



# THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

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## Around-The-World Semester® Travel Diary: Greece

KENDRA SITTON  
STAFF WRITER

The first time I took off my mask, my hands shook fearfully as I turned from an object for tourists to gawk at, into a real person. The second time I took off my mask, a woman reacted, her dark lipstick forming a round, "Oh." The third time I took off my mask, the round lenses of cameras awaiting picturesque moments immediately drifted down to loose neck straps. The fourth time I took off my mask, a teenager shouted profanities as he jumped back. The fifth time I took off my mask, two old men lost eye contact and looked down at their hands, the bench, the grass.

*...lost eye  
contact and  
looked down  
at their  
hands...*

This was the reveal—the moment that Professor Venzer promised us would make this piece of protest street theatre worth the dancing, rehearsing and costuming of the past few weeks.

Behind my mask was purple bruising in a line over my cheek, nose and forehead. Jonathan Stueve said with satisfaction that



Around-The-World Semester® Day 51:  
Stop Human Trafficking of Woman and  
Children -- street theatre in Athens  
Photo Credit: Adam Lee

he had effectively created the mark of a crowbar across my face. For the next performance, he gently pressed his fist next to my lips to test the shape of a bruise. No matter which black eyes, swollen lips and bruises moved across my face during the two weeks in Greece, the reaction of the audience remained the same: shock, sorrow, shame.

Like each of us shrouded in togas and masks, we dared the audience to imagine what lay behind the mask of the gratuitous sexuality displayed by the 20,000 women trafficked in Greece.

Leanne Rhodes, the CEO of Abolition, who spoke at Concordia in Spring 2016, planned the street theatre presentation. Abolition is based in Romania, a country ATW III visited in which many women and girls are taken for sex trafficking each year. Too often, their destination is Greece. After working in prevention, with law enforcement and in the after-care in the source country of Romania, Rhodes wanted to spread awareness in a transit and destination country.

Each time we took off the mask, we displayed the physical, mental and emotional violence the people forced into prostitution experience. As sophomore Alice Fackler, another Rounder cast in the dance, explained, the unmasking was the moment of justice as the egos of those who cat called, who leered at bodies and not faces, who saw objects and not people, were brought down to see the pain their actions contributed to. "It made me think: I'm not an object, I'm a human being—just like those women forced into prostitution," said Fackler.

Many of the people who spoke to those holding up signs reading, "Look past the mask," "women are trafficked into prostitution everyday" and "#dontshutyoureyes," were interested in learning more. A Greek waiter recognized Fackler from a picture his friend showed him and expressed gratitude for our work. Film and photos were collected by tourist pages, news crews and Getty Images.



Kendra Sitton protesting against Human Trafficking in Greece

Others were less thankful for our presence.

In a performance in a small square in which Rhodes said close to half of the all-male audience were there to visit prostitutes, many men walked away as soon as we revealed our faces. Another time, a man spoke to her because the times he paid for sex, no one expressed being forced. A different angry man confronted Professor Vezner with the same argument. Rhodes detailed the stories of survivors who had guns held up to their heads. In the first case, the man only seemed to worry about his actions when Rhodes explained hiring a woman who is sex trafficked is illegal.

Before touching down in Greece, I worried about how awkward I would look dancing in public, my stage fright or if I even had a right to protest in another country. A week in, my focus shifted from my own trepidations to my duty to the women in forced prostitution. Were I in the same position, I wouldn't care who stood up for my rights or how silly they looked doing it. Through

*Each time we took off the  
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mental and emotional  
violence the people forced  
into prostitution experience.*

my own shyness stripped away in a public space, I had a small taste of being in an unknown place, forced to act in a way foreign to me. While my experience in no way compares, I think each of us doing street theatre grew in empathy and compassion for the women we performed to protect.

After one of our performances, a woman approached Rhodes and thanked her for spending the time, resources and effort to raise awareness for this cause. She cared so much about seeing us while walking through Syntagma Square because she was recovering from her own sexual slavery

in a local rehabilitation house. While piecing together the shambles of her life, she was encouraged by the show of solidarity from college students of another continent.

The first step to end human trafficking is becoming educated on the issue. Sign up for a free 3-day course at [abolition.com](http://abolition.com). To view more of the performance, follow #dontshutyoureyes or visit [gettyimages.com/photos](http://gettyimages.com/photos) and search Abolition team.

## Bridging the Gap

JESSICA JAMES  
ASCUI SECRETARY

Each year, the ASCUI team develops goals and a vision for the upcoming year in regards to what they hope to accomplish as a team and as individuals. This year the Executive Board has stressed the importance of developing new means of communication between the student body and ASCUI. We exist to serve the students and one of the main channels of student communication comes through partnering with various groups on campus.

This year, ASCUI introduced a new position, Clubs Commissioner, who now oversees the clubs and organizations on campus. Monthly meetings

are held for club presidents to further their own leadership development and enhance the club experience for students. This partnership provides guidance to contribute to the longevity of clubs and helps foster communication amongst the clubs in order to build a stronger campus community.

During the month of October, ASCUI is partnering with the Peer Health Educators to spread awareness about breast cancer and show support for those fighting the disease. This new tradition of incorporating the Peer Health Educators into Breast Cancer Awareness Month provides a more accurate depiction of the medical effects of the disease so that students are in-

formed of how they can support those fighting and detect warning signs early on. We are partnering with Screaming Eagles for the Dig Pink volleyball game on Thurs., Oct. 6, to get the pink spirit started with some face paint and Breast Cancer Awareness giveaways. We are excited to partner with Provost, Dr. Peter Senkbeil, to donate to the National Breast Cancer Foundation for students that come into the CSLD wearing pink on Wednesdays in October. The provost will match every dollar donated by ASCUI and we are thankful for his support.

