

Classical GUITARIST at Guilford

On Wed., March 23 at 8:00 pm Guilford College will present Classical Guitarist Leo Welch. Mr. Welch, currently head of the Guitar department at Marshall University in West Virginia, has performed throughout the United States. The performance will be held in Dana's Choir Room. Free Admission

BIGOTRY IS ALWAYS WRONG.

Intolerance and hatred based on race, culture, or religion is evil and destructive and must not go unanswered, ignored, or unopposed.

People of goodwill must find the courage to fight bias, bigotry and racism in America. Not just this time. Every time.

Vicious, untrue and inflammatory attacks on any group are a smear on all groups, an assault on the ideals and principles of every American. As people, we have built a nation together, fought together, dreamed together, and worked out our differences together. When hatred strikes, we all feel the blow.

We applaud the many leaders in the Greensboro community who seek to heal the wounds of divisiveness. Their efforts are laudable; but they are not enough. Not in a nation where divisions are deepening, and where anger and fear are exploited for selfish ends.

When a society ignores and does not condemn bigotry, it plants the very seeds that will ultimately lead to collapse.

We believe the time has come for every leader, every organization, every citizen to speak up against bigotry. Whether the hatred is aimed at African-Americans, Christians, Jews, Catholics, gays or anyone. Bigotry is always wrong.

Not just this time. Every time.

This ad is sponsored by: The National Conference and many Concerned Individuals and Organizations in the Greensboro Community. For more information about this message and how you may support the effort to fight bigotry please call 272-0359.

The National Conference founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry, and racism in America in order to promote understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education.

On the Sidelines

Koss decimates three world records

Will Cooper
Staff Writer

Johann Olav Koss, a 25-year-old medical student, has claimed three Olympic gold medals in speedskating for Norway in eight days, setting a new world record with each victory.

In his most recent victory in the 10,000 meters on Feb. 20, he bettered his own previous world record by an astounding 13 seconds.

So impressive was this victory, Eric Heiden (winner of five speedskating golds in 1980) remarked, "He just put the world record to shame." He also set world records in the 1,500 and 5,000 meter races previously. Similar to many of the athletes, Koss has decided to donate his money to Olympic Aid, a fund for needy countries.

This athlete is already considered such a legend that they have proclaimed that a statue of him will be built in front of "the Viking Ship" in Lillehammer. Still, we can only wonder how he managed to do it. No one can ever seem to completely understand the success of these athletes—even the athletes themselves. Said Koss after the race, "I don't really know what I've done."

Carl Lewis, Michael Jordan, Greg LeMond, Mary Lou Retton, Joe Montana, the list goes on... All these people reached a plateau that no other could reach. Whether it came in a "moment of glory," possibly in the Olympics, or over a lifetime—it seems not to matter. We have all heard the words that describe them, "legend, star,

saint, hero, immortal, blessed..." Not only were they better than all the rest, they were clearly unequaled.

How does anyone manage to become so great? For that matter, how does anyone manage to dominate any particular skill so thoroughly? Certainly practice and training and a desire to succeed are necessary, but what else? Some people are physically gifted with certain traits, but how do those abilities become translated into the highest success in the world?

Our desire to imitate, understand and even worship these athletes and their accomplishments is virtually unequaled by any of mankind's other obsessions. Paradoxically, however, the story of these people is often unremarkable. The athletes themselves feel no different from others, just "lucky."

The beginnings of these legends are humble, even average—a small town, youngest of three, ordinary parents...etc. They are not led to their talent, they discover it. Then, eventually, a glimmer. The person has found their calling. It doesn't come immediately, but these athletes, begin to stand out from their competition. They manage to continually improve without letting anything stop them from reaching the highest plateau. Finally, they shine brighter than all the rest, for the whole world to see.

We are entranced by that bright light, even astonished, yet we seem not awed by the brightening of it at all.

We marvel at the culmination of their tremendous improvement, yet fail to observe the improvement itself.

What is really so fascinating about these athletes is their sheer capacity to improve themselves, to hone their talent. What separates them from their competition is that they possess an ability to steadily develop their skill, always refining it. Their physical capacity for greatness is important, yet not as unique as the burning, lasting desire to succeed and more importantly always improve at all costs. The cliché rings infinitely true, *where there is a will, there is a way.*

Such is the case with Johann Olav Koss, Olympic-champion speedskater.

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