of the student body. In fact, the first editorial of this spring term set forth this new goal of this year's editorial board. As we are three papers into the term, we think these goals have been incrementally achieved. But to be completely cliché, Rome wasn't built in a day.

So a newspaper has got to do what it's got to do. It's part of the job that comes with the turf of a true journalistic newspaper. We are on our way...and we welcome your feedback on how we are doing. Just drop us a line, as we would love to include your reactions to the paper's new editorial focus or any specific articles you liked or disliked.

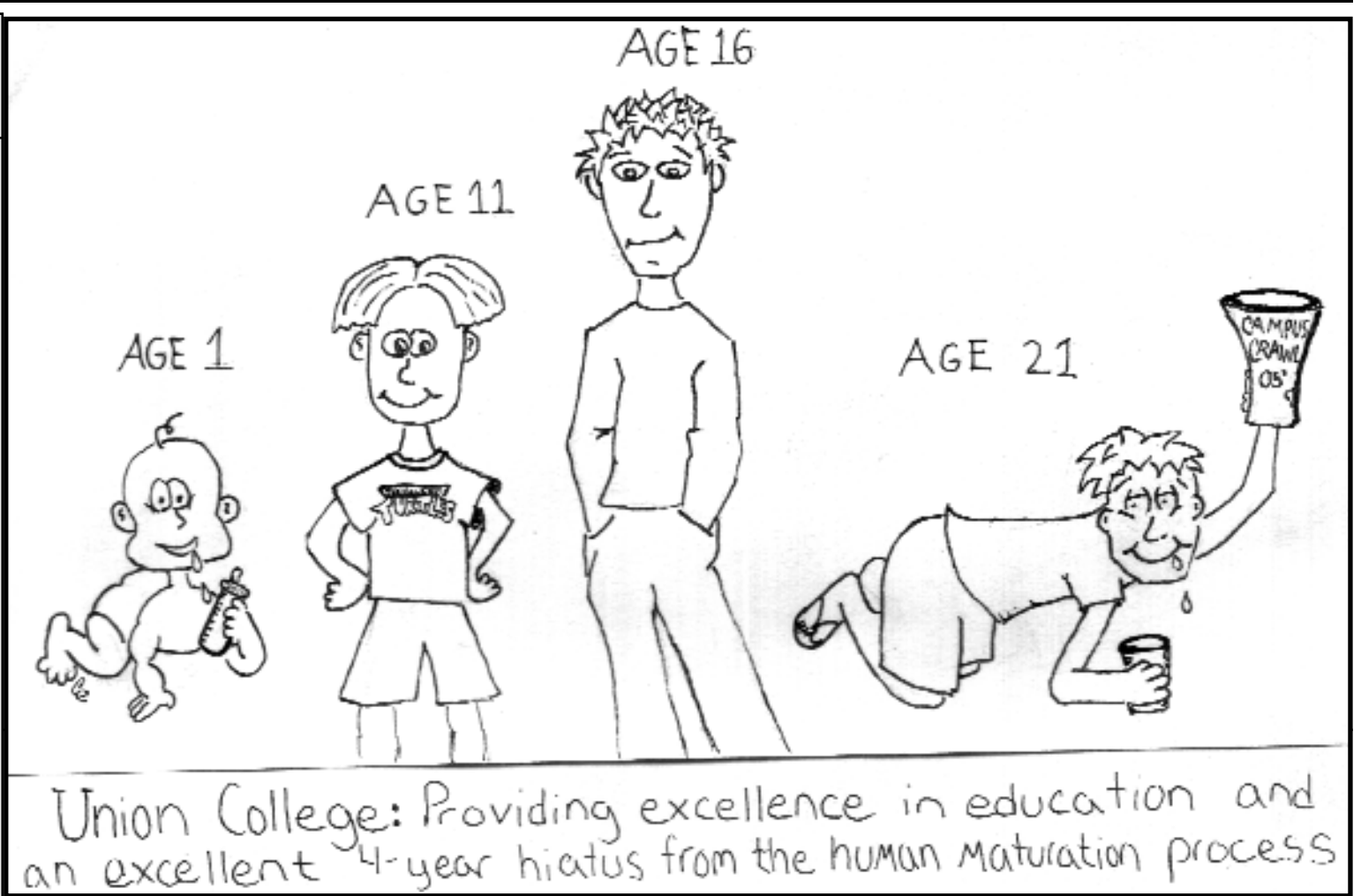
#### EDITORIAL POLICY & DISCLAIMER

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Opinions Editor and must be received by 5p.m. the Sunday before publication. Letters must be less than 500 words and should pertain to an issue that concerns the Union College community.