The Executive Board has been working with Pastor Anderson to establish a partnership with abbey west. Events that are in discussion with abbey

west include: week of REFUGE, a daily REFUGE bible verse card and an Around-The-World Semester® SHOUT tailgate. All of this will take place during spring semester and fits with this year's theme bible verse, Psalm 91:4. senior Ariana Sadeghipour, ASCUI President, commented that, "It is important that ASCUI develops partnerships to further our core value statement of 'working inter-dependently with other departments on campus to holistically serve the students.' By partnering with other departments, such as abbey west, we are able to better serve the students by utilizing the strengths of the other department. abbey west oversees campus ministry, so by partnering with them on theme verse related

events and SHOUT, we are able to utilize the outlets they have established and bring in our strengths and resources. Additionally, ASCUI's partnership with Physical Health Educators and the office of the provost establishes connectedness between administration, leadership and the students.

Other groups we partner with include Student Activities to plan Concordia Christmas, which incorporates all student leadership groups and administration to further establish Senate initiatives. Our team seeks to further develop campus partnerships to fulfill our mission and vision of acting as a liaison for student concerns in order to improve the Concordia campus.

## ASCUI's Breast Cancer Awareness Month

JAMI DERBY  
STAFF WRITER

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and ASCUI has many events to engage the students while raising funds and awareness. "One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime," according to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Participating in Breast Cancer Awareness Month allows students and staff to "work together towards a great cause," said ASCUI President Ariana Sadeghipour, senior.

### Participate in one of ASCUI's many October events:

Oct. 6 - Dig Pink Women's Volleyball game sponsored by ASCUI and Screaming Eagles, there will be face painting and giveaways while you cheer on the team as they face Notre Dame de Namur at 7 p.m.

Oct. 12 - Students can come help paint the backdrop for a photo booth outside the caf from 11-2 p.m. Students also have the opportunity to send postcards to Around The World (ATW) students.

Oct. 19 - The photo booth will be ready for students to take pictures with props in front of the caf from 11-2 p.m. For a second week, you can mail a postcard to an ATW friend.

Oct. 26 - Students can paint pumpkins from 11-2 p.m. outside the cafe.

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## Eagle Golf Classic to help fundraise student scholarships

SAMANTHA JENSEN  
STAFF WRITER

The 27th Annual Eagle Golf Classic will be held on Mon. Oct. 10 at Strawberry Farms Golf Club in Irvine. This event is to help raise money for student scholarships.

The first ever tournament was in 1991 at the Green River Golf Course in Corona. LaVeda Carter, who oversees special events, said, "it's a way to get people involved and learn more about the university."

A committee has worked on this event for the past five months, selecting a golf course and going over other details. This year, several local restaurants have donated food to players on the course including Chick-fil-A, Bon Appetit and Gina's Pizza.

The tournament tees off at 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided throughout the tournament. After all of the players have finished golfing, a social hour and dinner will be provided at 4 p.m., and awards will be given to golfers. Sponsors will also be recognized at this time.

Highlights of the event include hole-in-one prizes. Other prizes will be awarded for the top church foursome, top senior foursome, and four-person top three fin-

ishes.

Those interested in donating at the event can find an array of options, from a \$300 tee sponsor donation, to a \$25,000 title sponsor donation.

Last year over \$80,000 was raised for student scholarships and university programs. Carter also said "last year we had a full course, so we're hoping that we will again this year." A full course is 144 golfers, meaning there would be four people at each hole.

For those who wish to golf, registration is open until Mon., Oct. 3. Registration for a foursome is \$1,250. For an individual golfer, registration is \$300 and is a \$75 tax-deductible value. A GOLD (Graduate of the Last Decade) Alumni golfer, receives a \$50 discount. This fee includes green fees, a cart, lunch, dinner and a gift. Those who do not wish to golf or donate, but would still like to participate in the fundraiser, are welcome to volunteer for the event.

For more information, questions about registration or how to get involved with the event, contact Grace Saldana at (949) 214-3185 or at [grace.saldana@cui.edu](mailto:grace.saldana@cui.edu). To register or donate visit [www.cui.edu/golf](http://www.cui.edu/golf).

## Lady Eagles bump, set and soar into 2016 Season

DARBY SCOTT  
STAFF WRITER

Following an undefeated preseason, volleyball's perfect record was marred as they faced their most fierce competitor yet. On Sept. 17, Concordia Volleyball fell to Dixie State University in a shocking upset in the CU Arena. After experiencing their first loss of the season, Women's Head Volleyball Coach, Paula Weishoff, said the team is driven to get at least "one percent better" each day as individuals and as a whole.

Prior to their first loss of the year, Taylor Dennison, senior and captain, said she was "fired up and ready to go do work this season," adding "our chemistry is incredible, and we all really mesh well together on and off the court." Luckily for the Lady Eagles, the loss is serving as a driving factor, pushing them to work harder for the success they crave. Senior and captain, Rachel Flynn, demonstrated the team's refocus as she said, "we are all very determined to work hard at practice every day so we can prevent that [loss] from happening again." Flynn also noted, "I think the loss helped us find a new motivation that we lacked during our game against Dixie."

In addition to a new motivational factor, the loss has high-

lighted areas of growth which the team has been addressing at practice to ensure they are stronger going into their next match. "All the girls watched video of the match on their own," said Weishoff, adding that they are working on "how to be better individually, as a team and remain focused throughout the game regardless of the score."

