

THE Concordia Courier

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Volume 7, Issue 11

Concordia University Irvine

Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Night of Hope raises money for LMI

SARINA GRANT
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

The fourth annual Night of Hope will take place Fri., March 15, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

All sales made from the event will go to support the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, an organization that aims to eradicate malaria-related deaths in Africa by 2015.

Attending this event will help the Lutheran Malaria Initiative provide education and awareness to villagers, implement malaria treatment, and give resources and preventative treatments like mosquito bed nets.

"The event's purpose is to highlight art in all its different forms, to raise awareness for the non-profit being supported, and also to spread hope to all in attendance," said Mai Vu, senior Night of Hope coordinator. "The Great Commission says to go and make disciples of all nations."

"Night of Hope

is an event that highlights what different people are doing around the world to help others. We want to inspire people to take what they see, hear, and learn at Night of Hope and share it with everyone they know," said Vu.

The event begins in the outdoor amphitheater at 5:30 p.m. with performances from Concordia students, food for purchase from The Burnt Truck, and various activity booths. At 6:30, performances from Nashville duo Jenny &



Tyler will begin, followed by local Orange County band, Pawnshop Kings.

Elizabeth Rhea, senior, is one of the student performers, reciting spoken word poetry. "You get to look people in the eye and tell them something you care about. That's what I love about poetry; it awakens your passions and invigorates you," Rhea said. "The poem I wrote specifically for Night of Hope is about a little boy who is go-

ing to receive the blessing of a mosquito net and protection from disease."

"To me, I didn't feel like they really advertised that it was a charity event. It just seemed like a show," said Emily Wu, freshman. However, over the past four years, Night of Hope proceeds have gone to a handful of non-profits, benefiting the lives of people halfway around the world.

Tickets are on sale for \$15 general admission and \$20 premium seating. Student tickets are \$10 with discount code "CUISTU." Purchases can be made by searching "Night of Hope" on www.itickets.com.

"I want to encourage everyone to come because, honestly, it's a fun night. Come enjoy great live music, delicious food, and rally together to help save lives," said Vu.

Living Learning Communities build resident interest

TAYLOR BUNDY
STAFF WRITER

Four Living Learning Communities (LLCs) will open this fall, in addition to the already established Holos House in Rho. The Concordia Community will welcome Global Village, CUI Bono hall, and Wittenberg hall, which are tentatively scheduled to be in the quads. Rho will receive the new Wings hall.

According to the Office of Residential Education and Services (RES), "LLCs are small, defined groups of students who come together with faculty and student affairs professionals to engage in a holistic and intellectually-interactive learning experience." At their core, the LLCs are a way for like-minded students to live together while doing activities aimed at promoting their common interest.

Although the Living Learning Communities are new to Concordia, they are an established way of life for universities in Europe, such as Oxford and Cambridge.

Between the Core Curriculum and the LLCs, the last four years have brought many major changes to the campus. Nevertheless, "all these

new things have a rich history," said Dr. Daniel van Voorhis, Department Chair of History and Political Thought. "That's why we feel comfortable doing it, because it's worked for hundreds of years."

CUI Bono will continue as a campus-wide academic society. The only change will be a designated house for those who want to immerse themselves in the academic culture in and out of the classroom. The common area in the quads will be used for guest speakers, watching films, and holding debates. Although having a CUI Bono house may seem intimidating to some students, van Voorhis assures, "There are no assignments; there are no credit hours. The only thing that you will be doing in the CUI Bono house will be living with those that are interested in the life of the mind." Just like the CUI Bono society, nothing is mandatory.

Global Village is designed with the intention of broadening students' perceptions of cultures and world issues. Dr. Dan Waite, Executive Director of the Office of Global Programs, said, "We want a space on campus that celebrates cross-cultural life and living...and the diversity of cultures already here." Waite hopes to see it become home to half international students and

half domestic students.

It would be a great place for students who have gone on mission trips, studied abroad, or are planning to go abroad. Waite also thinks it would be practical for athletes who are unable to spend a semester away, because they could room with an international student and get to know them and their culture.

Wittenberg Hall is designed for Concordia's Lutheran students who are interested in developing their knowledge of the LCMS Church. According to Scott Keith, Director of RES, the hope for Wittenberg Hall is that "it's a place where discipleship and outreach are the focus. In other words, we have students here who want to connect with our heritage, but also so that they know how to go out into the world and take the gospel to others. The world starts with this campus."

Dr. Steven Mueller, Professor of Theology and Dean of Christ College, said, "We want to have an academic community that's holistic, that captures all of our lives together." Mueller hopes that the LLCs will become "places where people can interact, explore things, ask questions, test ideas, and really get to this work of scholarship together."

Wesley Gong, junior, thinks the LLCs will be great for "living around like-minded individuals and knowing the people that you're neighboring have the same mindset and aspirations as you."

"The three non-freshman LLCs will have Faculty in Residence in each hall who will be a driving force for the co-curricular programming that goes on in them," said Keith. "They will be in charge of the programming, educational series, and whatever else. The professor will be there as a help, an example, and a resource."

About living in the LLCs, Gong said, "I think it's a great opportunity, especially with a faculty member living there. It's going to really help build relationships between faculty and students that otherwise wouldn't be available."

None of the Faculty in Residence for the three halls has been chosen yet, but Mueller, van Voorhis, and Waite are in the process of narrowing it down. Van Voorhis even stated that the decisions are "imminent."

Housing applications for Living Learning Communities are in the Housing and RES office in Sigma. More information is available by going to www.cui.edu/LLC.

I, Robot

NATE MILES
STAFF WRITER

The general public is unaware of the fact that humans are coming closer to immortality. There is a goal among many circles of scientists to decrease aging and biological disability. With the current state of technology running rampant, there are thoughts of transfusing mechanics with human bodies. This ideology is called “transhumanism”. Although the idea of transhumanism is complex and somewhat discomforting, the truth of the matter is, it’s a possibility.

There have already been many inventions of mechanical body parts that may be used to enhance one’s life value. The cure for blindness has come up with the new retinal implant Alpha IMS system. We now have an actual bionic eye available. The vision is not as strong as human vision, but it is reasonable to believe that in time, the Alpha IMS will be up to par. The vision could possibly surpass the supremacy of human vision in the future – a scary thought. The idea of man-made body parts showing ascendancy over God’s natural creations makes many people apprehensive. This is only a brief peek at examples of the ethical discussions to come with transhumanism.

Once confronted with this sci-fi ideology, one will start to recognize a significant amount of transhumanistic images throughout the media. Music videos of The Black Eyed Peas, Beyoncé, Christina Aguilera, and many other pop stars portray the music icons with robotic costumes. It is almost as if the mass media has been subliminally sending messages of a transhumanist agenda to the every-day citizen. If that were true, mass media would be attempting to desensitize people and make transhumanism appear as an acceptable route to take in the future.