Final decisions concerning printing and or editing a submission belong to the Editorial Board. All letters must be signed. Anonymous letters will not be published under any circumstances. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editorial Board.

Editorials reflect the opinion of Concordiensis, but not necessarily of each member of the Editorial Board. This week's editorial was written by Joanna Stern. Any opinion columns or cartoons reflect the opinions of the writers or artists and not necessarily the opinions of the Editorial Board.

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## The Gym: Union Student's Hidden Treasure

LAUREN SNOW  
COLUMNIST

On our beautiful campus here at Union College we are blessed with the finest facilities money can buy. Naturally, about 90% of Union College's funds are directly allocated into improving the school's gym.

The gym is the selling point of the school really. People touring the school ought to save time and just hop on the tour train when it reaches the gym. The gym my friends, is the heart of Union College.

As you walk down the stairs into what appears to be a dimly lit basement with poor air circulation your heart quickens with anticipation of what will be around the corner.

Some people complain of the lack of air in the gym area, but that's because they don't know it's an oxygen free zone for a purpose. The school has actually provided us with a training zone that provides oxygen levels used by the Kenyan running team. Our gym is actually a replica to the heat sweltering environment found in Kenya. Generally, around May and June the training facility reaches near identical temperatures to Kenya's atmosphere.

The lack of oxygen and fresh air actually helps build your lungs to be stronger, and not dependent on oxygen; quite frankly you don't need it. This explains why our state of the art facility lacks

proper air circulation vents. Oxygen hinders your workout benefits. Union College is one of the only campuses in the nation to equip their gym with this type of air free environment.

Another ungrounded complaint from the student body concerning the gym is the lack of and working condition of machines and weights. Once again this deficiency in quality gym equipment serves a purpose in improving student life.

The scheme is to provide for an environment that sparks conversation, or a casual dating scene. During the time waiting for a machine, you have approximately 45-60 minutes to meet someone from the opposite sex.

Take this time to innocently stretch, gaze seductively in the mirror highlighting your better areas, and occasionally retying your shoe to show off your ASSets. Union College is providing a great place to meet your next friend. Let's not be naïve it's dimly lit down there for reason, so don't be shy.

And so what we have learned here is the gym is actually the place one wants to hit up. I for one suggest perhaps instead of Chets on Wednesday nights head on down to your local gym. There is fabulous music, no dress code; tons of sweat, romantic lighting, and the lack of oxygen could actually induce a beer goggle haze if you work out hard enough. I'm not going to lie it's the untapped dating scene of the century. See you there gentlemen!

## DKE, the best thing to happen to FIJI since AB

For some time now, the Greek house located on the north side of Fox Dorm has had a hazy identity. Who are these guys? Are they Fiji, AB, DKE, or just ridiculously good-looking? The truth of the matter is, within the span of the past 5-6 years, this house has been, at one point in time, all of the above.

In 1893, back when universities appreciated Greeks, the national Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, Fiji for short, established its Chi Chapter at Union College. They did not however start out in a dorm, but enjoyed the fruits of a lavish house located near AEPI, and the old Psi Upsilon house.

For 80 years Fiji basked in their glory as scholars and gentlemen. The brothers of Fiji experienced a change of venue in 1973. The details surrounding this exodus are a bit shady, but their house, having deteriorated, was sold to the school and razed by fire. Regardless, no one was hurt and the house was conveniently replaced with tennis courts the following year.

The school, possibly out of guilt, offered the brotherhood a spot in Fox Dorm to live and continue their traditions. Fiji was not the only house to occupy this space (Zeta Beta Tau, Kappa Alpha and Delta Delta Delta have all spent time in Fox or Davidson). The adjustment was tough, but persistence and determination prevailed and Fiji found a new place it could call home.

Towards the end of the 20th century, came what we call the "Dark Ages." Many national fraternity chapters on Union College were experiencing difficulties for a variety of reasons. Delta Phi, Delta Upsilon, Beta Theta Pi, and Kappa Alpha are just a few that had to fold. Issues with Fiji national and the school's ever-changing Greek policy put the Chi Chapter between a rock and a hard place. This warranted a not so amicable split with the Phi Gamma Delta national fraternity.