After a series of practices, the team feels confident as they carry on with the season and prepare for their next match. Less than a week following the loss, the team faced a daunting trip to Northern California which Dennison called "three tough matches." Before the trip, she also expressed the team's confidence as she stated, "It's important for us to know that although we won't be in the comfort of our home gym, we still have the chemistry with each other, and we have a great volleyball system. As long as we trust in that and each other, I know we will be successful this weekend." Flynn reiterated her teammate's statement saying, "We do well as a team when we focus on the positive things we do. I believe that if we work hard and stay together persistently, we will be successful."

The team performed just as well as its captains predicted, winning each of their three

matches and bringing their overall record to 13-1.

As for the remainder of the season, the team and coaching staff are hopeful in the program's success. Weishoff is confident that the team will have a "great season" and that each player is doing her part in "moving the program where it needs to be" for future seasons. Flynn and Dennison are also thinking about the future of the program. Flynn said, "even though we don't have the opportunity of going to the postseason, if we achieve the goals we set for ourselves this year, it will help us get that momentum we need for our first official season in the NCAA."

The future of Concordia Women's Volleyball looks promising. "The group is a joy to coach," said Weishoff. The ladies have been working hard at practice to set a winning tradition for the program. Flynn wanted to address the team's fans by stating, "I just want to take the time to say thank you to all the people that come out to watch our matches. It is so amazing how supported we feel, and we cannot thank you enough!"

Continue to support Lady Eagles Volleyball by cheering them on in the CU Arena for the Dig Pink event on Thurs., Oct. 6 at 7 p.m.



#2 Logan Grove, #3 Rachel Flynn, #4 Hailey Gaines, #6 Elsa Stryko, #7 Julia Denboer, #8 Cindy Tran, #9 Olivia Zolezzi, #10 Madeline Deters, #12 Amber Rose, #13 Kyra Austen, #14 Taylor Dennison, #15 Morgan Nunley, #16 Hannah Andrews, #17 Lauren Braden, #19 Miliyah Haslerig, #21 Kylie Breitenwischer, #22 Ellie Ladensack, #24 Erica Anthony, Manager Siena Goggia, Head Coach: Paula Weishoff, Assistant Coaches: Chris Duenow, Ron Larson, Kara Barkdoll, Sandra Lozic, and Rene Marcellus

# A Night of Hope for the community

MIMI BORBAS  
STAFF WRITER

Concordia will host the annual benefit concert, Night of Hope, on Sat., Oct. 8 in the amphitheater.

Night of Hope was created by students after the Haiti earthquake in 2010 in an effort to raise funds for those affected. Continuing that legacy, different organizations and charities are featured each year. Mission Coordinator, Elise Logan, said it has always been a “grassroots event” combining “people from all different walks of life” who all believe in the same cause.

The organization sponsored this year is the Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry. This charity focuses on providing resources for those living in poverty in Mexico and also partners with Concordia to send students on mission trips to Tijuana to serve the community.

This year marks the first time that the event is organized by a specific department: abbey west. The event will

not lose its personal touch, Logan assures, as abbey west consists of campus pastors, worship and student leaders. “You are abbey west,” Logan said, emphasizing the community spirit of the organization.

Starting at 6:30 p.m., the night will fea-

Entertainment at the event will include seven to eight student performers all leading up to the Tennessee indie art pop duo Jenny & Tyler. The pair are passionate about honest songwriting and heartfelt lyrics, as Jenny Somers says, “Our approach is just telling our own story.” This is their second appearance at

of Hope t-shirt. Tickets and t-shirts purchased the day of the event are \$7 each. Children’s tickets are \$5 or can be paid for in a donation of school supplies valued at \$5 to Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry. Extra donations and school supplies can also be dropped off at abbey west or the CSLD. You can follow Night of Hope on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to stay informed.

Night of Hope provides a night of entertainment, food, fun and fellowship, but more than that, it gives students a chance to be a part of something bigger and an opportunity to help those less fortunate.

NIGHT  
OF  
HOPE



OCTOBER 8 | 6:30PM-9:30PM | AMP

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ture carnival-like booths, art, raffles, vintage t-shirts and snacks. Dinner will be available from the food truck, El Gobernador, which specializes

in Mexican food, but concert goers can also bring their own food and drink.

Night of Hope after a hit performance in 2013. You can check out their journey and music at [www.jennyandtyler.com](http://www.jennyandtyler.com).

Tickets can be purchased in the cafeteria during lunch hours leading up to the event. Presale tickets are \$10 and include a Night



Jenny & Tyler PC: Blog of Joy

# New smoking policy sparks opportunity for conversation

KAYLA LARDNER  
CAMPUS EDITOR

In May of 2016, California officially raised the legal smoking age from 18 to 21, reigniting discussions on Concordia’s smoking policy.

Concordia’s new policy requires that students be at least 21 years of age and at least 20 feet away from any building entrances, as per the new California law. However, changes to the Student Code of Conduct have been eminent for years.

“There is a push from administration to eradicate smoking on campus,” said senior Catherine Foster, ASCUI Vice President, “but they want to hear the student side of this.”

With student feedback in mind, Concordia has instead designated specific smoking areas on campus. “This was something that has been being worked in senate over the past few years,” said senior Ariana Sadeghipour, ASCUI Presi-



Ashtray on top of the smoking tables.  
PC: Kayla Lardner

dent. During the 2014-15 school year, student club Enactus began a push to change the university’s policy on smoking, and since then, ASCUI Senate has been working to balance the administration’s and the students’ desires.

After news of the change in California’s laws, ASCUI sent out a survey to gauge student opinion on the issue. In the survey, “we asked if smoking either bothered [students], didn’t bother them or if they didn’t have an opinion... Most of the results were that they were

bothered by the smoking,” said Foster.