This evolutionary idea gathers mixed feelings from a wide array of people. CUI Biology professor, Dr. Soper, is against certain aspects of the robotic agenda, also claiming that it is “im-

possible to reach immortality”. Soper expressed his opinion of this growing movement by saying, “As long as you leave the brain alone, then it’s okay.” He went on to clarify by adding, “Don’t try to fuse the human mind with machine.” Also, in *Foreign Policy* magazine, political scientist and author, Francis Fukuyama, described transhumanism as one of “The World’s Most Dangerous Ideas”.

However, Futurist and Google’s Director of Engineering, Ray Kurzweil, maintains a view that is polar opposite to the opinions of Soper and many other qualified scientists. Kurzweil hopes to one day coalesce his body with advanced technology and potentially upload his consciousness onto a hard drive. He leads the “technological singularity” movement which, similar to transhumanism, has a controversial goal to allow “superintelligence” through technological means. Kurzweil told *TIME* magazine that, “We will successfully reverse-engineer the human brain by the mid-2020s. By the end of that decade, computers will be capable of human-level intelligence.”

Supposing the era of a man-kind/man-made compounded species appears, one must wonder what ethical implications would follow. It is nearly reminiscent of the ancient “Tower of Babel” story. Would the religious folk of the world allow such an ideology to advance? It is safe to expect a detrimental war between the people of religion and evolutionary atheists – well, anyone who is not religious really.

There will be tempestuous arguments about whether becoming cyborgs is a responsible route for humanity to take. Pro-transhumanists will accuse others of trying to hold civilization back from progress, while the opposers will accuse them of trying to play the role of God. It will be controversial, pivotal, and formidable. It will be anything but pretty. The good news is that the climax of this movement is a ways away, but it is approaching. Judging the current state of society’s mindset, it is hard to predict which way we will turn.

Communities, so there will be plenty of halls void of resident staff if a student prefers that. Keith believes that this will be a huge blessing for students and hopes they will recognize and take advantage of this privilege.

Resident staff get certain privileges that students do not. The presence of on-campus RES staff is meant to assist students and provide 24/7 service in case of emergency. The professionals who take these positions accept the benefits and disadvantages of making a permanent home among college students. While they live with students, they are not students. Holding people in close quarters to different standards can cause tension and conflict. It is easy to see professional staff with pets, alcohol, or co-ed guests after privacy hours and cry “unfair.” However, the distinction between student and employee allows them these privileges. The professional staff agrees to abide by a conduct policy set by the university, just not the student code of conduct.

On-campus staff are most desirable for their emergency response capacity. They have the training and experience to provide aid as first responders and to contact emergency services. Within just the first two months of his on-campus presence,

From British Eyes Only

Colonial Education 101:

Part 8, Television

LAWRENCE OXBOROUGH
STAFF WRITER

Hello class. It’s good to see some of you are still attending this lecture and haven’t yet gotten so offended that you filed complaints against me and my teachings.

This week, we shall cover the topic of television. Television, it would seem, is a huge part of every American’s life, with a wide variety of shows that never fail to give audiences something to watch no matter what their mood is. From reality TV shows such as *The Bachelor*—for those who enjoy being tricked into thinking that finding true love is as easy as beating out 15 other fame-hungry girls in a quest to prove to an actor that she is the best of a bad bunch—to entire channels dedicated to football, and a slew of *NCIS*-style, shallow, predictable, and much-the-same murder shows.

Of course, with the vast array of different shows, there are inevitably some good ones. Although I am quite partial to *Family Guy*, *Friends*, and *The Big Bang Theory*, American humour is on the whole rather poor. For real comedy, watch shows such as *Blackadder*, *Monty Python’s Flying Circus*, and *Faulty Towers*. You will soon learn to appreciate witty, sophisticated, and occasionally rude (yet still acceptable) humour.

Also, stop with all the crime shows (such as *NCIS*). As I mentioned before, they’re all the same, to the point where I can’t actually work out which one I’m watching if I happened to be channel hopping. For real crime dramas, see *Luther*, *Wire in the Blood*, and Agatha Christie’s *Poirot*.

I must admit though, that there is one thing that American television has over British television, and that is coverage of sports. In Britain, unless you have *Sky*, the only sport that is shown on TV, other than football, is football. Yes, that’s right; unfortunately, football is the only sport shown on British television, which is a massive problem for the 0.72% of Brits, like myself, who

don’t like football. So the fact that American TV shows a healthy variety of sports, and indeed a varying level of sports, always ensures that everyone has a good reason to plonk themselves on the couch in front of the TV and vegetate for a few hours.

It would be unfair for me however, to say that all American TV shows are bad, because that’s simply not true. I must confess that I have often found myself spending entire evenings torn between two TV shows, watching one and then flipping back to the other when the commercial break comes on. Which leads me nicely into this week’s rant...

What is with the massive amount of commercials?! Every single channel (with the exception of those you have to pay for, such as HBO) has an obscene amount of commercial breaks. It means that 20 minute shows turn into 30 minute TV shows, and movies that should usually only last a couple of hours at most, turn into impossible-to-watch four hour marathons. No, I don’t care about the new Toyota Prius or the new high gas mileage but really low gas mileage Ford F-150. I didn’t sit down to be sold car insurance, and I don’t want to go and see that new movie that came out. All I want to do is watch *Family Guy* for 20 minutes, the way Seth Macfarlane intended. So stop showing stupid Geico commercials, because I’m not going to buy car insurance.

I suppose the reason I feel so strongly about these waste-of-time-and-money commercials is because in Britain, we have the wonderful BBC: a free, commercial-less channel, where one hour shows last for an hour, no more, no less. What’s even better is that there are in fact four BBC channels, so if there’s a boring soap opera such as *Eastenders* on BBC 1, we can go and watch a commercial-free documentary about trees on BBC 2.

So that just about wraps us up for today, class. Remember, if you want really good TV, make a petition to bring the BBC over to America.

Editorial

COURIER EDITORIAL STAFF

Recently, a few issues have been brought to the attention of this editorial staff that deal with student complaints against official administrative policies or behavior. In an attempt to voice the concerns and search for answers, the Courier staff investigated the claims and collectively wrote our findings.

The influx of faculty/staff living on campus feels like a lockdown. With an increase of Concordia employees calling the campus home, some students feel like the administration is trying to keep a closer watch on residents in order to monitor their behavior. RES has just the opposite motivation; they feel that bringing more staff to live with the students will help improve relationships and offer students more opportunities to seek advice from someone who has their best interests in mind. “The Faculty in Residence will not be handling any judicial matters,” said Scott Keith, Director of RES. “They will only be there for support, education and guidance.” The new resident faculty next year will only be living in the Living Learning

Keith responded to four events culminating in calls to emergency services.

In order to attract the highest quality professional staff who will be willing to devote a significant portion of their careers to the university, the school must make allowances to let professionals build their lives. According to Keith, asking the professional staff to abide by the student code of conduct would discourage established professionals from applying to work at the university.

