#4 Concordia Eagles
GSAC Regular Season Champion

Record:
26-7 (13-5 Conference)

Top Scorers:
Austin Simon- 15.3 ppg  
Cameron Gliddon- 14.0 ppg

Notable Wins:
Our Lady of the Lake, Westmont, Azusa Pacific, Master’s (2)

Notes:
Concordia ranks fourth in the NAIA in scoring, averaging 86.2 points per game. Three years ago, Concordia beat Oklahoma Christian, 70-55 in a first-round NAIA tournament game.

LINDSEY JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

The men’s basketball team won the GSAC Regular-Season Championship on Feb. 21 after finishing the conference season with a victory over Point Loma. The Eagles landed in the championship game of the GSAC Tournament against Biola, where they fell to the Eagles for the third time this season by a final score of 81-77. The team currently sits in second place in the conference, and is in line to make another deep tournament run after falling to Georgetown in the third round of last year’s NAIA National Tournament.

The Eagles head to Kansas City hungry to make another deep tournament run after falling to Georgetown in the third round of last year’s one-week NAIA Championship sprint. "I hope to see the team continue to get better and tougher," Ammann said. "Granado is averaging over 12 points per game in his second year at Concordia after transferring from Citrus College."

The Eagles head to Kansas City hungry to make another deep tournament run after falling to Georgetown in the third round of last year’s NAIA championship sprint. "I hope to see the team continue to get better and tougher," Ammann said. "Granado is averaging over 12 points per game in his second year at Concordia after transferring from Citrus College."

Oklahoma Christian Eagles (unranked)
Sooner Athletic Conference Postseason Champion

Record:
20-12 (11-11 Conference)

Top Scorers:
Will Reine- 16.1 ppg  
Kendal Talley- 11.1 ppg

Notable Wins:
Oklahoma Baptist

Notes:
OCU snuck into the tournament field after upsetting #2 ranked Oklahoma Baptist to win the SAC Postseason Tournament. Coach Dan Hays is in his 29th season with the program.

Concordia’s 5th annual 60-hour Wiffleball Tournament for Diabetes will take place April 14-16 between the baseball and softball fields. All proceeds will benefit the American Diabetes Association.

"It’s great to get out there and compete. It’s pretty relaxed, and everyone has a lot of fun," said Wesley Gong, sophomore Intramural Coordinator. "The Concordia tradition began in 2006, when alumni Peter Perry decided to outdo his father's previous 52-hour long wiffleball game. In an interview with The Orange County Register, Perry said, "After my younger brother, Andrew, was diagnosed with diabetes, I wanted to do something to help.""

What is wiffleball?
Wiffleball is simply softball but with Wiffle-type plastic balls. The game is played on a 90-foot field with bases 60 feet apart. The objective is to hit a Wiffle ball with a plastic bat filled with plastic air, called "The Endless Wiffle." The balls are available in three sizes: the original size, the "Mini," and the "Super." The balls are available at WiffleBall.com for about $20 each.

The tournament
Concordia’s 5th annual 60-hour Wiffleball Tournament for Diabetes will take place April 14-16 between the baseball and softball fields. All proceeds will benefit the American Diabetes Association.

Everyday I’m Wifflin’
"Everyday I’m Wifflin’" and "The Endless Wiffle." Shirts can also be purchased individually at $10 a piece. Individuals who would like to participate, but cannot find a team can contact the intramural staff or visit the CSDL.

Each team signs up for a two-hour slot and plays in that same slot for two shifts each day. The intramural staff is also working toward getting a faculty and staff time slot sometime Friday afternoon. The game begins Thursday at midnight and ends Sunday at noon. "The tournament builds community. It’s a chance for you and all your friends to come together and enjoy yourself," said Josh Custer, sophomore. "The unique aspect of it being at random times makes for a fun experience. I just love wiffleball, and this year it’s going to be bigger for the cause." After signing up, each smaller team, or shift, gets assigned to one of the two main teams. "I didn’t play my freshman year, but this year I’m looking forward to participating in the tradition," said Haley Holmes, sophomore.