In addition, results showed that students in residence buildings, namely Uppers and Lowers, were directly affected by smoking in those areas. However, “they didn’t want to go to a smoke-free campus yet, so let’s create designated smoking areas,” said Gilbert Fugitt, Dean of Students.

“We had a campus safety committee that worked specifically on designated smoking areas, and they chose these areas where there is low traffic,” Foster said. “Beta was a primary spot for faculty that already smoke there, and we felt that for students who already smoke in Lowers and Uppers, that would be a good area that’s not necessarily close by, but is not too far away. We have one by the library as well. So students who are on that side of the campus who don’t want to walk all the way to Beta, that’s also an alternative for them.”

According to Heshan Rajpakshn, a Master’s student at Concordia, “The policy is alright [and] 21 plus I think is a very good idea.”

Rajpakshn prefers the smoking section near the library because it’s a convenient location. Beta requires him to “have to walk far away, and smoke and come back here.” But, the shaded seating area near Beta would be a welcome addition to the Library area. “I wish that they had some place like that around here, maybe where we can sit down.”

As far as changes to the



Smoking section outside of Beta PC: Kayla Lardner

smoking area locations, senior Philip Bartelt said, “It would be nice to have some more areas around campus that are a little bit closer. If we had some in between places where it’s a little more open and far enough away from buildings. If we could put even a couple more, so it’s more than just two.”

Before further restricting smoking on campus, Bartelt also believes that the student voice needs to be accounted for. “I think you could have an adult conversation with people that smoke and say ‘Hey, let’s maybe be a little more cognizant of people who have medical reasons or just don’t like the smell of smoke. You know this is not something that everyone appreciates,’” said Bartelt.

However, while the policy is still new, there is opportunity for change. “We want to listen to the student voice,” Fugitt said, “and if there’s more debate or more talk, we encourage you to come to the Senate. Every

Wednesday, it’s an open forum. That is the best way.”

“Definitely reach out to us and give us feedback, because it is still kind of a trial run right now figuring out if our two locations are good locations on campus, or are they going to cause people some issues,” said Sadeghipour. “Give us the feedback, good and bad, because we can still run with that in the future.”

“We’re training people to become courageous freethinkers, and wise, honorable and cultivated, going out into the world, and making a difference and if we really handle our issues by just slapping a law on it, I think that prevents people from growth and having an open conversation,” said Bartelt. “Having big discussions is kind of what this university is about. If we’re going to have big discussions, we should be able to have little discussions, like ‘Hey, we’re gonna talk about smoking.’”



Philip Bartelt PC: Kayla Lardner

# UNICEF's plan to help Syrian children and how Concordia can help

ALICE HOOVER  
STAFF WRITER

The Syrian civil war has been raging for five years and has led to millions of people being displaced from their homes. According to Refinery29, UNICEF released a report which "found that there were an estimated 11 million child refugees and asylum seekers in 2015, more than double the estimate from 2005." The number of individuals suffering from the Syrian civil war is only increasing as the fighting continues to drag on and many of these individuals are children.

When children are placed in states of danger such as these, it creates a variety of difficulties for them. "Aside from the obvious issue revolving around actions that have created the need for so many children to

seek asylum, the next thing to consider is the instability these children have to deal with," Debate coach and alumnus, Richard Ewell ('15) noted. "To have their safety hanging in the balance and at the whim of bureaucratic processes is something that no child should have to deal with." The devastation from being forced from one's home is difficult for any person to handle, but especially children who lose access to medication, shelter and education.

"I do not believe it is solely America's job to solve the issue, but I do think that we should help," said junior Taylor Stickle. "I believe that helping the less fortunate is the job of those who are fortunate across the world."

Ewell went on to say, "Regardless of how one feels about the Syrian people, or immigra-

tion generally, I feel we should be naturally inclined to want to assist the most vulnerable members of any society." Both America and other outside sources can help these children who are in need, as UNICEF's website outlines. UNICEF has a plan for 2016 to work with partners to provide medical, psychological and educational support services to Syrian children. The EU's Madad Fund has donated "€90 million in support of UNICEF's work with children and young people who have fled the war in Syria to take refuge in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey," as explained on their website.

One major way that Concordia can make a change in these instances is through information. Stickle said, "The more people [who] know about the problem, I believe the higher

the likelihood we will be able to solve the issue." Both Stickle and Ewell felt that it was only by knowing about such problems occurring that we would be able to help those in need. Ewell noted, "Perhaps we don't have the ability to create massive change individually, but someone who hears us speak on the issue just might."

Concordia students and faculty can do their part to help these children in need; one such way would be to make a donation to UNICEF. However, UNICEF is not the only option for helping those in need. Ewell explains that Doctors Without Borders is another group that can help these children gain medical access and rebuild medical infrastructure. Additionally he notes that the National Syrian Project for Prosthetic Limbs addresses

the special struggle of Syrians who have come into contact with IEDs. Stickle also explains that we can do fundraising to help these specific groups and raise awareness around campus as well as at our homes of the plight these children face. We can fundraise by gathering money here on campus, asking our clubs and ASCUI to host an event where the proceeds go to UNICEF or by simply encouraging those around us to donate to UNICEF. To make a donation, visit [unicef.org/appeals/syrianrefugees.html](http://unicef.org/appeals/syrianrefugees.html), [donate.doctorswithoutborders.org/onetime.cfm](http://donate.doctorswithoutborders.org/onetime.cfm) or [syriarelieff.org.uk/donate/?general-donation-most-urgent](http://syriarelieff.org.uk/donate/?general-donation-most-urgent).