There is an increased frequency of health and safety checks. Another concern that students have expressed recently has been about the new health and safety check policy. Though the intentions behind implementing this policy have seemed valid, some believe that there is a different motivation behind the new room checks. In the past few years, Concordia students were required to have their RA come in one time each semester to perform standard room checks. They were to ensure that each student was living in a room free from mold and mildew as well as to enforce preventative measures for safety issues regarding heater spacing, screens on windows, and the like. Since becoming

a dry campus, it seems to students that Concordia has been cracking down on the rules for RES life. Monthly room checks seem excessive to the senior who has been living healthfully and safely for the last seven semesters with one check during each. Students can’t help but wonder if the motivation behind the checks has to do with the no alcohol policy and the fact that RAs now look in fridges monthly. One RA stated that the new RES policy had good intentions behind it. The amount of Concordia students living in filth and neglecting fire safety rules was alarming enough to implement the new rule to keep them healthy and safe. Students agree that an official statement from RES regarding the reasoning behind the new rule would be appreciated and help clear up the misconception.

Students get in trouble due to Social Media. Often times, students are under the illusion that Concordia’s faculty and staff are on the hunt for potentially troublesome student behavior on Facebook, Twitter, or other social media platforms. However, in reality, this claim has little or no support.

Issues with social media are minimal. In most of the rare social media violations, a student brings a potentially harmful post or picture to the attention of a member of the professional staff. From there, the staff deals with the issue accordingly. Although sanctions might come out of an investigation, the main goal of the staff is to help students grow from the situation. Depending on the problem, students can be directed to Campus Ministry, RES Life, counselors, or a faculty mentor in order to get them on the path to success.

Dr. Gilbert Fugitt, Dean of Students, stressed the beneficial role of faculty and staff. “We are here to educate our students. We’re not searching for ways to punish them.” Members of Concordia’s community want to contribute to students’ lives, not scour the internet for inappropriate pictures. In an instance where a picture or post is brought to a staff member’s attention, their objective is to get the students the guidance they need.

As technology continues to advance, videos, posts, texts, and pictures become more available to more people much more quickly.

To avoid troublesome issues with social media, keep clear from situations that shed a negative light on you or violate the student code of conduct. Put yourself in situations that will showcase your ability to be wise, honorable, and cultivated. If you have any questions, email or visit Gilbert Fugitt in Admin 300.

THE Concordia Courier

Emily Geske, Editor-in-Chief

Alicia Harger, Layout Editor

Maggie Darby, Arts/Reviews Editor

Sarina Grant, Campus Life/
Local & Global Interests Editor

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Everything Eagles Editor

Faculty Advisor

Professor Ashlie Siefkes

Faculty Advisory Board

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Dr. Daniel van Voorhis

Primary funding provided by
the Office of the Provost

1530 Concordia West, Irvine CA, 92612
Lambda Lounge
newspaper@cui.edu
cui.edu/studentlife/student-newspaper

Writers

Trever Benjamin, Carly Bishop, Kyle Borcharding, Taylor Bundy, Austin Burkhart, Alexandra Castellanos, Josh Geisinger, Jason Holte, Jessica Israel, Breanna Lafferman, Nate Miles, Alex Miranda, Lawrence Oxborough, Camesha Patton, Jade Reed, Julien Sperling, Anna Stern, Tucker Thorson

Publishing by Anchor Printing
anchorprintingoc.com

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newspaper@cui.edu

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Baseball and Softball all lit up

JADE REED
STAFF WRITER

Light Up the Night, a bonfire organized by LEAD Screaming Eagles to introduce this year's baseball and softball teams, took place on March 8. "The idea was thought up by the Screaming Eagles team to help celebrate softball and baseball," said Joshua Canter, junior LEAD Screaming Eagles Coordinator. "We wanted to do a Midnight Madness-like program, but for softball and baseball."

Light Up the Night, first held last year, gave the LEAD Coordinators a difficult time. They struggled with getting permission to have a bonfire on campus, as well as finding the right space to meet the requirements of the Orange County Fire Authority. The only space that upheld these requirements was behind the Library.

The planning process for this event began right after Midnight Madness ended. Lawrence Oxborough, sophomore, came up with the Hawaiian theme to stray away from the glowing neon theme that has been used for other events. A reggae band and free pork sliders also contributed to the relaxed mood of the gathering.

Many attended Light Up the Night last year, but this year's Hawaiian theme brought a new atmosphere. "The difference from this year than last year was the amount of people who attended," said Bryana Simpson, senior softball player.

"This event helps bring the campus together around a unique experience," said Canter. "It allows time to focus on the softball and baseball teams and start to recognize who is actually on those teams."

The first 40 people received a free t-shirt that had a Marty totem pole on it. "My favorite part about Light up the Night was waiting in line for the free t-shirts," said Nathan Stevens, sophomore. "I was excited to wait in line this year for another free t-shirt, but I had to bring a chair."

The laid back atmosphere gave people the opportunity to relax and enjoy each other's company. "This event is important because it not only brings athletes closer, but everyone closer together in a fun environment," said Jas-

min Dresser, freshman softball player. Light Up the Night aims to emphasize the importance of support from spectators as well as amongst team members.

"This event means a lot to our program because of the bonding experience with the team, [as well as] the good memories which will help the team become happy again when things go wrong," said Dresser.



Sophomores Megan White and Kayla Barzan enjoyed the music of Light up the Night.

This LEAD bonfire is quickly turning into an anticipated tradition. "Light Up the Night was a great experience, and I can't wait for next year," said Olyvia Preciado, freshman.

Continue showing your support for these teams by going to the next baseball game today at 2:30 p.m. or the next softball game today at Hope International in Fullerton at 2 p.m.

Eagles run for charity

JESSICA ISRAEL
STAFF WRITER

The 5th Annual 5K Eagle Run will start at 9 a.m. on Sat., March 23, to raise money for local charities. The Eagle Run is open to all students, faculty, and Concordia community members. Although there is a fee to participate in the race, the money goes back into the community through charities that have been carefully selected by the Associated Students of Concordia University Irvine (ASCUI).

The Eagle Run was created four years ago by the ASCUI Senate to bring awareness to local charities. This year, ASCUI Executive Board chose to donate to five specific organizations that are closely related to Concordia. "Either it's an alumnus who started the organization or it is in the name of one of our students," said Brianna Lamanna, senior ASCUI Vice President.

The theme for this year's race is "Lace Up for Love" in hopes of encouraging people to join the race and support the organizations. The Eagle Run welcomes and encourages participation from all levels of runners, from experienced to beginner. Participants have three hours to complete the 5K trail that starts and finishes on Concordia's campus.

"It's a great opportunity to bring Concordia together and for our students, our faculty, our supporters, and people within our community to come together to support and donate to these organizations that are really close to our hearts," said Lamanna.

