



THE CONCORDIA COURIER

INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

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Concordia University Irvine

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Irvine celebrates 45 years of storied history with an eye to the future

KAYLA LARDNER
CAMPUS EDITOR

Since its official incorporation in 1971, Irvine has become a center for education, industry and beauty. In a showcase capturing the essence of what makes Irvine so innovative and renowned, the city held a 45th anniversary celebration featuring a keynote speech from Mayor Steven Choi, a city-wide photo contest and video presentations from Irvine high schools designed to highlight the beauty, progress and history of our city.

James Irvine, along with Benjamin Flint, Thomas Flint and Llewellyn Bixby, acquired this land in 1864, but in 1878, Irvine purchased his partners' shares and retained sole ownership until his death in 1886. His son, James Irvine Jr., inherited and incorporated the land into The Irvine Company, a ranch at this time, shifting the ranch's focus from sheep grazing to crops. By 1918, the ranch had over 60,000 acres of lima beans.

"This area was loaded with lima beans and strawberries," said Tim Jaeger, Executive Vice President for University Advancement, of Irvine's ranch. Today, even after all of the urban development, "If you look a little more carefully and closely, you'll find that there are still historical structures in place, and there's respect for the history of the region," said Jaeger.

Following the death of Irvine Jr. in 1947, his son, Myford Irvine, began to sell off small sections of the ranch for urban development. In 1959, the University of California requested land from The Irvine Company for a new university. It was then that William Pereira, the architect for the university, and The Irvine Company planners designed a master plan for a city that would surround the university with industrial, residential and open spaces. By 1971, the new city of Irvine was official-



Mayor Steven Choi PC: Kayla Lardner

ly incorporated.

"[University of California, Irvine (UCI)] brags that the university is older than the city," said Choi. The university jokes that "all other schools are named after the town, but [UCI's] Chancellor, Howard Gillman, claims that the city is named after the university."

Part of Irvine's master plan was to have multiple institutions for higher education, which led to Concordia and the city's partnership.

"When Irvine was founded, from the very beginning, they made plans to have three schools for higher education," said Jaeger, "University of California, Irvine, the big state school, Irvine Valley College, a wonderful community college, and then they wanted to have a private university, and that became Concordia."

This commitment to education is also apparent at the grade levels of education. The success of the higher education in Irvine is partially dependent on its excellent primary and secondary schools. In fact, in last year's state

standard test results, "Irvine Unified School District ranked number one in the entire state in math and number two in language arts," said Choi.

Beyond Irvine's commitment to quality education at all levels of instruction, Irvine is also home to world-class companies, including Ford Motor Company, Samsung Electronics, Toshiba Corporation and many more. In fact, Irvine is one of the top rated cities for start-up businesses and

is one of the top ten fastest growing job markets, according to the 2009 census.

Irvine's master plan ensured that the city's natural aesthetics can shine through. Irvine is home to thousands of acres of designated green, open areas. The Irvine Company has set aside over 57,000 acres of land specifically for open spaces and parklands.

According to The Irvine Company's website, "The land is

now one of the largest urban open spaces in the United States, larger than many national parks... In recognition of the wide variety of rare and endangered plants and animals and the unique habitats and geological features contained on the land, nearly 40,000 acres of the preserved lands were designated a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2006, following rigorous scientific review. Two years later, the same lands were named the first-ever California Natural Landmark."

These aesthetics are what the 45th anniversary photo contest was designed to capture. The contest's categories included Outdoors, Community, Historical, Innovation and 17 and Under. The featured photos showcased the beauty Irvine has to offer, from its gorgeous, tree-lined streets, to historic photos from Irvine's many parks, to its skyline built dotted with striking high rises. The overall winner offered a perfect view of Irvine's trails, surrounded by nature, with the light from the setting sun painting the landscape in a cascade of golden hues.

The night closed with a series of short films developed entirely by students from each of Irvine's high schools. These films were centered on the theme: Only in Irvine. The students told their stories of Irvine with high quality camera work and aesthetics indicative of the high quality education Irvine's schools provide. These films took the viewer all over Irvine, from the iconic Ferris wheel in the spectrum, to the equally iconic orange helium balloon in the Great Park. While each student's interpretation was unique, their work showcased everything that Irvine has to offer, from its industry, to its biking trails and farmers markets, and everything in between.

"That," said Choi, "is the essence of Irvine."



Courtesy of cityofirvine.org

ASCUI Corner: Concordia Christmas is coming

JESSICA JAMES
ASCUI SECRETARY

LEAD Student Activities and the Associated Students of Concordia University Irvine are pleased to carry on the beloved tradition of Concordia Christmas on Thurs., Dec. 1. This event brings together students, faculty and staff, and alumni to celebrate the birth of our Savior and bring holiday cheer to the campus.