This separation marked the beginning of Alpha Beta, a local independent fraternity. Due to the urgency of the situation, Alpha Beta hit the ground running. The brothers worked day and night

to procure the insurance, constitution, etc. in order for Union College to offer recognition, which they accomplished. While most of you don't realize this fact, the house that some of you still refer to as "Fiji" has never been such since you have been here.

The fraternity formerly known as Fiji has been just that since May of 2000. While the brothers of Alpha Beta were confident that their decision had been the right one, their euphoria was short-lived.

Alpha Beta was meant only to be a temporary solution and within a few years the fraternity would be facing yet another critical situation.

The campus wide issue of liability insurance arose in the fall of 2004, and put Alpha Beta back on the chopping block. This dilemma required yet another change for the brothers of Alpha Beta, they needed to pick up a national to survive.

Having investigated several national fraternities, including Kappa Alpha, Delta Phi, Phi Gamma Delta and the notorious SAE, Delta Kappa Epsilon proved to be the most alluring solution. Being affiliated with the current president and four ex-presidents of the United States didn't seem so bad.

DKE ("Deke") once had a chapter at Union in the mid 1800's, but their brotherhood gave way under the pressures of service during the civil war. A international fraternity of medium size, DKE provided a stable but flexible structure, and was willing to take on a 'ready made' colony, shorting the colonization period by more than half.

DKE also provided an outlet for us to continue our longstanding tradition of being scholarly and frugal gentlemen. From here on out, the brothers of the house formerly known as FIJI, and more recently known as Alpha Beta shall be known as the Theta Chi chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon.

- Justin Stroud '06

## Opinions, comments, or questions? Email us at [Concordy@union.edu](mailto:Concordy@union.edu)!

BLK  
YELL  
MAG  
CYAN

## Opposition Research

PROFESSOR JOHN  
ZUMBRUNNEN  
COLUMNIST

Every good political campaign has a couple of staffers whose job is to find out everything they possibly can about the other side's candidate. It's called opposition research. If you want to win, it helps to know your opponent's strengths. It's even better to know his or her weaknesses, especially those embarrassing little secrets that most of us accumulate over a lifetime. If skeletons lurk in your own closet, then it's best to turn your opposition research team loose on yourself—to beat the other side to the punch.

Last week I wrote a little something for the Concordy on the epidemic of "food poisoning" among students. Think of it as my own sort of opposition research. This week they've given me a column. So now you can read more of my rants about students and their excuses—or whatever else I can think of to fill space.

Let me just say that I like college students. Why else would I live in Scotia NY and drive 1,500 miles to the midwest every summer in a minivan packed with two kids, a Golden Retriever and my wife, who makes us all listen to Alanis Morissette? Alanis got over her "Jagged Little Pill" phase, can't we?

Anyway, this isn't technically opposition research. It's actually an attempt to build mutual understanding. We professors and students don't always get each other. Read this column, and you'll see how I read you. You might even get a better take on me. And you'll earn better grades. No, really. I mean it.

Loyal readers (and if you read last week's bit, then you're a loyal reader) will remember my hypothetical student Larry. Stricken by "food poisoning," Larry turned a paper in late. Like so many students in similar situations, he apologized for the inconvenience. And I—well, I made some sarcastic comments about his apology. That was just my passive aggressive way of suggesting that Larry and I have different understandings of the word "inconvenient." To tie up this loose end, here for the record are some things I find inconvenient:

1. Dunkin' Donuts doesn't sell Diet Coke, so I have to make two stops on Saturday mornings. That's inconvenient.

2. Because of something about drug use and shoplifting, Price Chopper keeps the baby formula in a locked cabinet. My little son Charlie needs his formula, so I wait for the service manager while my daughter Abby's popsicles melt. Again, inconvenient.

3. Unlike in my beloved central time zone, here in the east all my programs—except American Idol—start at 9:00 p.m. or later. I can't possibly stay up that late when the kids get up at 5:30 a.m. Inconvenient, even maddening.

I could go on. But there's a pattern here. For me, something is "inconvenient" if it means I can't have what I want precisely when and how I want it. That's why we have "convenience stores"—they let us buy junk food 24-7. That's why we have ATMs—so we can conveniently get cash to take to the convenience store.