"The Eagle Run is a special event because it really brings together all types of people in and outside the school. It is a fun, non-competitive workout that raises money for a good cause," said Jessica Marquardt, sophomore. "It is different from other events because it provides opportunities for all to participate and all to feel as though they won the race as well. The cheering was the best part; the fans made the event very worthwhile."

Along with getting a T-shirt at the race, there will be sponsors throughout the course that will be giving out prizes to the runners. Businesses like Boomers, In-N-Out, and Aquarium of the Pacific will be providing gift cards to lucky runners.

Breanna Wengel, senior ASCUI Secretary, especially enjoyed working with the sponsors. "It's been great. It's always nice to see how people appreciate what Concordia does to help others," she said.

For more information or to register for the event, visit the CSLD. Registration will also be open at Concordia's "Games of the Week." Same day registration will be available at 8 a.m. on the morning of the race.

Want to work for the Courier?

- Applications now available in the CSLD are due March 15
- For more information, contact Faculty Advisor Ashlie Siefkes at ashlie.siefkes@cu.edu
- We hope to hear from you soon!

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SportsLine

Kyle Borcharding

NBA Mid-Season
Report:

The Eastern Conference

For the concluding article in the NBA Mid-Season series, the Eastern Conference contenders will be the primary subjects. With only a little over a month remaining in the regular season, there is still a lot of room for change in the East. Let's begin with the frontrunners.

Of course the Miami Heat are at the top of any conversation regarding the Eastern Conference. This team has always been one of the most competitive in the league, and their recent 15-game-and-counting win streak proves that they are getting hot at the right time. Wade and James look as good as ever, and they continue to pile up points and wins for Miami. With a comfortable lead over the other teams in the East, Miami seems to be in control of the conference. They are, however, not unbeatable.

The Indiana Pacers have the best chance of any team in the conference to challenge the Heat in a playoff series. The Pacers entered the weekend 2-0 against the Heat on the season, and Indiana's star, Danny Granger, has not played in either game because of a knee injury. Recently returning to the lineup, Granger is working his way back to his earlier form and will certainly help the Pacers score alongside Paul George. The main weapon in Indiana's arsenal is defense; the Pacers rank second in the league and regularly hold opponents under 85 points. This is something no other team in the Eastern Conference brings against Miami. The Pacers gave Miami a tough playoff series last year. Expect them to do it again.

The New York Knicks have also shown promise in the East. It has been difficult for them to find a good balance of team chemistry with the injury to Amare Stoudemire early in the season. The Knicks have the potential to make some noise in the playoffs, but they are too inconsistent to be a legitimate title contender. It is too soon to write them off completely, but they will need to show some consistency to win a lengthy seven-game series against some of the tougher opponents.

The Western Conference has a deeper pool of talent from top to bottom, but the Heat and Pacers will certainly challenge the west coast teams down the stretch. The Bulls could also improve dramatically if Derrick Rose returns to action soon, but his status continues to be uncertain. Though doctors have cleared him to play, Rose said that he doesn't feel mentally ready to return to the court. The closing weeks of the season will be full of intrigue, and the NBA postseason this year could be among the most exciting in recent years.

Eagles soar to professional soccer league



JULIEN A. SPERLING
STAFF WRITER

Senior Eagle soccer players Christian Ramirez and William Prado have been drafted into the United Soccer League (USL) to play for the Charlotte Eagles. The USL is a division of soccer behind Major League Soccer (MLS).

Ramirez, a 6'2" forward who finished his college career with 44 goals and 18 assists, was named NAIA First Team All-American, in addition to earning the title of 2012 GSAC Player of the Year. Prado gained NAIA Honorable Mention for two consecutive years and earned a spot on the All-GSAC First Team twice as well.

Although the GSAC may not be as well known as other conferences, the Eagles made a name for themselves this season.

"Not many people give the NAIA enough credit for how good the quality of soccer is," said Ramirez. "I felt that we changed people's perspective of that and showed that it doesn't matter what division you play in, soccer is the same."

Both players embody strong skills that will contribute to strength of the Charlotte Eagles. "Christian is a big target forward who can combine well, makes good runs, and can score goals. Will is an attacking midfielder who is a very good passer with a track record of recording big assist numbers," said Tom Engstrom, Charlotte

Eagles General Manager. "Both of the players bring a passion for the game and a desire to be part of a good team culture."

Prado and Ramirez have begun paving the road toward the ultimate accomplishment. "They chased a dream and are living it now," said David Garcia, junior member of the soccer team. "[I'm sure] they're looking forward to the high level and speed of the game, in addition to being able to call soccer their job."

Both players are aiming to break into the MLS after their time playing for the Charlotte Eagles.

To follow Christian Ramirez and William Prado on their journey to professional soccer, visit www.charlotteeagles.com.

Skiing pro finds mountain home

ALEX MIRANDA
STAFF WRITER

For the past eight years, Bryce Nilsson, 19-year-old sophomore, consumed himself in his career as a Professional Alpine Skier. Nilsson competed on the Big Bear Snow Summit Race team for the entirety of his professional career. What began as a simple interest during his adolescent years eventually developed into a professional passion fueled by his reverence of the mountains.

Nilsson gives a lot of credit for his career to his father, who is from Sweden. Nilsson's father loved immersing himself and his entire family in the outdoor experience. Family ski trips provided "the perfect opportunity to enjoy God's creation and spend time with your family," said Nilsson.

Although growing up in Orange County made the journey up to the mountains somewhat difficult, Nilsson used his weekends to travel and make the mountains his home away from home.

When he was competing, Nilsson took the

mountain by storm, collecting three gold medals in the Alpine Series at Snow Summit and finishing in the top 15 at the Championships at Mammoth Mountain.

His last competition was at the Far West Ski Championships in Mammoth, CA. Although Nilsson does not see himself competing in the pro circuit any time soon, he does not plan on giving skiing up completely.

"My brothers are still actively competing now and are at the Junior Olympics this week, so I plan on just skiing for fun and training with them every once in a while," said Nilsson. "But I will never stop skiing; the mountain is my second home."

With skiing in his blood, Nilsson scoffs at the notion of snowboarding. "Skiing is so second-nature to me, it's just like walking. I see no point in switching to snowboarding because I have so much fun skiing," he said. "But let's be real; we all know skiing is cooler."

For more information on Alpine Skiing and other various winter sports, visit the official Olympics website at <http://www.olympic.org/alpine-skiing>.

Lacrosse team starts strong

JASON HOLTE
STAFF WRITER

Following three consecutive wins in conference, the lacrosse team is ranked seventh in the country. After a 13-7 win over UC San Diego on Feb. 23, the Eagles (6-1) crushed UC Irvine and Cal State Long Beach with scores of 20-0 and 15-0, respectively.

Senior Kelly McMinn credits the team's attitude for most of its early success. "This is one of the most cohesive teams I've ever played on. We all get along pretty well," said McMinn. "We expect to face some solid competition but we also expect to beat a lot of our competition."