Abbey west is preparing a live nativity scene to kick

off the celebration at 5:30 p.m. on the CU Center Patio. They will also be hosting story time throughout the event to share the true meaning of Christmas. The lighting of the Christmas tree will follow the nativity, along with live music throughout the evening.

We invite you to sled on the Commons Lawn in real snow and a enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides around campus. The first 400 students will get free dessert waffles, from Waffle-icious, and all are welcome

to enjoy the “Charlie Brown Christmas” movie in the amphitheater.

All student leadership groups have come together are excited to partner for this event. LEAD and Fusion will host ornament decorating and craft booths. The Alumni Association is providing hot drinks to enjoy and International Student Ambassadors (ISA) is hosting the snack table. Create lasting memories of the night at RES’ photo booth and take your picture with

Santa and his elves.

This Concordia tradition is sure to be a great way to kick off your holiday season and remind us all of the true reason we celebrate Christmas.

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring

you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill towards men.” – Luke 2:8-14

Concordia celebrates our veterans and remembers the fallen

BLAKE WARYE
STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, America celebrated Veterans Day by honoring the brave men and women who have served our country. On campus, we celebrated a day early with military-themed activities outside the Caf. When asked what Veterans Day meant to her, junior Kelcee Namoca said, “To me Veterans Day is a time for us as Americans to give remembrance and recognition to all who have served and are currently serving our country unselfishly for our freedom and liberty.”

Throughout the year, Concordia works to aid our veterans on campus through the Veterans Resource Center. In fact, this is Concordia’s fourth year with Military Friendly School designation. According to Veterans Resource Center Manager Steve Leader, the Veterans Resource Center’s mission is “to assist VA [Veterans Affairs] beneficiaries with transi-

tioning from the military to the classroom by creating a campus community that ensures their well-being. Our ultimate goal is to prepare students to fully tran-

sition into the workforce and contribute to society as wise, honorable and cultivated citizens.”

Leader also said, “Our new emphasis is on helping our vet-

erans focus on the job interview after they graduate. We will assist them by having a training program dedicated specifically towards veterans.” The program

includes: assistance with LinkedIn, other social media profiles, resume, cover letter, how to submit job applications, interview skills and etiquette.

Some of the services the Veterans Resource Center offer include: VA Work-Study, volunteer opportunities, veterans resources (local, state and federal), the Yellow Ribbon program, free printing and more.

Wondering how many veterans are actually on campus at Concordia? “We are still trying to find out how many veterans we really have,” said Leader. “We have about 70 students utilizing the GI Bill. We are working right now to create a database of all veterans, and spouses and children, and work with alumni relations to see if we have graduates that have since gone into the military.”

Feel free to stop by the Veterans Resource Center in the Veterans Services Office, Admin 312, at any time to learn more about the many services they offer.



Congresswoman Mimi Walters presents the U.S. flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol on September 16, 2016 in honor of fallen Concordia alum U.S. Staff Sgt. Matthew V. Thompson to university President Kurt Krueger (left) and Concordia Irvine’s Veterans Resource Center Director Steve Leader. Walters, who represents California’s 45th Congressional District, requested that the flag be flown over the nation’s capitol in honor of Thompson. The flag will be framed and kept on display at the university. Thompson, 28, died on August 23 in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, of injuries caused by an improvised explosive device that detonated near his patrol while conducting dismounted operations. Thompson graduated with his B.A. in Theological Studies in 2010 and is fondly remembered by his Concordia family.

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Senior Eagle athletes

JAMI DERBY
STAFF WRITER

As the fall semester is coming to a close, so are many sports seasons. Concordia athletic teams have seniors who are graduating and finishing their athletic careers. Student-athletes have not only spent a few years here at Concordia but have devoted their lives to these sports. They have brought leadership and unity to their teams, and have helped younger Eagles learn and succeed as student-athletes.

While many emotions are passing, some athletes reflect on their time spent as an Eagle. Senior and Women's Volleyball Captain, Taylor Dennison, said "The great thing about sports is they teach you so many lessons like time management, patience, confidence, people skills, teamwork and

control." Dennison has spent eight years playing volleyball and her fellow senior teammate, Ellie Ladensack has spent



Courtesy of cuieagles.edu

twelve years playing. Both have been on the team since their freshman year. Ladensack reflects on her time at Concordia and has "learned to celebrate the good, embrace the struggle and appreciate the unique opportunity" to participate as an athlete. One thing Ladensack

finds special about women's volleyball this season is all five seniors have all been on the team for four years. As their season

comes to a close they are working hard to win the last few games and make them memorable.