Larry not turning a paper in on time? That's not inconvenient for me. I'm perfectly happy to have 33 instead of 34 papers to grade. Truth is, grading late papers is always at the bottom of my to-do list. So, strictly from a convenience standpoint, Larry's done me a favor. I can get all the on-time papers graded and then watch Elmo videos with the kids.

With our convenience stores and ATMs and internet shopping, we live in a society that places a premium on convenience, sometimes at the expense of everything else. So perhaps Larry is just unknowingly reflecting the capitalist zeitgeist. Or perhaps, less charitably, he's being a little passive aggressive himself. Really, professor, isn't that due date just for your own convenience, so that you'll know when to budget time for grading?

No, Larry, the idea of a due date is to require you to complete a certain assignment within a certain period of time. If it works, you might hone your time management skills. More to the point, you might develop a fuller capacity to read and think and write well when you need to, instead of when you get around to it.

And, finally—sorry for sounding preachy—if you respect due dates you just might become more responsible. Yep, I think Larry just used the wrong word. He apologized for the "inconvenience." He meant "irresponsibility."

There it is. Mutual understanding. I feel better already.

## "Bobby Dunton's Bulk Carrier Wins Big at Student Conference"

Region III of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers includes 46 engineering colleges and universities in the northeastern United States. Once again Union has dominated the speaking, poster and design competitions at the Regional Student Conference.

A Bulk Material Transporter to load a dry cargo of rice, climb stairs and then unload in a bin

was the objective. Professor William Keat had members of his Dynamics and Kinematics class build models for an inter-class competition in the winter term.

Professor Keat was impressed with the results. He sent multiple teams including Patrick Allen, Oliver Majer, Andrew Moyer, Jessica Miron, Matthew Sefcik and Bobby Dunton to



the regional competition hosted by the University of Maryland on April 9

Bobby Dunton had placed a modest third in Professor Keat's classroom, but was deter-

mined to do better. He used his spring break to improve his machine and proceeded to vanquish the competition. He transported twenty times more rice than the closest rival.

Bobby is a graduating senior who has accepted a position with the Edison Program at General Electric Global Research Center. He will be spending his spare time preparing his machine to win again at the ASME International Congress that will be held in Orlando in November.

- Professor Frank Wicks,  
ASME Faculty Advisor

Got opinions about something you see in this paper? You've got to!

WRITE!

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## Letter to the Search Committee of Union

As a result of numerous meetings concerning diversity on campus, and the urgent need for any new president to effectively speak to these pressing issues and concerns at Union, a number of us prepared the following statement and circulated it for faculty signatures. We respectfully ask that you keep our concerns in mind as you proceed with the search for a college president.

Union College's Mission Statement makes an important educational commitment to "develop a historical awareness and intellectual integrity that will support a resolve to defend the dignity of all people" and to "learn more about other cultures and one's own." (Mission Statement, approved by Union College's Faculty and Board of Trustees, January 1992)

We believe that this means establishing and sustaining a critical community that values and educates for global citizenship. Educating students to be effective and productive members of a global community demands that the college actively recruit and retain students and faculty diverse in culture, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, and allocate the funds and material resources to create and sustain a vibrant intellectual and cultural environment for everyone.

Accordingly, we urge the Search Committee to formulate a job description that prominently states the need for a commitment to such recruiting and retention. We respectfully ask the committee to probe presidential candidates in all stages of the search process for their commitment to implementing and furthering this vital aspect of the College's mission.

SIGNED:

Lori Marso  
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Charles Batson  
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anu jain  
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Andy Feffer  
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Gail Donaldson  
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William Garcia  
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Miryam Moutillet  
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Quynh Chu-LaGraff  
Gail Golderman  
Jennifer Matsue  
Susan Niefeld  
George Smith  
Suthathi Yaisawarng  
David Cotter  
Stacie Raucci  
Hans Mueller  
Rudy Nydegger  
Karin Hamm-Ehsani  
David Ogawa  
Erica Ball  
Hugh Jenkins  
Eshragh Motahar  
Andrea Foroughi  
John Cramsie  
Kara Doyle

## Scenes from Abroad Florence, Italy



"It's just not Union Spring...but the pasta is amazing!"

- Amanda N. Caplin

"The city is truly remarkable and beautiful, I just wish we could spent more time out of the classroom!"

- Becca Wein