Caesar Gomez, senior, says the team's strong start has been a complete team effort. "Our rookies are getting a firsthand look at great college lacrosse and learning to play like veterans on the field," said Gomez. "Our vets are stepping up in a big way not only to set a good example but also to set the bar for what Concordia lacrosse is trying to become: a national championship program."

The team's winning expectation is a testament to its heritage. "Over the past six years, the team has seen some tremendous feats such as recruiting players from Canada, the East Coast,

and California," said John Breerton, senior. "The team made its debut in the Southwestern Lacrosse Conference playoffs in 2010 and made its first trip to the national tournament last year within just five years of being around."

The seniors hope to end their college careers in the best way possible: by winning a national championship.

"Bringing home the trophy would be an extraordinary ending to my college career, especially being a part of the inaugural recruiting class for the program," said Gomez.

The team took a break from their league schedule to host Fort Lewis (Colorado) on Sat., March 9, winning by a score of 22-2.

The team stresses the importance of fan attendance at games. "For those who haven't come to see a game, you're missing one of the most exciting sports to watch on a field," said McMinn. "It's been dubbed 'the fastest game on two feet', so even if you don't know the rules, it will still be fun to watch."

The Eagles will have a break for the next two weeks before their conference clash with Cal State San Marcos on Sat., March 23. This will be the Eagles' final lacrosse game on campus this season, so do not miss the opportunity to cheer the men on!

Concordia Choir closes Pacific Northwest tour

AUSTIN BURKHART
STAFF WRITER

After returning from their tour of the Pacific Northwest, the Concordia Choir performed at the CU Center last Friday.

The choir recently arrived home from their music tour, making stops in Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon. On tour, the group was able to perform their set at various churches and high schools in the areas they visited. The home concert was the seventh performance of their tour set, so the group showed no signs of anxiety before Friday's show. The choir was eagerly anticipating this concert in particular to be able to finally perform in front of family, friends, and faculty. Wesley Barnes, sophomore, was excited for Friday's performance to be able to show people what the group has been practicing for so long.

"It is always a wonderful experience to be able to perform here at home in the superb acoustics of the CU Center," said Michael Busch,



Director of Choral Activities.

Those who attended Friday's concert were exposed to various styles of music, ranging from pieces written centuries ago to those produced in the modern era. In addition to the classical genre, there were gospel and spiritual pieces as well. "They [the spiritual pieces] are a huge crowd pleaser wherever we go," said Choir Vice President Whitney Leehey, junior.

The crowd also heard solos in various musical pieces from a handful of those in the choir including Barnes and Matthia Duryea, junior. Duryea was glad that she was able to sing a part that contributed to the beauty of the overall piece.

The choir began preparing well in advance for Friday's performance, as it was the last of many stops made on their tour. From the start of spring semester, they prepared for the tour, putting forth effort through hours of practice rehearsals and having to memorize a total of 14 different works.

Because there is a high level of energy behind each performance and so much hard work that was put into making Friday's show possible, Duryea guaranteed beforehand that the concert was going to be a treat for those who attended.

The choir encourages more Concordia students to come to the home concerts in the future because they appreciate support from their peers.

"Everyone goes to watch the basketball games on campus because our friends are participants," said Barnes. "Choir is like another team, and as often as we go support our friends on the basketball team, we should want to be able to come support our friends who are in choir."

The choir's next performance will be of Mendelssohn's Elijah. This Masterworks performance will take place in April, and tickets can be reserved online at <http://www.cui.edu/AcademicPrograms/Undergraduate/Music/Calendar>.

Tuck's Tune *American Radass*

TUCKER THORSON
MUSIC GURU

American Radass is the latest album to be released by the two-piece band from New Jersey, Dads. *American Radass* is a great combination of a post-rock and post-emo sound, combining the long instrumentals and complexity of a band like Explosions in the Sky with the down to earth lyrics of love and life from bands like American Football.

Since buying this album, it has pretty much been the only thing I've listened to. It's great for singing along to while driving in a car, yet it is calm to use as background music while studying or doing homework.

My two favorite tracks on the album are "If Your Song Title Has the Word 'Beach' in It, I'm Not Listening to It" and "Big Bag of Sandwiches". Much like most of the music I listen to, the singer isn't the most conventional sounding vocalist out there. Personally, I find that bands with vocalists who are slightly off-key or unusual are

actually more enjoyable because you can really hear the passion in the words when they sing. It gives the idea that the singer is just an average person, which then creates a relationship between the lyrics and the listener.

"If Your Song Title..." is the opening track on the album and really sets the tone of how the CD will be. The drum track in the song is fantastic: very simple, yet very effective in creating a fantastic vibe. "Big Bag of Sandwiches" also opens with a beautifully laid out drum track and instrumentally is my favorite track.

A large theme throughout this album is relationships, but with a lot of the emphasis on just friendship and being there for one another. Dads, along with a lot of artists in this genre, are excellent story-tellers and are able to get the feeling of normal life, and all the ups and downs we face in it, into an album.

I definitely recommend this album to anyone reading this, and I hope that you are turned on to new artists that broaden your musical horizons. As always, keep listening to music.



Summer music festivals worth the empty wallet

CARLY BISHOP
STAFF WRITER

Stagecoach, Coachella, and Warped Tour music festivals are all around the corner, and the season of pre-ordering tickets has begun. Each of these three festivals focuses on a different genre of music. Country is represented at Stagecoach, rock/indie at Coachella, and rock, hardcore, and reggae at Warped Tour.

Coachella is a weekend festival held in Indio, CA, at the Empire Polo Club on Apr. 12-14 and 19-21. General admission tickets are \$349 for the three-day ticket. This year's listing is filled with many chart-topping artists such as 2 Chainz, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Alex Clare, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Phoenix, and many more. Different genres of music are going to be presented throughout the weekend. Conner Aiken, sopho-

years and loves the atmosphere it brings. The best part about going to Stagecoach is "being able to be surrounded by country music 24/7," said Elliot. "The usual hot weather does not become a factor while spending time with family and friends and enjoying some country music." Tickets are now available for purchase for \$239 general admission, but can reach up to over \$1,000 if reserved seating is of interest. Gates open up at noon on all three days, and parking is available at 10 a.m.

Finally, the Vans Warped Tour goes all summer long from June 15-Aug. 4. The venues are all over the United States, but the closest to the Irvine area are San Diego on June 19 and Pomona on June 20-21. Ticket prices vary depending on the venue but typically sell for \$40-\$50. The atmosphere is full of energy with loud and crazy fans ready to have a good time. Bands such as

Hawthorne Heights, 3OH!3, The Used, and All-Star Weekend are going to be playing this year. After certain bands' performances, they often come out and meet their fans and sign autographs. Aside from the music, Warped Tour gives participants different action sports to experience, such as skateboarding and BMX.

