How to handle your computer disk

In the November issue of The Cable, the Office of Information Technology offers the following tips for increasing the life and reliability of your computer disk:

- Avoid eating, drinking, or smoking when handling your computer disk. This helps keep media damaging contamination from getting onto the media surface.
- Never place a disk near the magnetic fields of a magnet, electric motor, or transformer. Direct contact with these objects can erase the information saved on your disk.
- Do not bend or fold a disk as this will damage the media and result in losing recorded data.
- Never use paper clips or rubber bands on disks because this may also result in damage.
- Never touch or attempt to clean the exposed media in the disk head access slot. This can cause contamination and possible data loss.
- Do not allow your disk to be exposed to excessive heat (greater than 140 degrees). The distortion caused to the plastic jacket may result in lost data.
- Never place heavy objects on your disk as this could result in damage.
- Always remove write-on labels when replacing new ones. Stacked labels could cause drive problems.
- Use only a soft felt-tip pen to write on the labels if they are already applied to the disk. Do not rub or eraser on existing labels. Media indentations could result from ball-point pens or pencils, causing lost data.

World AIDS Day celebrated

Sunday, Dec. 1 marks the ninth annual observance of World AIDS Day. This year’s theme, “One World, One Hope,” highlights the importance of overcoming our differences in order to work together to prevent and cure HIV and AIDS. The One to One Clinic in Mankato provides low cost, confidential testing and counseling for HIV and other STD patients throughout South Central Minnesota. People interested in more information may contact the clinic at 388-9950.

Crossroads fosters international atmosphere

Kathy Chillstrom
Weekly Editor-in-Chief

When walking around campus, you may have noticed the many different flags flying from Johnson Hall. That’s because Johnson Hall has adopted a nickname: Crossroads.

This name has not officially replaced Johnson Hall as the name of the dorm, but added to its diverse atmosphere created by the international students who live there.

“We wanted a place where people from different countries would come together and encounter each other,” said Jennifer Ward, Johnson Hall head resident.

The idea of adding a “personal” name to Johnson Hall stemmed from the fact that the dorm had been nicknamed the “International House.” Ward said that this particular name was overused on campuses throughout the country and that residents of the dorm desired a different name.

The name “Crossroads” was the first name suggested and was put on a bulletin board in Johnson Hall. The Hall Council later entered it along with four other names in a campus-wide voting. The name Crossroads was the favorite.

“We wanted a sense of ownership by the whole campus,” Ward said. “We had a great turnout for voting; between 400 and 500 people cast their ballot.”

“Since Johnson Hall is usually a place where international students live, Crossroads seemed appropriate,” said Ward.

When Crossroads was chosen as the winner, Douglas Nimmo, associate professor of music, also became a winner. He was the one who originally suggested Crossroads as the name of the dorm.

Nimmo was awarded an authentic international dinner of his choice and an Austro-Hungarian meal.

The meal, served by Crossroads residents turned waiters and waitresses on Sunday, Nov. 17, consisted of paprikash chicken and goulash soup with homemade noodles. While Nimmo, who was in the selected band personnel, were experiencing their Hungarian cuisine, the culture’s music surrounded them.

Bread For the World raises campus awareness; money for world hunger

Brooke Lundquist
Weekly Staff Writer

Many Gustavus students may have looked a little weaker than usual on Thursday, Nov. 21. The reason? Gustavus’ chapter of the national Christian lobbyist group, Bread For the World, sponsored a Caf fast. The event was held in conjunction with the national Oxfam fast day in order to raise money for the Oxfam America Corporation.

By skipping a meal in the Caf, students who have regular three-meals-per-day plan essentially donated money to the organization. Flex-meal plan students had the option of donating as many meals as they wanted from their cards. In previous years, over 200 students have signed up to fast, raising approximately $700.

Oxfam America is an organization that creates development projects to increase the self-sufficiency of farmers in foreign countries, such as a recent project which attempted to improve farming methods in Ethiopia. The Oxfam organization also performs projects throughout America.

“Oxfam is not a handout organization,” said senior Kari Wagener, Bread For the World president. “They work with the communities they help to develop solutions specific to the problems of each area.”

Other projects undertaken by Gustavus’ Bread For the World include a letter-signing campaign held on World Food Day. In this nationally sponsored campaign called “Write to End Childhood Hunger,” the group sent letters to candidates running for office asking them to pledge that if elected, they would support legislation to decrease hunger. Examples of such legislation are hot lunch programs in schools and food stamps for families on welfare.

Around the time of Earth Day in mid-April, the group will be having a Hunger Meal. This event divides participants into first, second and third world countries and serves them food accordingly so that an understanding of hunger is gained.

To Wagener, the projects sponsored by the group are especially meaningful. “One person [giving up a meal] does make a difference,” she said, expressing her thanks to the Gustavus community for their continued support.

Gusties at sea ...

Juniors Andrew Peterson and Benjamin Reitan are spending a semester aboard the S.S. Universe Explorer. As participants of this 100-day cross cultural voyage around the world, Peterson and Reitan attend classes aboard the vessel’s facilities which include classrooms, a library, theater, student union, swimming pool and fitness center. (photo submitted)