Alex Gerrain, a senior soccer player who has spent three years as an Eagle, has played since the young age of four. Over the years she has learned how a team becomes a big

family, although "there is a lot more to life than just a sport." Some athletes plan to pursue a sports related career like Women's Lacrosse, Emily Cabuling, senior. The four year Concordia athlete plans on pursuing a coaching career in lacrosse. Cabuling explains that being an athlete "is about being a good person, from your character to being a player, you are going to be tested in both aspects on and off the field."

Men's basketball senior, Justin Davis looks back and cherishes the memories of a team of people he considers his brothers. He simply says to "enjoy every moment of it. It goes by fast." Some high points for these athletes have been winning seasons in tough conferences, and being able to be a part of a family team environment. The senior athletes

gave advice to underclassmen: Dennison advises to "control the controllable and have faith that God is leading you in the right direction." Gerrain says she "will always miss putting on her jersey and cleats and going out onto the field to play a game."

Congratulations senior athletes, you have survived injuries, the early morn-



Courtesy of cuieagles.edu

ing practices, late nights of studying and countless hours spent working hard as a student-athlete. Go out and support your senior friends in their last few games as an Eagle!

Schedules can be found on www.cuieagles.com

Division II and you: The student-athlete perspective

DARBY SCOTT
STAFF WRITER

The transition to NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Division II means different things to different people. Although the change affects everyone at Concordia, student-athletes have experienced the most direct alterations throughout the three-year transition process. With significant adjustments being implemented and enforced, student-athletes were asked to share what the transition to NCAA means to them.

Senior basketball player, Elizabeth Rudd, has been with Concordia since before it joined a NCAA Division II conference. Concordia is now a member of the PacWest (Pacific West)

conference which includes multiple teams from Hawaii and one from Utah. Joining the PacWest conference allows for more opportunity for travel during regular season play. "I was really excited to travel and play higher skilled schools," said Rudd, "but for the most part, I just wanted to play basketball." Alissa Bezenek, swimmer and junior, is a transfer student who has experience as a NCAA Division I swimmer, but she has found happiness in Concordia's athletics. Concordia's NCAA Division II title "influenced my decision tremendously," said Bezenek. This increase of appeal to transfer students due to the transition has been expected by administration.

"The benefits are endless," said Bezenek, about competing as a NCAA Division II athlete. Although Concordia is not eligible for post-season championships until next year, many athletes are already anticipating success. "I'm really looking forward to working towards qualifying for Division II nationals," said Bezenek. All athletes are looking forward to the opportunity to showcase their talent and compete for a national title, but there are many other benefits resulting from the transition. "Benefits have definitely improved," said Rudd, "we receive more gear and better travel arrangements." Along with more difficult competitors, student-athletes are

facing higher expectations from coaches and professors alike. Student-athletes are being asked to give their all at every practice while maintaining a grade point average higher than what was standard at the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) level. As a basketball player, Rudd, who stands at 6'1," expected to face taller competitors. However, she "dealt with bigger girls in the NAIA, but the skill and effort [within the NCAA] is drastically higher."

Since entering the PacWest conference last fall, athletes have proven their ability to compete with NCAA Division II competitors. "Many sports have been successful already in

the probation period," said Rudd. One thing all athletes have proven capable of is adapting to the significant changes. Athletes are aware of the changes and have done all in their power to ease the effects of the transition. "Following the rules, and more importantly being aware of the rules, is crucial during this transition time," said Bezenek. Coaches and administration counted on student-athletes to cooperate with the rules, and by doing so, these athletes have successfully assisted Concordia in making the transition to NCAA Division II.

If you are interested in supporting Concordia athletics, please visit www.cuieagles.com for team schedules, records and news.

Suitcase Bingo packs prizes and good fun

SUZY REYES
STAFF WRITER

Fri., Nov. 11 was the highly anticipated Suitcase Bingo. This is an annual event organized by LEAD Student Activities. Junior Ashlie Rodgers, of LEAD, said, "The prizes included items never given out before. This Suitcase Bingo was a competitive game night and prizes were so worth [it.] New ideas were thought of and the getaway is a place that had never been done before."

As a night for students to gather together in competition, Suitcase Bingo is arguably the most popular event on campus. Students were lined up an hour before the doors opened to participate in this Concordia tradition. Everyone piled

into the Caf, hoping they were holding a winning bingo card. The students were not dismayed by the high attendance or the lack of seats, as many sat on the floor just to get a chance to play.