"The tournament is another opportunity for the campus community to come together for a good cause. We want to support the American Diabetes Association and the Concordia students who have diabetes as well," said Beth Crowell, LEAD GA Program Coordinator.

Fans are encouraged to come and cheer on the teams if they would rather not play. Contact the intramural coordinators at stephen.palo@eagles.cui.edu or wesley.gong@eagles.cui.edu with any further questions.

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Tuesday, March 13, 2012

#4 Eagles head to KC for NAIA Tourney

Concordia University Irvine

Volume 6, Issue 11


Eagles Nest at 10:30 a.m.

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**Editorial: An outpost of hope**

**STEPHEN PULS, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Upon returning to Concordia in the fall of my sophomore year, I found it hard to ignore the buzz surrounding a group of students who had traveled together to Africa during the summer of 2009. I was able to observe a tangible change in each individual by somehow continually finding myself in the middle of “Africa story time” over the first few weeks of the semester. Over time, I began to see tables and flyers around campus speaking of FIKISHA. I knew it was somehow connected to the Around-the-World semester. I slowly reacted in any time of hardship—to return to the support of Christ.

The miracle boys of Kawangware (a community within Nairobi) have every reason to live on the Around-the-World semester. I slowly reacted in any time of hardship—to return to the support of Christ.

The miracle boys of Kawangware (a community within Nairobi) have every reason to live on the church and FIKISHA have given the miracle boys a stable home, a family with each other through the work of Kawangware Lutheran Church—located in the center of the slum. Since the founding of FIKISHA, the church has been able to expand this outreach considerably. FIKISHA not only works to provide considerable. FIKISHA not only works to provide

**KEITH CURRY, DIRECTOR CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY**

Recently the Concordia Center for Public Policy hosted a program on managing pension costs.

The rapid increase in pension costs is due to the poor investment performance of pension funds such as CalPERS, changing assumptions regarding mortality and longevity and rapidly escalating salary and benefit levels which have pushed up pension payments.

Today’s crisis in pension funding can be traced to 1999, when CalPERS actuaries testified that the California legislature could enact a 95% pension formula for public safety workers and that it would be “at no cost” to local governments due to the investment performance of CalPERS pension funds at that time. This is far from the case. The investment returns, increasing contributions and mortality assumptions make it to actual costs on a net basis.

The tradeoff is that today’s public sector workforce together will craft pension programs and benefit levels which have pushed up pension costs.

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**Letters to the Editor must be typed and include the author’s full name and telephone number. Letters that are printed may be edited for space and content. Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the administration, faculty, staff or student body of Concordia University.**

**The opinions expressed in The Concordia Courier are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the administration, faculty, staff or student body of Concordia University.**

*The Concordia Courier.*

**OPINION MARCH 13, 2012**

**Editorial: An outpost of hope**

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The tradeoff is that today’s public sector workforce together will craft pension programs and benefit levels which have pushed up pension costs.
March 13, 2012