Funds, goods and services are all appreciated in the movement to ensure these children are able to live more stable lives.

## Campus celebrates the life of Titus Bowman

TIFFANY THOMPSON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The campus was illuminated in yellow last Friday after the passing of Titus Bowman on Sept. 17, as students, faculty and staff wore Titus' favorite color to celebrate his life. Titus Bowman was the son of Bekah and Daniel Bowman, Head Coach of Track and Field and Cross Country on campus. Titus was six years old and had battled Batten disease, a rare and fatal neurodegenerative disorder, since his diagnosis at the age of three. The family hopes that the experience with Titus will help them save

Ely, their second son also battling Batten disease. In order to help their son Ely, the Bowman family would appreciate assistance. A Ride for Ely, his GoFundMe account, has been set up to help with the costs of a new treatment. Visit [gofundme.com/rideforely](http://gofundme.com/rideforely) to donate. Please keep the Bowman family in your prayers.



## In loving memory of university alum U.S. Staff Sgt. Matthew V. Thompson

TIFFANY THOMPSON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Staff Sgt. Matthew V. Thompson ('10) was an alumnus of Concordia who graduated with his B.A. in Theological Studies. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, Thompson (28) died of injuries caused by an improvised explosive device on Aug. 23. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Joint Base Lewis-McChord,

Washington. He was posthumously awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. Previously he had received the Army Commendation Medal and National Defense Service Medal. He is survived by his wife, Rachel, and family. A flag lowering ceremony arranged by Steve Leader, Manager of the Veterans Resource Center on campus, was held on Aug. 29 to celebrate his life. The loss of one of Concor-



dia's own is felt heavily on the campus and he is fondly remembered by his Concordia family.

## It's always tea time

*Semester by semester, Concordia students study abroad at Westfield House as part of Concordia's Enduring Questions and Ideas (Q&I Core) Cambridge program. Under the instruction of CUI professors Dr. James and Dr. Susan Bachman, these students study English and History, attend Cambridge University lectures, and take part in other required and elective courses offered by Westfield House of Theological Studies. Each week, the students or professors share with Courier readers some of their favorite observations about life and study in England.*

MADISON KREINHEDER

In California, we viewed time as a militant enforcer of schedule. Time was something we continuously fought to keep up with. Whether it was rushing onto the 405 freeway to avoid traffic or running to class after waking up late, there never seemed to be enough hours in the day to accomplish all that needed to be done. In Cambridge, however, time is a friend. It opens itself to spontaneous adventures and deep conversations. The minute number of cars on the street and the multitude of people walking or biking to their destinations was foreign to us. We wondered, "Why do they walk when driving would be so much faster?"

But after our first week of

walking throughout the city, we realized something extremely valuable about the Cambridge lifestyle. The English are more concerned with the journey rather than the arrival. Time moves differently here and there's something beautiful and classic about it. People embrace each moment, not concerning themselves with how much time it takes to accomplish, but how they can make the most of the time they have. Perhaps the best way we have found to embrace this new essence of time occurs in a truly British fashion: tea time.

Jonah Laws spoke for all of us when he asked, "Is tea time actually a thing here?" After this question was answered with a definite "YES," we began to realize that

the importance of tea time is not consuming a delicious drink--or even the delectable treats. In fact, the focus of tea time is not tea at all; it is time. Tea time is when we appreciate life as a community or individually, regardless of what has happened to us that day.

On Monday afternoons following chapel, Westfield House gathers for afternoon tea. Every week we come together to unwind, chat about life and embrace the community as a whole. After being filled with God's presence, all of Westfield House piles in for tea and treats provided by the designated host or hostess of that week. This special time on Monday helps reinforce the notion that there is always time to enjoy those around us, even on the most

stressful of days.

Although Monday tea with the entire community is always lovely, we also drink tea on our own in quiet contemplation or when chatting with a friend. Tea is not confined to a certain time of day. After all, the very point of tea is to help us understand that time is not strict; it can be fluid if you make it. With breakfast, on its own, with a friend, for a midday break, in the evening or late at night, we have found that there is always time for tea. There is something so natural about sipping Earl Grey while looking out into the gray sky. The warmth that fills the body while drinking seems to pass into our hearts and minds as well. It is during these spontaneous tea times that the

most stories have been shared, acquaintances have blossomed into friendships and our time in England has been fully appreciated.

Although it has taken time, we are slowly but surely shifting away from the hustle and bustle of the California life we have grown accustomed to. Instead, we have come to replace it with the English fluidity of time, facilitated by tea. Here in Cambridge, we have come to understand the quote "It's always tea time," as stated in Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland." Whether it be with colleagues, friends, a new face or maybe even a mad hatter, time lends itself to appreciate life and those around you. And what better way to do so than over a cup of tea?

Cheers.

# Improv-ceivable's first show uses sharp wits to win belly laughs



Improv-ceivable logo designed by Courney Hentz 15'

JASMIN ALVAREZ  
STAFF WRITER

With a roaring crowd and a diverse cast, Improv-ceivable launched their first event of the fall semester on Tues., Sept. 20. The show featured a series of improv games that put the cast's quick wits to the test. With a full house and laughter

all around, the improv group started strong. Before the laughter started rolling, the cast, featuring both returning students and alumni, introduced themselves. The teams for the game were then divided into alumni vs. returners. For the next hour, these two teams bat-

tled it out head to head in hopes of coming out on top as the champions of the night, which would ultimately be decided by the audience. The first game was a rap battle. Both teams chose one representative to stand upstage and start the rap, while the rest of the team