Tickets can be found at the festivals' websites or through outside vendors (ticketmaster, stub-

hub or even craigslist). Whether you are staying in the Irvine area or not, there are some great summer concerts or tours to check out.

Coachella:

Empire Polo Club- Indio, CA
April 12-14 and 19-21
\$349

Stagecoach:

Empire Polo Club- Indio, CA
April 26-28
\$239

Warped Tour:

Various venues
Alls summer
\$40-\$50

more, is considering attending the festival in the future. "The big variety of music is the main reason [I would consider going]," said Aiken. Apart from the entertainment from the live bands, Coachella also offers interactive art exhibits. The festival brings famous food trucks for a bite to eat as well.

Stagecoach is another festival held at the same venue. This year's dates land on Apr. 26-28. The lineup consists of over 40 country artists including Toby Keith, Lady Antebellum, Zac Brown Band, and Trace Adkins. Taylor Elliot, senior, has been to Stagecoach the last four

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Lunch and learn with community

AUSTIN BURKHART
STAFF WRITER

Concordia developed a partnership with the city of Orange Chamber of Commerce for a series of "Lunch and Learn" professional development workshops. There are a total of three workshops, intended for Chamber members to gain knowledge and techniques necessary in order to grow their business and succeed in today's business world.

Several Concordia faculty members are leading the workshops discussing Self-Branding, Social Media, and Sales & Marketing.

Ashlie Siefkes, Professor of Communication Studies, along with Debbie Lewandowski, Branding Consultant from YourSpotlite.com, led the January workshop titled, "Self Branding—The Elevator Speech." Angela Williamson, Professor of Communication Studies, facilitated the February workshop, highlighting "Effective Marketing and Social Media."

"My goal was to give knowledge the owners needed to move forward and know what to look for so companies are not taken advantage of," Williamson said.

Instead of a long, drawn-out PowerPoint, Williamson created a workbook encompassing the main points of the workshop so that each member could have something concrete to take away. Williamson later received a thank you letter from the Chamber in Orange, letting her know that her methods worked for them and inviting her to return.

The third and final workshop, "Sales and Marketing—Getting it Right!" will be led by Carolyn Shiere, Professor of Business, on Thurs.,

March 21, at noon.

This initial collaboration has sparked interest from other chambers within Orange County. A similar workshop event is planned with the City of Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce in early May, as well as involvement with the Irvine and Newport Beach Chambers, according to Paul Marquardt, Assistant Dean in Business Administration.

It has also helped Concordia gain recognition as not only an institution of higher learning, but also a friend and servant to the community. "It is important that the community knows that Concordia is not only a school to send students, but also a place that partners with their community," said Tim Peters, Dean of the School of Business and Professional Studies.

"Concordia is definitely well known in Orange County, but it's not known well enough, so every time we have a chamber function, we are telling more and more people that Concordia exists," said Eugene Esparza, MBA Academic Program Director in Business.

Chambers of Commerce help provide their members with the resources necessary to be successful in today's business world. Many chamber members are small business owners looking to strengthen and grow their businesses. With Concordia helping to serve this community, it could also lead to job and internship opportunities for undergrad and graduate students.

"We want the Concordia name to be well recognized in the business community so that when a graduate has Concordia written on their resume, employers know that student graduated from a rigorous program," said Esparza.

Pope resigns, but we're not Catholic

TREVER BENJAMIN
STAFF WRITER

Pope Benedict XVI resigned on Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. after the bells at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica were rung 85 times, officially ending his six-year term. This marked the end of the first resignation of the leader of the Catholic Church in over 600 years.

"The resignation of Pope Benedict XVI will reverberate for years to come and could change the nature of the modern papacy, starting with the election of his successor," reported *The Washington Times*. The opposing viewpoints of Catholic Church leaders and the unclear explanation for the resignation have made this an intense global event.

After the announcement was made to the world, many news reports cited head injuries Benedict XVI had sustained during a trip to Mexico as part of the reason behind the resignation. These reports of declining health and age were later confirmed, the *Times* reported.

"I respect the Pope for making the decision he did, regardless of the circumstance," said Timothy Detviler, adjunct Professor and Orange Lutheran High School Pastor. "For all of the people that cherish and potentially covet being the Pope, to resign from that shows that he has a proper perspective on leading the Catholic church."

The conclave to select the new Pope convenes on Tuesday, and the

choice is expected to be made before Holy Week begins. As per tradition, white smoke is sent up through the chimney of the Sistine Chapel if a new Pope has been picked, while black smoke signifies that a decision has not yet been made. Once chosen, the new Pope will offer his first wave from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

While the actions of the Pope have been historic, not everyone agrees on the extent to which this will impact the religious community. "I do not think Concordia will really be affected by the decision of the Pope, but at my Catholic church we have talked about the situation a lot, mostly to squash rumors," said Bryan Garza, junior.

The duties of the Pope include making decisions for the church, making appearances, and providing spiritual comfort, which can either alter lives for the better or have a minimal effect because of the Pope's lack of secularized power.

In a *Washington Times* article by Jenn Davis titled, 'Does the Pope's Resignation Really Matter to Non-Catholics,' she explained the direct effect the position of Pope has had on people of the world. "Confronted with the spiritual and moral policies of the institution, non-Catholics became more literate on these matters for themselves, identifying with or taking offense at Vatican creeds on human bodies, human relationships, and human purpose," said Davis.

Whether or not people are really affected, the world has agreed this situation is historic and provides a fair amount of speculation.

Hasta la vista baby!



Global club hosts film event

ALEXANDRA CASTELLANOS
STAFF WRITER

On Thurs., March 14, at 7:30 p.m., the Global Citizens Club will be hosting International Movie Night in the Rho Programming Center (RPC). The night will begin with free snacks and an opportunity for Concordia students to come together and meet students from across the globe.

"This club was created to allow students to make friends from around the world," said Lonnie Lee, Director of International Student Enrollment and Founder of the Global Citizens Club. "We have almost 90 international and exchange students. We would love for our students to make them feel welcome."

The Global Citizens Club is now in its second semester and has about 50 plus members enrolled. "International Students want to get to know other students and become involved with campus life more. Our goal is to welcome international students with open arms and make them feel like Concordia is their new home," said Fei Gao, senior and President of the Global Citizens Club. "I just want students to experience a new culture for a night."

Students who are interested can join the Global Citizen's Facebook page. Students will be able to receive updates of future activities or events that the club will host. It was on this Facebook page where Gao and a few other members were able to create a poll. The club members were given the opportunity to select one of the four potential films to be shown. The four options were *Life of Pi*, *Argo*, *Ted*, and *The Vow*. For now, it looks like "Life of Pi" has the most votes. Every month, the club will try to hold a poll on Facebook. They will have differ-

ent selections of international and American films to choose from, asking members to vote for their favorite.

The Global Citizens Club does not have a lot of funding at the moment, but they are still able to create fun and affordable on-campus events, such as International Movie Night. The club recently took a trip down to Hollywood and also had a successful Noodle Night where students were able to try different types of noodles from all over the world.