CAMPU S LIF E

25 Fun Facts with Dakota Anderson
Scott Eskelson, Admissions Office

1. Married to Angela Eskelson for 13 years
2. They have two boys: Brett (9) and Carson (5)
3. Works for Concordia in the School of Education as a MAED Admissions counselor—He helps teachers get their Masters Degrees
4. Worked as a teacher before coming to Concordia—He was a P.E. teacher who taught 1-4 grade
5. Lived with his wife in France for three years—worked in a Christian camp as missionaries
6. Was born and raised in Fullerton, CA
7. His son Brett is named after George Brett, and his middle name, Jordan, is after Michael Jordan.
8. Carson is named after Carson Palmer.
9. Attends Rose Dr. Friends Church in Yorba Linda.
10. Spent a summer in Camden, N.J. coordinating VBS for kids.
11. Spent another summer in Ireland running basketball camps as a missionary.
12. Favorite bible verse: Jeremiah 29:11-15
13. Scott is currently the leader for the kindergarten class in the Awanas program at his church Wednesday nights.
14. Traveled throughout Europe including trips to Austria, Italy, England, Germany, Netherlands, and Ireland
15. Favorite Movie: Gladiator and The Patriot
16. Favorite Sport: Baseball
17. Favorite College Football Team: USC
18. Has already started taking his kids to every Concordia Athletics event
19. Favorite Bands: Third Day and Hoobie and the Slopewish
20. Dream Vacation with the family is to go back to Notre Dame and watch a football game vs. USC
21. Dream vacation with his wife is to go to Fiji.
22. Currently coaching his two sons in baseball. He has also coached basketball and soccer
23. Favorite Quote: "The safest place to be is in the center of God’s will.”
24. Favorite Animal: Dogs—His sons want a German Shepherd and a Golden Retriever
25. Besides Christ, some people he wants to meet in heaven include David, Paul and his grandparents

“Pi” Mu Epsilon pays tribute to 3.141592...

SARINA GRANT
STAFF WRITER

Tomorrow, March 14, Concordia’s chapter of the math society Pi Mu Epsilon will be hosting a celebration of “Pi Day”
The event will take place in front of the Student Union during lunch, from 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. “During lunch is a nice time to host it because we get both students and faculty to participate,” said Ellie Rosen, junior Vice-President of Pi Mu Epsilon.
Pi Day is an internationally recognized day that celebrates pi—the number 3.14159... The theme of this year’s Pi Day at Concordia is “Pi-rate.” Some of the activities will include a contest to memorize the most digits of pi, playing sodoku on the ground and answering trivia questions. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.
Just for stopping by, students will receive “pi-patches” and goodie bags with fortune cookies and facts about the world’s most recognized mathematical constant. Free dessert pie will also be provided for those who attend. “We just want people to stop by for a bit to participate in this internationally celebrated day,” said Jordan Pare, senior President of Pi Mu Epsilon.
“I’m excited to see the different activities that will be at Pi Day. It would be cool if we could smash pie into the math teachers’ faces,” said Lea Lawrence, freshman.
“We try to incorporate some kind of theology into every math club event,” said Pare. The group decided to do this with “Pible” versus this year. A Pible verse is a term coined by the math club that represents the 14th verse of the third chapter of various books of the Bible.
“Even if you’re not a math major, Pible verses are something that everyone at Concordia can appreciate and enjoy,” said Pare.
“There’s not very many math or science days that exist in the world, so it’s pretty cool that we get to celebrate this event,” he said. Joining the math club in celebration of Pi Day is free for all students and faculty. For more information on getting involved with Pi Mu Epsilon contact Pare.

Faculty Profile: Mike Hoffert

AUBREY BIESE
STAFF WRITER

Michael Hoffert, Adjunct Professor of Physical Science, has worked at Concordia for four years. He graduated from Cal-State Fullerton with a Bachelor’s degree in Physics and Musical Performance along with a Masters in Computer Science.
Outside of Concordia, Hoffert is in his 35th year as an engineer for Timken Corporation in Los Alamitos, where he rebuilds jet engines for major airlines. During his career as an engineer, Hoffert has been involved in building the basic power structures of the Mars Spirit and Opportunity Rovers. He also formed a non-profit research and educational institute with Tierra Astronomical and constructed a 48-inch telescope. Before being an engineer, Hoffert was involved in show business and airline flying. He won a College World Series as a baseball player at Cal-State Fullerton and currently works as an NCLA official for football and baseball. Hoffert is also a Vietnam War veteran. In fall of 2012, he will be teaching a new Honors Planetary Astronomy class. This class will serve as an introduction to Concordia’s prospective Physics major.
One of Hoffert’s favorite things about teaching at Concordia is the creative family atmosphere. He believes that everyone really helps each other here. A future goal that Hoffert is in the process of working towards is having a campus observatory built for the school. It would be used for educational outreach to the community and for student academic projects for class. All of the earth science, chemistry, biology, physics and even theology classes would be involved. During the course of the next two years, Hoffert hopes to get a final decision and sufficient grants from outside foundations in order to build the observatory.
Hoffert has been married for 36 years, raised three children and has three grandchildren. He believes one of his greatest accomplishments is raising a family. His definition of luck is “when opportunity meets preparation” and encourages students to always be prepared for what they are going to do. Hoffert’s advice for life is, “to never say no to anything that you’re interested in.”