B I N G O				
12	18	41	47	61
7	26	39	54	70
4	27	FREE 4785 SPACE	49	63
5	23	35	58	73
3	30	32	52	75

Bingo Card, Courtesy of Quora.com

So, what happens if you didn't hold a winning card? Students were still given the chance to win a prize with multiple raffles in between rounds.

Students played numerous rounds of bingo, wanting to win one of the coveted gift baskets or the final grand prize mystery weekend getaway. The baskets were separated by themes: College Essentials, Coffee Lover, Orange County, Theme Park, Outdoor, Gaming, Entertainment and Sports. Each basket had prizes and gift cards pertaining to their themes. Some of the big prizes included Lakers tickets, an Apple TV, tickets to various theme parks, and the final grand prize: a weekend getaway to Catalina Island. Needless to say, the competition was fierce.

The final round was a black-out round, requiring participants to have their whole board covered. This led to a tiebreak-

er where two students squared off in a rock-paper-scissors death match to win the grand prize. The winner, senior Lillea Acasio, burst into tears of joy. This excitement is what makes Suitcase Bingo so rewarding.

The prizes and overall ex-

citement culminated in a Suitcase Bingo that was filled with high energy and enthusiasm the whole night. Junior Grace Tom said, "It's a really fun event that I love to attend every year...I'm already looking forward to the next one!"



Catalina Island, courtesy of tripadvisor.com

From leotard to pant suit: Wonder Woman's appointment as Honorary UN Ambassador

ALICE HOOVER
STAFF WRITER

The upcoming DC film isn't the only big news for comic hero and femme fatale, Wonder Woman. On Fri., Oct. 21, Wonder Woman was appointed the United Nations Honorary Ambassador for the Empowerment of Women and Girls. Her appointment aims to help the UN reach their goals of achieving gender equality and empowerment for all women. However, this move



Wonder Woman, courtesy of people.com

has not taken off quite like Wonder Woman's invisible jet, as there has been criticism. This criticism seems strange to many in the comic community, as Wonder Woman is generally well liked.

One of the reasons that there has been disagreement over this appointment, even among UN staff, is because some feel Wonder Woman is too overly sexualized for an Honorary Ambassador. "The over-sexualization blame game should be put

on the creators," Evette Jahangiri, sophomore, stated. "They are the ones at fault for making female figures more voluptuous and appealing to their 'primarily male audience'...instead of shaming her, they should shame creators." Jahangiri believes that appointing Wonder Woman was a good move.

Matthew Steck, senior, also agrees with this sentiment. "Does it really matter if Wonder Woman parades around in a leotard and

heeled boots," said Steck. "At the end of the day, trying to disqualify a woman, real or fictional, for the way she dresses is just an attempt to undermine any chance at power, respect or authority that she may gain." Steck is not in favor of the appointment of Wonder Woman, but is a fan of her comics.

Both Jahangiri and Steck expressed that the main concern is the implications that her appearance can have on other people, not her appearance itself. Steck stated, "The critiquing of

Wonder Woman's image is the kind of policing that comes from the same people who tell women who wear burkas and niqabs that they are being oppressed." Jahangiri furthered that it is concerning that some view her as just a female version of Superman. She said, "This causes an unrealistic expectation of women, who enjoy these types of movies [and] themes. And makes these female characters subjugated to their appearance--once again."

Another qualm that arises for Wonder Woman's appointment is that of her being a fictional character. Jahangiri takes no issue with this and states, "[It] is not a problem to me, because it is appealing to a wide audience. However, the problem arises when people are not acknowledging or understanding who the real [non-fictional women] are."

Steck notes that while the move itself may seem em-

powering, Wonder Woman isn't able to make any real policy changes nor take any solid actions towards this empowerment. "She also doesn't do anything for little girls...she was already a role

model for them. She fought against evil constantly and was pals with some of the most powerful people in the universe. It's not like she needed the fluffing to her already impressive resume,"

Whether or not Wonder



Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, courtesy of screenrant.com

model for them. She fought against evil constantly and was pals with some of the most powerful people in the universe. It's not like she needed the fluffing to her already impressive resume,"

Woman is the ideal candidate for the Honorary UN Ambassador position is a controversial topic. Steck concluded, "On top of all of that, she is already an ambassador from Amazonia in the comics, and thus, in the minds of her fans. So I don't see how this magically makes a big difference."

"[Wonder Woman] does defeat some of the stigmas about comics and action figures only being for boys," Jahangiri notes. "She can take care of herself and defend herself, and that, for a lot of women, is really powerful." Whether this appointment being a good move falls within the lasso of truth remains to be seen.