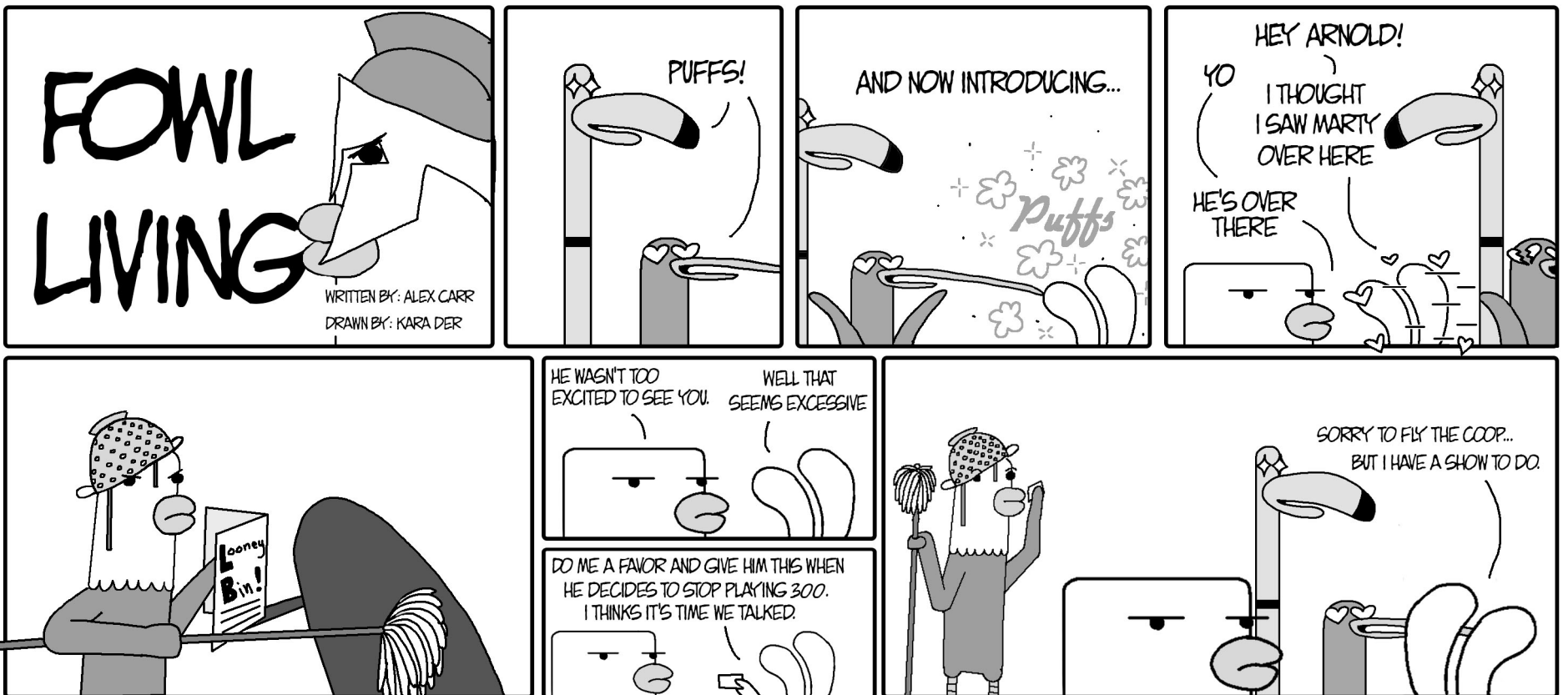
was in charge of ending the rap with a word that rhymed. When the team representative failed to find a word, the team would have to "ro-ro-ro-rotate" to a new representative up front. The team who rotated through their entire team first lost. The win for this game went to the alumni, but the returners trailed close behind, racking up points of their own throughout the night.

The contest was fun to watch, but being apart of an engaged and interactive audience was the best part of the night. The crowd was filled with returning faces who have built a community around the improv shows. One returning viewer, sophomore Megan Clift, said "I found out about it last year from one of the papers posted on my dorm room door," and now she attends regularly. The crowd did not let the cast's questions and requests go unanswered, and even went so far as to offer

personal belongings to feed the cast material for one of their games.

The performance left the crowd wanting more and left my stomach aching from laughter. Clift said her favorite part of the night was the game in which "they had to repeat different scenarios and they were spun around and had to do it again." This show is a great opportunity to break away from the stress of the work piled up at our desks and the eternal to-do lists at the back of our minds. I know I will certainly be returning for their next performance.

When asked if she will return, Clift said "Heck yes! I love them," a statement I could get behind. Improv-ceivable's cast performs for one night each month, and after the audition held last Wednesday, their numbers may be on the rise. With the returning students and alumni at the sides of the newcomers, I am sure that they will not disappoint.