Eagles ‘lace up for love’ again with annual 5k Eagle Run

BRIANNA LAMANNA and ALLISON MARTIN
STAFF WRITERS

Concordia’s annual 5k Eagle Run was established by students and includes the nearby community in order to raise funds for selected non-profit organizations. The proceeds generate financial assistance to three non-profit organizations: FIKISHA, ABAN on Neglect, and Village of Hope (OC Rescue Mission). This is a 192-bed outreach to the community and for student academic projects for class. All of the earth science, chemistry, biology, physics and even theology classes would be involved. During the course of the next two years, Hoffert hopes to get a final decision and sufficient grants from outside foundations in order to build the observatory.
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Eagle Run Schedule of Events

7:00 am: - Registration Bible/T-shirt pickup Expo 7:50 am: Welcome and Prayer 8:00 am: 5k Race 9:00am: Closing/Expohads ends
Registration:
CUI Students: $10
CUI Alumunus: $15
Faculty/Staff/Administrators: $15
Friend of CUI: $20
Group (more than 10 people): $15 per person

“Pi” Mu Epsilon pays tribute to 3.141592...
The Concordia men’s tennis team has started the 2012 season with a 4-5 overall record, going 4-3 in GSAC play. This year’s team is led by seniors Jordan Hoev and Bruno Santarelli in Jonathan Sanchez’s second year as Head Coach.

Gernot Hagaman, sophomore, is an exchange student from Germany who joined the team in the fall of 2011. He has been playing tennis for the last eight years and is currently Santarelli’s doubles partner: “I think the team has made an impact on my life,” said Hagaman. “I gained a lot of new friends, and it is fun to hang out with the team when we are not on the court.”

A significant amount of team focus is spent on avoiding negativity at all costs, working to constantly build each other up. “I love being a student-athlete and working with a strong team,” said Jan Gulder. Gulder is also an exchange student from Switzerland and has been playing tennis for 17 years.

White’s career comes full circle

As president of SAAC, he works as a student representative that assists in relaying concerns of the student body to faculty. Concordia has been a great experience for White. “I love it here,” he said. “Since it’s a small school, it was easy to meet a lot of people in my four years.”

When White has free time he likes to go golfing and play hockey. “He’s very close to his family,” Grahovac said.

White’s ability to work well with everyone and make the best of situations has been fostered by his peers. Nick Kopinski, junior, has developed a relationship with White as a student-worker for the athletic department. “It’s great working with him,” he said. Natalie Hertmian, senior, has known White for three years and pointed out that he is always willing to meet new people. “He’s really friendly and inspire his team,” Hertmian said.

After graduation, White emphasized playing Major League baseball to be his ultimate goal. “If it doesn’t work out I want to work for a professional sports team like the Angels or Ducks in the front offices of the team,” he said. Though he does not plan on going to graduate school any time soon, White says that obtaining a Master’s is a possibility in the future.

White and the rest of the baseball team will be in action on Fri. March 16 at Point Loma Nazarene University for a double header. The first game starts at noon. The next home game is Sun. March 17—another double header against Point Loma Nazarene University.
To be honest, being considered an artist, or even placed in a spotlight, is odd to me. I have always been one to shy away from any public en-
thusiasm and praise. I’ve always deplored the self-
proclaimed artists who rattle on about their current
work, using words that require the use of a
dictionary, that is unnecessarily worded and
awkward.

