Letters to the Editor

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kunkel Editorial Focused on the Negative

Concerning Dustin Kunkel’s article “Things I Have Never Seen...”

I feel that the Promethean staff could have much better used the space in their publication to accent the positive things about our campus, than waste it on such negativity. Because Mr. Kunkel’s not having a good day is no reason to mess up everyone else’s. Maybe some students feel as he does, but many do not. The Asian on my crew has his lunch daily with Americans; I have seen President Schlimpert many times in my one-and-half years. A lot of us enjoy Paster Norm’s whistling.

I’m sorry Mr. Kunkel’s experience at Concordia has to be compared to a toilet, but he doesn’t speak for the majority, and the publication space could be used much more positively - I have to now sprint out to rake up the leaves.

Ken Welch
P.P.S.

Kunkel Misses the “Truth”

I would like to respond to the “opinion” entered in the Fall ‘96 Promethean by Dustin Kunkel, which he called “What Is the Essence of Truth.” I would suggest that a better title for this marginal bit of literature could have been, “Four-and-a-half Years of Avoiding the Truth.”

I was disappointed that, even to the very last sentence, the author couldn’t get his head out of the toilet. It isn’t the language that bothered me. It was the insistence that because truth is elusive, even after attaining a college degree, that it’s the fault of the instructors and apparently everyone else who, during this sacred time, has not provided the silver chalice instead of the porcelain pot. There were, in fact, 28 cliches or clever descriptions and soundbites served up by the author before the editorial really began. In response to those comments I offer these for consideration: If your mother didn’t take care of your toilet training, you’ll simply have to collect definitions of “crap” for the rest of your life. Or how about this one? Get out of your anus and into the community of your life. Nobody owes you the ultimate answers, but you won’t find them in the toilet either.

Unfortunately, the answers to the question “what is truth” or “what is its essence” and “where do I find it” can’t be served up with Gen-X sound bites. I am encouraged by what’s said at the end of the article, but I’d like to see a revision that begins, rather than ends, with the importance of relationships. I agree that communication is seriously deficient at Concordia. And we certainly do hid behind our cliches to avoid the messy business of building community through intentional conflict resolution. I firmly believe that involvement in community experiences like intramurals, science club, choir, theatre, sports, handbells, and even team projects in the academic curriculum are essential forms of building community in higher education. The end result of these micro-communities can inform one’s role in the broader community beyond these walls. These experiences deserve to be included in the curriculum of life because... well, they just might be the necessary manure for finding the truth.

Larry Gross