"There is no requirement needed to be in this particular club, and everyone will be accepted for who they are," said Min Kim, junior from Seoul, Korea. "I was kind of lonely when I first got here as an exchange student. Thanks to the Global Citizens Club and the activities it offered, I was able to meet so many people."

This club is one of the many gateways to Concordia student life. Its members hope that by having this movie night, they can help bring about new friendships.

Elliot Bilsland, sophomore, is from a small island off the south coast of England called Hayling Island. Bilsland is excited to see this Club continue on for many more years. "The Global Citizens Club is good for international students to integrate with other students from different backgrounds and do fun activities, eat free food, and socialize," he said. "It's a great way to meet new people, and that is why we are hosting this night."

If you have any questions about the Global Citizens Club or would like more information about future events and activities, contact the club President Fei Gao at fei.gao@eagles.cui.edu or Lonnie Lee, who can be found in the Global Programs Office in Admin 120.

Big celebration for little bird

ANNA STERN
STAFF WRITER

The 55th annual Swallows Day Parade, along with the Mercado Street Fair, takes place in historic San Juan Capistrano on Sat., March 23, at 11 a.m. The parade celebrates the yearly return of the swallows to the famed mission there, as well as the rich cultural heritage of San Juan.

According to the Fiesta Association's press release, this parade is one of the nation's largest non-motorized parades and will include over 130 different entries, including hundreds of horses, marching bands, floats, dancers, and historical acts, as well as various community groups. With 600 horses involved with the Swallows Day Parade, it is has become the largest judged equine event in California.

The Swallows Day Parade, or the Fiesta de Las Golondrinas, has a long and rich history, going back to the establishment of the Mission San Juan Capistrano. The parade honors the legendary flight of the swallows back to the mission on March 19, which is Saint Joseph's Day in the church calendar.

Every year, the swallows return to the mission to rebuild their nests. On Oct. 23, the swallows leave yet again to travel to Argentina for the winter.

Infoplease.com tells the legend of how the swallows originally settled at the mission to take refuge from a harsh innkeeper who ravaged their nests. What began as a school carnival in the 1930's has now become a huge extravaganza, according to www.swallowsparade.org.

The parade route begins on Ortega Highway and Del Obispo Street and goes all the way up Camino Capistrano. The street fair takes place in the Historic Town Center and features hundreds of vendors and booths, as well as live music, food, and fun activities for the children. The Fiesta Association, a volunteer and non-profit group, puts on the day's festivities.

Jeff Schroeder, the Publicity Chair for the Fiesta Association, has been a member for 27 years and on the Executive Board for 26. Schroeder has not missed a parade since he became a member of the Fiesta Association, and his favorite part of the event is "to see the smiles on all the faces that day, both participants and spectators, especially the kids."

The expected turnout for this year is around 35,000-40,000 people. Although the parade costs around \$140,000 to put on, it is completely free to the public. Along with the parade, there will be many different vendors with foods ranging from BBQ to hot wings to cotton candy. After the parade ends, many spectators end up staying for the after-parties.

"There were tons of people and lots of loud music and drinking," said Jake Roberts, a 2012 attendee. "It was a lot of fun!"

Hannah Moody, sophomore, thought that the parade "sounds fun, especially the after-parties!"

For more information about the Swallows Day Parade, call the Fiesta Association at (949) 493-1976 or view their webpage at www.swallowsparade.org.

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Funeral held for alumni

Memorial for murder victims fills chapel and gymnasium

CAMESHA PATTON
STAFF WRITER

A memorial service for Monica Quan, '07, MCAA '09, and Keith Lawrence, '08, was held on campus on Sun., Feb. 24.

They will be remembered in many different ways, whether it be as an athlete, as a coach, as mentors, or just as the loving people that they were. The public funeral brought over a thousand attendees, with invited family, close friends, and police officers quickly filling the gymnasium venue, while others filed into the CU Center.

Guests soon had to be escorted to the chapel, where they were able to view the service through projection. "There was standing room only in the gym and complete capacity of overflow Chapel viewing, and people were still coming," said Angela Head, attendee.

Los Angeles Police Department Emerald Society Pipes and Drums performed a bagpipe service in honor of Lawrence and his contribution to the University of Southern California's police department. Family and friends were also given the opportunity to speak, sharing memories and saying goodbyes. Video montages were also shown.

"The two of them represented so many things

that the department stands for. They were a real-life fairytale of sorts," said Jenny Hansen, Head Women's Basketball Coach. Engaged just a week before their death, Quan and Lawrence were buried next to each other to symbolize the married couple they would have been very soon.

"Monica and Keith both had so much love

for the game of basketball," said Tiffany Haul, attendee. Quan and Lawrence both played for Concordia in 2005 and 2006. Quan not only contributed to the Women's Basketball team as an athlete, but also became an assistant coach for Hansen.

Randal Quan, Monica's father, said, "It's not

for me or anybody else to question why God has done what he has done. I want all of you to know my faith has not been shaken as a result of this. I know that God has a plan for Monica and Keith."



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Tokyo Table tempts taste buds

BREANNA LAFFERMAN
STAFF WRITER

Greeted by dimly-lit lighting, lively chatter, and warm and inviting modern wood interior, Tokyo Table in Irvine gives customers more than Japanese fusion cuisine -- they get a well-rounded culinary experience.

After waiting about forty minutes on a cold Saturday night, our buzzer finally alarmed to notify that our table was ready. As soon as we sat down, I immediately began going through their multi-paged menu. The choices span from your quintessential Japanese cuisine to many American-inspired Asian items.

My eye was immediately drawn to their sushi pizza. It consisted of sticky sushi rice steamed and lay upon pieces of seaweed sushi paper, topped with crab mix, scallops, jalapeños, and a spicy mayo. I made this my first order, partnered with pomegranate sake. When my drink arrived in a wooden box filled with ice to keep my cups and sake chilled, I poured myself a glass and was startled by the tart and powerful flavor of the pomegranate. Unlike other places where I have had flavored sake, their pomegranate actually tasted like the fruit—slightly sweet, but very tart and fresh.

My sushi pizza arrived on a wooden platter with a small, metal spatula for serving. The pizza was cut into squares and was piping hot and fresh. I tried to pick it up with my chopsticks, but the seaweed immediately folded in half around my chopstick and all the toppings fell

to my plate. Once gathered, the savory flavor of the scallops and mayo, partnered with the spicy bite from the fresh jalapeños, made my mouth water with anticipation of my next bite.

Although we shared some other bites to eat (crunch roll, dynamite lobster bomb roll, and stinky roll), the highlight of the evening was the dessert menu. According to our server—and yelp.com—a customer favorite is their honey toast, which is two thick-cut pieces of French toast, cubed, drizzled with honey, and topped with voluptuous scoops of vanilla ice cream.