Before let me mention, I had nothing written any-
thing other than poor attempts at song lyrics during
my angsty high school years. During the first year
of my life I finally decided to try. I had never
before put pen to paper and written anything
different than the usual journaling.
In the end, this concert was a huge success. The
choir was exuberant as they clapped to their lively
music. The entire crowd was wistfully hummed along. After the ladies started
through the event. Scritsmier and Moore are both artists that includes art, music and food to help raise
awareness for individuals across the globe. The
concert will feature Christian musician Phil
Wishnow and artist Lisa Moore, both Concordia art
students, who will present a night of music and art
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Jones to take sewing strengths to Nairobi as part of East Africa team

MICHELLE JONES, STAFF WRITER

Michelle Jones, Secretary for the Dean of Arts and Sciences, will lead by example this summer as she joins a mission team heading to East Africa. She is located in Alpha 107 where she already serves all those with whom she comes into contact. “She is one of the most caring people I know, always offering a bottle of water or a snack to me,” said Mai Vu, junior. Jones has worked at Concordia for four years and is now about to embark on a trip to Africa with eight students and an alumna, led by Adam Lee, Professor of English.

“It’s a missionary trip, and I’ve never been on a trip like this one before. I’m excited to see what God has in store for me,” Jones said. Traveling is not something foreign to Jones. In 2003, she traveled to France for the French Open to watch tennis—one of her favorite hobbies. She has also been to England and Italy. Jones expects to visit Australia sometime in the future to see the Great Barrier Reef and hopefully take in a few tennis matches. She has dreamed of traveling to Africa all of her life.

Jones will bring a special dynamic to the Africa group. “She brings six decades of experience to the team,” Lee said. She provides a strong faith for the women of the trip to look up to. “I love her mother- ility attitude. Even in our meetings she already is taking care of us,” Vu said.

Furthermore, this unique aspect of leadership is not the only contribution Jones is supplying to this outreach team. She is bringing five sewing machines with her—carried by the men of the group—to teach the women in Kenya sewing techniques. In exchange, she will be learning the unique trades from the women of Kawangware Lutheran Church in Nairobi. She has individually purchased two used sewing machines and is still gathering materials that the church might need. She will be leaving the machines with the African women at the end of the trip. Jones is also looking forward to an opportunity to work with the Fakasha boys during her time at the church.

Jones has enjoyed sewing for multiple years and hopes to eventually start her own embroidery company once she retires. Her constant source of love reaches out to any member of her office through her sewing. “When a member of her office gets pregnant, she has been known to give gifts of baby blankets and bibs sewn by her,” Lee said. “She uses a pattern that she believes describes the family.”

Another way that Jones serves the Concordia community comes through the popular post-chapel sack fund provided by the Department of Arts and Sciences. Jones is in charge of buying and setting up the coffee and snack after chapel as a way of providing a small blessing to faculty and students.

If members of the Concordia community wish to assist Jones in her cause, she has a list of needed sewing and school supplies for the Africa team to take with them this summer.

Adventure runs duel for Irvine participants

JENNA ARIS

STAFF WRITER

During the next two months, Irvine will be hosting a Mud Run and Color Run. The Mud Run is benefiting the Gavin R. Steven Foundation, and the Color Run is benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County. The Color Run has reached full capacity, but they are in the process of making more spots available.

The Mud Run is a timed 5k run. Participants can register in a group of four or as an individual. The run starts at 8 a.m. on March 31 and is an all-day affair. During the run, there will be various obstacles such as tires to run through, mud pits, nets and ramps. The run is right outside scenic Irvine Lake creating an enjoyable atmosphere for the outing. Jana Reiland, Adjunct Professor of Physical Science, has been involved in the mud run through her family. “I would love to participate, but do not want to ruin my shoes in the process,” she said. “It’s a great experience when someone crosses the finish line. They get a crown and a turkey leg.” At noon, there will be a Dirty Dodgeball contest that requires an extra fee to participate. There is food for sale and an eco and beer garden.