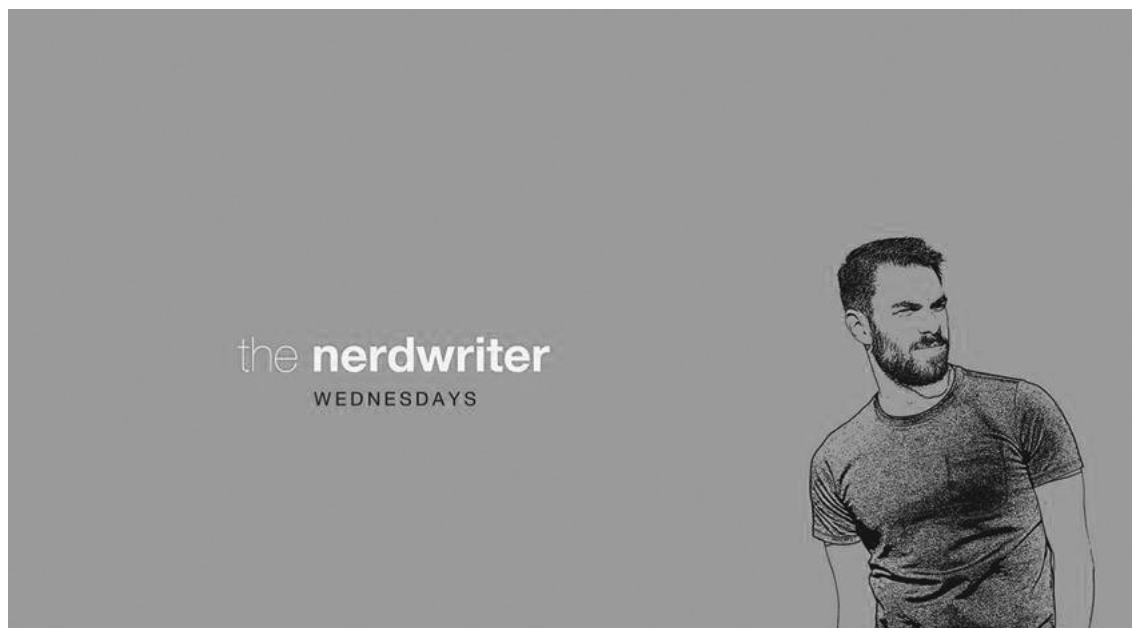
# YouTube Reviews: the nerdwriter

A column that details the highs and lows of YouTube to assist Concordians in the ongoing struggle of picking something to watch.

ALEXANDER CARR  
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

Evan Puschak, the host, producer, film hand, editor and wizard lord commander of YouTube's the nerdwriter describes his channel as "a weekly video essay series that puts ideas to work." As vague as that sounds, it's actually pretty appropriate. With video titles ranging from "Inside Out: Emotional Theory Comes Alive" to "How Donald Trump Answers a Question," the core that binds his broad interest together (from Pixar to politics) is a dedication to see how real world ideas and theories come alive in works of art and in politics. In other words, he's a nerd, and one thing nerds and artist have in common is that they both like to talk about how things work.

Which is why this week, instead of a Netflix review, where I usually grab a piece of art, rip it open, then encourage you to do the same, we'll be ripping into a YouTuber, who, like myself, also



Evan puschak

enjoys ripping into art. If you've ever wondered what makes a great war scene, how stories use cliché to their advantage, or how comedians get away with racy comments, then The Nerdwriter should be your cup of tea. Or if you're feeling the nerdwriter spirit--your cup of coffee.

In theory, there isn't much that's special about Puschak's

channel. Reviews aren't new, and video reviews haven't been novel for a while now. What makes the nerdwriter special is the type of analysis he makes and the reliability of his post.

While the nerdwriter spends a fair amount of time looking at art, it isn't fully accurate to call them reviews. Whether it's a movie, a painting, or a TV show,

the art is usually just an example of a larger idea. Puschak explains how societies develop with "Game of Thrones" and how violence can be creative with clips from Shane Black films.

In the episode titled "The Office: Embrace The Cringe," Puschak examines the British version of "The Office," not to recommend it (although he does do that), but instead, because it's a funny example of what he describes as the Theory of Mind, or our ability to read each other's minds through body language. This exploration of interesting ideas with engaging artistic examples, makes Puschak a lot like that professor who starts the class with a Beatles song than manages to rope it into the main point of the lecture.

Last year, The Concordia Courier reviewed a similar YouTube channel, Every Frame a Painting. This channel provides in-depth analysis of directors and their film techniques, and while their videos balance information and entertainment

well, they only come out once every few months. Puschak posts an episode once a week every Wednesday, one-upping his competition. Puschak has the advantage of being a fulltime YouTuber, his videos are his livelihood, which is why there's a new one every week. Art critics have to eat.

The quality of the videos themselves is also good. On his Patreon (a site where artists can receive donations from fans who'd like to support them) Puschak explains that he got a job at MSNBC thanks to one of his early videos. Three years later, he landed another job on the Discovery Channel's Seeker Daily show, again thanks to his skill as an editor and a writer. My only hangup with the technical presentation of his show is admittedly shallow. It's his voice. Despite being clear and crisp, his tone can be a little pretentious. His analysis can also be a bit sentimental and preachy at times, like when he says if we don't support creatively violent films like Shane Black's, we'll be stuck with nothing but Angry Birds sequels.

Art mirrors our reality, and the nerdwriter is the type of channel that demonstrates the art's versatility. If you're a nerd like Puschak, check out his channel. If you like what you see, follow him on Facebook, because creators create for more than just money, and after reading Puschak's Facebook, I think that applies to him especially. "I have to confess up front: it's all a shameless ploy to get readers for my book. (Honesty is the best policy.) I figure why not make it interesting in the process?"



the nerdwriter tumblr photo PC: thenerdwriter.tumblr.com

## 40th Anniversary Celebration Service review

KRISTEN SAULMAN  
MUSIC COLUMNIST

On Sun., Sept. 25, Concordia celebrated 40 years of classroom instruction with a special worship service in the CU Arena. The service followed the traditional Lutheran liturgical service with hymns, readings from the scripture, prayer and a sermon. Performing at the service were Dr. Carol McDaniel and Dr. Tom Mueller, The Concordia Wind Orchestra directed by Dr. Jeff Held, The Concert Handbells of Concordia directed

by Dr. Herbert Geisler and a Mass Choir directed by Dr. Michael Busch. The Mass Choir had over 300 members, including singers from The Concordia Choir, Concordia Donna Di Canto, Concordia Men's Chorus, The Concordia Master Chorale, and singers from 11 congregational choirs.

