Preparations for '91 Vespers underway
Music department prepares for "most meaningful services" ever

By John Rucklaschel
Mirror Reporter

Preparations for this year’s Christmas Vespers have begun in the music department. The Vespers services mark the culmination of the fall semester practice for the concert choir, brass choir and the collegiate choir.

The tradition of Christmas Vespers at Augustana College dates back to the late 1930’s. According to Dr. J. Earl Lee, music professor emeritus, Vespers began simultaneously among many of the Lutheran Colleges of the upper Midwest. Vespers originally featured selections from an orchestra, a choir and a brass choir. It has since evolved into a brass choir, concert choir and collegiate choir presentation.

Vespers was first held in the Old Gym. Later it was moved to Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church and to St. Joseph’s Cathedral to create more of a church service environment. Lee said he feels “Vespers is a devotional experience, and the atmosphere in Our Saviour’s and St. Joseph’s Cathedral will clearly aid this.”

This year’s Christmas Vespers will differ from past years because, according to Dr. Harold Krueger, music department chair, “it will follow the Anglican service of Carols and Readings.” The format for such a service includes seven readings from the Bible with corresponding musical themes brought out by the various groups involved with Vespers. The texts will begin in the book of Genesis and will highlight events throughout the Old Testament leading to the birth of Christ. Furthermore, Krueger said Vespers will feature more symbols including 18-foot banners and wreaths. “Christmas Vespers is a prayer service,” and, he said, the music department’s aim is to maintain this.

Christmas Vespers is Dec. 6, 7 and 8. The Dec. 6 service begins at 8 p.m. There will be services at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Dec. 7, and at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Dec. 8. The 8 p.m. service on Dec. 8 will be held at St. Joseph’s Cathedral.

According to Box Office Director Audre Cherrette, all Vespers tickets were distributed by Nov. 1. “This is the fastest i have ever seen Vespers tickets go for all five services,” she said. Cherrette said there are over 100 names on a waiting list for tickets. Cherrette said anyone in possession of Vespers tickets but not planning to use them should return them to the Box Office.

Christmas Vespers 1991 is a prayer service,” and, he said, “it will be one of the finest services ever. I feel we have never worked harder and I think it’s going to be one of the best and the most meaningful services,” said Dr. Olaf Malmin, associate music professor.

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Students will no longer be able to slide by with a C-minus if a proposal made by the Augustana Curriculum Council yesterday is approved by the rest of the faculty.

Joe von Finches, chair of the ACSS Curriculum Committee, said that the Council is a working arena for curriculum issues. Everything the Council approves still needs full faculty approval, he said.

One of the main issues discussed at this month’s meeting was a faculty proposal to calculate ‘+’ and ‘-’ grades differently toward students’ GPAs than straight letter grades.

That issue was passed along with a motion by department chairs requiring transfer students to complete one of the courses toward their major here at Augustana, rather than simply the 30 credit hours previously required.

The possibility of participation grading was also discussed. If passed, this proposal would go into effect in the fall of 1992, and would allow a total of six participation classes to count toward graduation.

Two new courses were also approved at the meeting. Education 327, Media Instruction for the Hearing Impaired was approved as a C component course and a new religion course, Religion 222, Reformation to Modern Church History, was also passed.

It was also learned that Business Administration and Nursing departments are currently working on plans for developing masters programs.

Other new business being looked into by the Student Senate are the possibilities of incorporating a community service program into the curriculum, and finding an easier way of dealing with class registration.

Snow Removal
The city of Sioux Falls and Augustana College jointly have adopted snow removal plans as follows:

1. If there is a SNOW ALERT every radio station will be alerted. Listen to KAUR-FM for college details. The Physical Plant will also notify each residence hall and the Commons Building and signs will be posted.
2. Emergency Snow Routes are cleared first. Near Augustana those streets are Grange, 33rd Street, and 26th Street.
3. Streets numbered 3rd and west of Grange are "NO PARKING" at any time during the snow removal alert until the streets are cleared curb to curb.
4. "CORE AREA" streets are no parking from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. No person shall park on a north/south street on even numbered days or on east/west streets on odd numbered days. Streets near Augustana in the Core Area include 30th, 29th, 28th, 31st (east/west), Summit, Prairie, Walls, Menlo (north/south).
5. Green permit vehicles can park overnight (only during snow alert time) in the Humanities lot. All other blue lots are "No overnight parking" and will be towed clear.
6. Notice: If for any reason you need to leave your car on campus for unusual circumstances please call Campus Safety at 4014. Campus Safety can advise you of the appropriate parking lot.
7. The College will tow all "non-permit" vehicles parked illegally in the college lots to protect space for vehicles with permits. The College will tow all vehicles in any campus street or fire lane.
8. Any vehicle left on campus for an extended period (including Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Interim vacations) must have a permit (permanent or temporary) and must be parked in a lot (to be announced).
9. Special notices will be given to expedite the plowing of residence hall lots.