The Color Run is a 5k walk/run on April 22 that is designed for both children and adults. Participants are required to wear white. Every kilometer, a new color of paint will be thrown on the runners. The paint is food grade cornstarch, making it 100% natural and safe. It is the equivalent of getting into a powdered sugar food fight. At the end of the run, there is a colorfest where all the participants throw their pre-colored powder packs in the air at the same time.

The Mud Run and the Color Run both promise to be great experiences. The mud run still has tickets available, but do not wait long if you would like to participate. Visit irvinemudrun.com to sign up for the Mud Run and thecolorrun.com to check availability for the Color Run.

Laguna Beach gets Artsy

MELISSA SALCEDO

STAFF WRITER

Local artists put their talent on display for the public during Laguna Beach’s monthly Art Walk on Thurs., March 1.

The Art Walk is held the first Thursday of every month from 6-9 p.m. and stretches along Pacific Coast Highway. This monthly event includes art, music, entertainment, drinks and also free transportation. These galleries display all types of art including sculptures, works of impressionism, jewelry, and legendary sports figures.

“I absolutely love going to art walks, but the Laguna Beach Art Walk is by far my favorite,” said Cassie Leutz, Laguna Beach resident. “The galleries go on and on so you have to wear comfortable shoes and dress warm because you’ll get the ocean breeze.” The Art Walk consists of three main locations: north, south and downtown.

It is almost impossible to stop by all the galleries in three hours because there is so much art. The Art Walk also provides free wine, crackers and cheese which encourages conversation between walk participants. Lena recommended the Tree House Art Gallery. “It really looks like this gallery is in a tree. It’s so amazing how creative these artists are,” he said.

The Laguna Beach Art Walk also has art work available for purchase. The prices ranged from $1 to something affordable only for the Occupy protesters’ $5. Most of the galleries had live bands playing, finger foods, candy and beverages to enjoy. People of all ages are allowed to attend the Art Walk.

If you would like to attend the Laguna Beach Art Walk, the next display will be held Thurs., April 5, from 6-9 p.m. For more information, please visit the Laguna Beach Art Walk website, firstthursdayartwalk.com.
Concordia Courier Bracket Battle

Winner receives a $40 gift card to the restaurant of their choice.

Cut above and submit

Tiebreaker!

How many rounds will Concordia advance in the NAIA National Tournament and what will be the final score to their last game?

Challenge open to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the Concordia community

Submit bracket to boxes in cafeteria and CSLD by 8:00 a.m. Thurs. 3/15

Updates to be published in upcoming issues.

*One entry per person
“John Carter” leaves viewers excited for more

ERIK Olesen
THE “POP CULTURE VULTURE”

When it comes to reviewing movies based on books I haven’t read, I feel I need to include a disclaimer. One where I admit I have no idea what I’m talking about, and, therefore, my opinion should be taken with a grain of salt. It’s a white flag of respect to the fans, and a disclaimer to my fellow uninformed that, “Hey, I’m on your side.” Consider this to be that disclaimer. So begins my review of “John Carter.” Disney’s adaptation of Edgar Rice Burroughs’ “A Princess of Mars,” which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary this year.

Although I’ve never read the book, I was familiar with “John Carter” thanks to my dad. I was surprised the first time I saw a preview for the film, as Burroughs, in my world, has always been associated with Tarzan. For me, at least, Carter seemed an unlikely choice for the big screen treatment. But now that I’ve seen the film, it makes total sense. Frankly, I’m surprised it didn’t happen sooner.

The movie, itself, is visually fantastic. The sweeping settings—taking us from the Civil War-era to the rainy streets of New York, to the dusty plateaus of Mars—are very well done. Spaceships, spiders, horses, and gigantic white aliens, explode in bursts of color and sound that are only enhanced by the 3D features. It’s rare when I’m in favor of 3D added on, but this is one of those times when it actually allowed me to become more immersed in the story, instead of constantly distracted by that extra dimension.