Being a fan of playing with fire, our group also chose the banana flambé. They brought the dish with chocolate drizzle, banana, and ice cream to the table on a cast iron dish, poured grand marnier over the banana, and—the best part of all—lit it all on fire. The spectacular pyrotechnics were amazing, but that didn't top the taste of the dish. The banana was crisp on the outside, creamy inside, and slightly warm. This partnered with the cool vanilla ice cream and the decadent chocolate drizzle left me wanting more when it was gone.

With top of the line cuisine and a close proximity to campus, Tokyo Table is a great location for dinner with friends, and at this place, the more the merrier. Tokyo Table has a happy hour seven days a week, both at dinnertime and late night. If you happen to stop by the bustling Diamond Jamboree shopping center and don't mind the 40-plus minute wait, Tokyo Table is a great place to enjoy exciting and creative food inspired by cuisine favorites.

Location: Diamond Jamboree: 2710 Alton Pkwy. Irvine, CA 92606

Hours: Sun.–Thurs. 11:30 a.m.–Midnight

Fri.–Sat. 11:30 a.m.–2 a.m.

Happy Hour: Everyday, 3–6:30 p.m.; Sun.–Thurs. 10–11 p.m.; Fri.–Sat. 11:30 p.m.–1 a.m.

Website: www.tokyotable.com/

Words of Wisdom

Declaration of Dependence

A fresh look at Concordia from someone who's been there...

JOSH GEISINGER, '11
STAFF WRITER

I am starting my 65th month of involvement at Concordia. In that time, I have learned many things about many subjects. After all, this is a liberal studies school. I came in as a clean shaven freshman and am now a magnificently bearded alumnus. I began as a student worker; now I am staff. I have traveled over 73,311 miles on Concordia mission trips. Five and a half years ago, I moved to Irvine to live at Concordia, and now I live ten minutes away. That's called progress. But there's one lesson that's been taught to me every day throughout my time at Concordia: dependence.

Now, I realize that college life is supposed to be about freedom, life choices, and "I do what I want" attitudes. I believed the same things when I started here. In college, you often live away from home for the first time. If you don't get up for class, no one makes you go. Do you want to eat delicious ramen and Cheetos for every meal? You totally can! You choose your friends, your major, and your hobbies. The college experience is all about *independence*, isn't it?

The truth is that we are always told that being independent is a necessary trait for becoming an adult. All of our lives, we are taught that we can only do certain things when we grow up. When we are strong enough and smart enough, we can take on the world by ourselves. The problem is that we were never meant to live out our days being on our own. Ecclesiastes 4 teaches us that two are better than one, because if one falls down, the other can pick him up. That makes

good sense to keep other people around, just in case. But I'm not just talking about being in close proximity with others. I'm saying that, unless you fully depend on other people, you will never be able to truly live a life of abundance.

In Scripture, we are told that we should be depending on one another for sharing comfort (2 Corinthians 1), for having one mind (1 Peter 3), for prayer and worship (Matthew 18), and even for sharing our belongings (Acts 4)!

Years ago, a wise friend showed me that we need to be carrying each other's burdens *and* carrying our own load (Galatians 6). This paradox represents what dependence on each other should look like. Yes, we have responsibilities that are handed specifically to us, like cleaning our rooms. But we are also called to share each other's burdens, to help clean each other's rooms when parents are stopping by. And, on occasion, we have to allow others to serve us in love, to clean our room when we are too sick to do anything but sleep.

This concept of interdependence runs deeper than just cleaning, cooking, and letting people borrow your car. In order to truly be in community with one another, we need to share our spirit (Philippians 2). The deepest, richest core of our being needs to be *shared* so that it can be strengthened (Proverbs 27:17). You see, this is the greatest mystery of dependence. It seems to be a weakness to share ourselves and to depend on other people to lift us up. In reality, a single string is easily snapped. It's the braided rope made of many strands that can hold a cruise ship to a dock. It is, in fact, depending on one another fully that makes us strong.

The men and women of the early church understood that they needed to depend on each other for their very survival, but they didn't just endure by being together and having everything in common; they *thrived*. God was saving people through their confessing community every single day (Acts 2). I have learned that if you want to be better, if you want to grow, and if you want to live a life worth living, you need to be dependent.

Jam out at the Observatory

MAGGIE DARBY
ARTS AND REVIEWS EDITOR

I don't know about you, but I am pretty poor. College and traveling have run me dry money-wise. Though I'd love to go see my girl Beyonce at the Honda Center or go to Coachella, I can't justify dropping \$300 on a ticket. In order to satisfy my concert cravings, I frequently attend smaller concerts in more intimate venue settings.

Last Friday, I was able to attend a Matt & Kim show at The Observatory in Santa Ana. Matt Johnson and Kim Schifinoare are an indie/pop couple who are popular for their feel good music. They take a very DIY approach to music; the two use only keyboard and drums to produce their amazing sound. The show sold out within a week with tickets \$25 each.

The Observatory Theater was one of the more impressive small theaters I've been to. Doors for the show were open at 7 p.m., but as every small venue concert attendee knows, unless you are excited for the warm up band too, you don't show up until at least two hours after. I got to the theater around 8:45 and found parking fairly easily. On site parking is free but very limited, so by the time I got there, I had to pay \$10 to park a block or so away. Matt & Kim had a band unknown to me called Papa warming up for them, so I didn't feel the need to hurry there.

Even almost two hours after the doors opened, there was a line of about 50-60 people waiting to get in. Waiting outside the theater is expected for shows like this; however last Friday was also the night it rained, and I for some reason decided to wear short sleeves. The theater itself was well lit and looked very clean from the outside. The man giving out wristbands was friendly, as was the ticket collector, and the line moved quickly.

Once entering the building, you immediately got the indie/rock feel. It was dark inside with a merchandise booth to the right and a bar to the left. Stickers were everywhere, and a bit of a

grungy feel accompanied a smoky smell coming in from the patio. Though worn and a little beat up, it looked clean. Past the bar was the hallway to get to the stage. There are two different rooms inside the building. The first door on the right was called the Constellation Room. Inside was a tiny stage with seats and a dance floor. There was a DJ mixing some kind of rap/hip-hop and about ten people milling around. Maybe other nights had a better vibe, but that night I was not

too impressed.

Past the Constellation Room was the main stage. Two tiered with plenty of standing room, this is where The Observatory really provided. It was extremely dark, but every stair had a neon blue line of lights running on it, which helped a surprising amount. The stage was big and the sound was great. Behind Matt & Kim were two giant screens on which they did light shows and sound effects. Booth type seating was available

on the upper levels, but below was only for the concert warriors willing to stand for four hours to keep their spot.

Overall this venue was one of the better ones I've been to. If you're looking to satisfy some live music craving or just don't have much going on during a Friday night, I suggest you check out what bands are visiting The Observatory. To get a full lineup of upcoming artists, visit <http://www.observatoryoc.com/venue>.