Pre-service music included two songs, "A Time to Rejoice" by Cathy Moglebust and "On Eagle's Wings" by Michael Joncas, arranged by Jeffrey Honore and performed by The Concert Handbells of Concordia. Listen-

ing to the pre-service music was beautiful and serene, and placed the audience in a peaceful mood. The pulpit, altar and cross were located on a small stage in the CU Arena facing the audience. At the beginning of the service, Rev. Jonathan Ruehs carried in the cross during the processional hymn "Hear Us God of Ages Past." It was during this hymn that the stately and awe-inspiring presence of the choir and orchestra was revealed. The singing voices of the different choirs combined with the audience, and the musical accompaniment by The Concordia Wind Orchestra and organ, created a wall of sound that sent shivers down my spine.

It was stunning to participate in such amazing music that praises God. Audience members could be heard whispering "this is beautiful." Although the majority

of The Concordia Wind Orchestra performers sat behind the stage in front of the Mass Choir, during the processional hymn, a selection of brass instrumentalists played behind the choir at the top of the bleachers. Their performance was reminiscent of the trumpet blasts played for Kings, an appropriate effect for announcing the procession of the cross, a symbol of Christ the King.

Following the processional hymn was a welcoming by Dr. Kurt Krueger and the Invocation and Opening Prayer by Rev. Quinton Anderson ('00). The Old Testament reading was read by Rev. Jack Preus, the New Testament reading was read by Dr. Kurt Krueger and the Gospel was read by Rev. Loren Kramer. All of the readings tied back to the celebration and reflection of Concordia's 40 years of academic

service. The sermon was read by Rev. Mark Brighton, professor of Theology at Concordia. One message that stood out from Brighton's sermon was that Concordia must never lose sight of our identity as the Great Commission University. Although we may not know what the future may hold, God will always be with us.

A major highlight from the service was the excellent musical selection of hymns and ensemble pieces. The music clearly highlighted the rich depth of vocal and instrumental talent that is present in Concordia's music programs. If this service is used as a measure of what to expect for the future, this year's performances will be quite impressive. For more information regarding upcoming music performances, please visit [cui.edu/en-us/academicprograms/undergraduate/music/calendar](http://cui.edu/en-us/academicprograms/undergraduate/music/calendar).

## Social media users offer knowledge about viewing politics

SARAH DIXON  
STAFF WRITER

Social media is one way that many college students get their news. Regarding politics, social media has its pros and cons, of which professors and students are well aware.

Dr. Erin Nelson, Assistant Professor of Communications, teaches Intro to Social Media and Advanced Strategies in Social Media. She says that websites, like Twitter, are definitely not legitimate sources to gain information. "It can be a quick reference, but I don't think it's good to take at face value," said Nelson.

Senior Celina Stratton is a communication studies major and marketing minor. Stratton says that it's important to be cautious about where sources are coming from when getting information about anything. "Twitter, Facebook and other social media channels host accounts to credible sources like the New York Times, Fox and CNN," said Stratton. "In that case, those mediums are certainly legitimate because they are merely an extension of the original source that we deem credible on a daily basis."

Both Nelson and Stratton agree that social media limits

us on what we are exposed to. "It only exposes you to what your network is," said Nelson. Stratton also agreed that social media cannot always tell the whole story, which limits us greatly. "Sometimes the purpose of accounts is to highlight one particular story and attach a link, to get users to visit their pages and read for themselves," said Stratton. "If anything, social media is an attention-grabber. Unfortunately, sometimes we only take what we read on social media and run with it without getting all of the facts first."



PC: RivalIQ.com

Stratton says that social media also affects how we view politicians. "As a younger generation, our attention often focuses more on our social media activity and popularity rather than reading from multiple news outlets to get our information."

Luckily, Nelson and Stratton have advice for college students who get most of their news from social media. Stratton advises college students to be cautious of media consumption. "Please do not rely solely on social media for your news," said Stratton. "Listen to more than just the words, but the actual messages. Think about the impact and poten-

tial consequences, and do a little extra research to keep yourself informed and to gain a better understanding of an issue or person as a whole."

Nelson suggests that college students sign up for The Skimm. It is an email newsletter that breaks down current events around the world into easy paragraphs to read quickly. "It's an easy way to have some knowledge on what's going on with the world, but it's important to remember it is only surface level information," said Nelson. To sign up for The Skimm, go to [theskimm.com](http://theskimm.com) and enter an email address to subscribe to daily news.



Dr. Erin Nelson, Assistant Professor of Communications PC: Kayla Lardner

## Second annual Giving Day to be held

TIFFANY THOMPSON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Nov. 15 Concordia will hold its second annual Giving Day, a 24-hour period that engages community, students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, local businesses and friends in giving back

to the campus. "We're trying to involve students and alumni to help support the university now and in the future," said Wendy Leivan, Director of Advancement Services and Director of the Annual Fund, "[We want] to help them realize there are many donors that come together to fund

scholarships that are part of their financial aid packages. Then maybe one day they can help future students be able to afford to come to Concordia."

Leivan is planning to incorporate a "give back to the community day" next year, where groups of students are sent all over the

county for community service projects. "We are asking for your help in spreading the word to as many people as possible through your social media, digital and verbal channels and/or to participate on the day of as a volunteer. Please clear your calendar for Nov. 15 so you can enjoy all

the great things that will be happening on that day," said Leivan. "You're invited to participate in this impactful day."

More information on Giving Day to follow please contact Leivan at [wendy.leivan@cui.edu](mailto:wendy.leivan@cui.edu) or visit <http://www.cui.edu/giving> for updates.