As previously mentioned, the film spans time and space, with a wraparound plot featuring a young Edgar Rice Burroughs who has been summoned to the estate of his deceased uncle, John Carter. Through journey entries, we learn that Bird’s “Break It Yourself” is odd, yet joyful in the body like hair and teeth, causing one’s imagination to create another level of interest in his music. Whatever you do, don’t miss the more subdued portions of his music. He may be a familiar voice, but Andrew Bird is complex in his music, playing the ukulele and drawing you in until the musical allusion in the title and an upbeat rhythmic dance like cancer survivors, like the prognosis was made.

Bird’s most recent album “Break It Yourself” is available on iTunes. Andrew Bird’s most recent album “Break It Yourself” was released by Mom & Pop Records on March 6, 2012. Bird’s eclectic style of songwriting is not muted in this album. He includes whistling, violins, cricket’s and other instruments to create a spacious, all-encompassing record.

“Break It Yourself” opens with the track “Desperation Breeds...” Bird claps a symbol and the song begins at a piano level of volume as Bird plucks the strings. The theme of the song sounds similar to a previous track of his, “Fake Palindromes,” but the opening of the song is unexpected and keeps a listener guessing. Bird’s music is entirely his. If you know Bird from his earlier work, you will instantly recognize him. He describes the “Eyeoneye” effect in an interview with Kioss. This track is a reminder that Bird impresses with his versatility later in the track, however. Thankfully, his voice and the tone which means my brain usually isn’t required to think or care in order to enjoy a movie. So, I—much like Don Quixote himself—had to prepare myself for a new musical adventure and my eyes. From the opening of “Desperation Breeds...,” Bird clangs a cymbal and the violins, crickets and other instruments to create a complex lyricist and aesthetic song-writer, and this album is no exception. “Break It Yourself” is available on iTunes.

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Core book Review:
Don Quixote de la Mancha

RUTH ELLIS
STAFF WRITER

Towards the end of last semester, I began preparing a short talk about the visual representations of the titular character in “Don Quixote de la Mancha.” As I poured over pictures of famous statues and paint- ings (and a few from the film that thought it could), I began to think about the way the world perceives this character. I saw that, although we can read the book and think— that goy’s crazy—the world does not physi- cally represent him as such. Instead, many of the images I found showed him to be exactly who he thinks he is, nothing less.

We hold up him as a hero—someone who is an enabler, and the other part wants to shake his hand for holding back just enough commentary to let us indulge in the fantasy. That must be what we use to all along to Don Quixote as that classic defender of all that is good—the fantasy. Because if we look at our world today, we have to conclude it is too real. Too many wars are fought with the depressing knowledge that atrocities occur on both sides. Too many politicians speak a magic fix we know can’t deliver. Too many families are split by money, sex, or drugs. Our reality is too human, too im- plausible. A classic tale of somewhat bewildering knight errant must grant some over from this.

But this is true within “Don Quixote de la Mancha,” too. Don Quixote allows oth- ers to treat Sancho Panza poorly, helps criminals escape, finds at least one victim of infidel- ity, and lives through many other, shall we say, imperfect experiences. Why, then, when faced with all this, don’t we take a pause and give up? Does he really not see those giants are windmills, even after Sancho ex- plains? Suppose he does? Maybe every time Don Quixote is about to do something incredible and stupid (brave), he deliberately dismisses the negative perspective (reality). It’s even pos- sible Don Quixote understands why people try to stop him from continuing his quest. But his follows through anyway. Perhaps the magic of “Don Quixote de la Mancha” is not the fantasy, after all, but the willing- ness to approach the world with a wide, open view, a different goal. When we travel with Don Quixote, we feel empowered to stand up right, do what the world tells us not to, and act brave when the occasion calls for it.