Lynda Carter and Gal Gadot receiving award, courtesy of comingsoon.net

Around-The-World Semester[®]: Morocco

KENDRA SITTON
EDITOR-AT-LARGE

Before we left for the airport, Professor Lee mentioned the reputation that Moroccan hospitality had as our hotel was planning a banquet to welcome us. Many of the countries we have visited have had reputations for certain characteristics: politeness in Japan, friendliness in Ghana and the love of fun in Greece. While individuals vary, the acculturation of locals into these habits has been interesting to witness.

With a return home quickly approaching, I hope to apply the lessons in generosity, attentiveness to the spiritual realm and not just the physical, and honesty, that I have picked up in each place. While some lessons are culturally specific and some lessons are more in what not to do, many of the community-oriented cultures

we have experienced exemplify aspects of how the early church lived.

Since arriving in Morocco, one of my favorite things to do is observe those around me during our hour-long ride to and from service each afternoon. On the first day, a woman carrying a baby struggled to get her diaper bag on her shoulder and a young man next to her immediately lifted it up. The next day, a man stood so that a team member we knew was sick, but he didn't, could sit. Later that week, two teenage boys entertained a toddler sitting on her mother's lap with evident joy.

In the last few days, these kindnesses have also been directed towards me. A woman gestured that I sit by her when I was choosing between two seats. I realized this was because the sun made the other seat uncomfortable and she

wanted to make sure I chose the better spot. Yesterday, a woman handed me a piece of gum when she sat beside me. Each of these

as though they have a wellspring of more energy and generosity to shower others with than the rest of the world. Instead, they face

fit those around them no matter how they feel. This selflessness has defined my stay in Morocco. Moving forward, I hope to some-



Mysterious Men of Morocco. Cool Cats of Casablanca. PC: Adam Lee

are seemingly small acts, but they stem from the value of hospitality and generosity pervading this culture.

A shop owner and later a woman we met at a cultural center opened their homes to us. While they taught us how to make Moroccan Mint Tea, they also exuded the sense of wanting to include someone and bring them alongside that I imagine Jesus displaying when he touched lepers and shared a meal with tax collectors.

On the tram, each day has held new gifts to observe and receive. Many of the locals step into the sliding doors looking just as haggard and tired as people using public transport in each country we have been to. It is not

the same exhaustion that people who ride the tube in London or the train in Japan feel after a busy day; they simply work to bene-

day replicate this same presence of hospitality I have seen people move throughout their days while here in Morocco.



ATW 108: Meanwhile, at the wall... PC: Adam Lee



Laura Mietzner PC: Adam Lee

Core Cambridge: Cambridge, Concordia and Christianity

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.

BENJAMIN LANGE, LAUREN SHON &
EMMA STANTON

Cambridge students get the best of both worlds: rich exposure to academia and—who would have thought—immersion in Scripture. The University of Cambridge is widely renowned for its excellence in academics, but few people are aware of the integration of Christianity into the school's history. Nearly every college associated with Cambridge University has a chapel of its own that is available for use by students and visitors alike.

In our small community of scholars at Westfield House, we have adopted both a British style of education and a Cambridge tradition of liturgical activity. For centuries, some of the most highly-renowned universities in the world have held daily services. Attendance is not ordinarily mandatory anymore, but the habit of daily

worship can be an integral part of student life.

Out of respect for the chapel tradition, students wear black academic robes. Similar to school uniforms, putting on academic gowns gives a sense of unity in the midst of radical diversity in colleges.

Each morning at 9 a.m., students walk—no, run—into the airy, unadorned but homely chapel, with robes flowing in the rush to get there on time. Holding hymnals in our



Samuel St. John

hands, the organ begins to play and fills the empty space with rich tones of sonorous sound. We chant a Psalm in harmony, and then continue to read from both the Old and New Testament, concluding in unison with “thanks be to God.” Further into the service, a song, such as “Song of Simeon” or “Song of Zechariah,” is sung. We say the Lord's Prayer together and then whoever is leading the service prays the prayers set for that day.

Along with being a positive, spiritual way of beginning the day, we have found that the habitual attendance of morning services can be an enriching academic experience as well. Wisecracking yet wise, seminarian Jesse Schlie shares his thoughts on chapel services, explaining that “Everything in my day permeates from chapel... The center of my day is always prayer and reflection on

the Word of God.”

Particularly with regard to our Core history and literature courses, and with our Biblical studies (such as Synoptic Gospels and Introduction to the Torah) as well, we find that the daily readings come up in class-time discussion quite often. In history, the Old Testament readings frequently coincide with lectures during the portion of the semester when we are focusing on the history of the Israelite people. In literature class we find ourselves dissecting and analyzing the Psalms during our discussions of Hebrew poetic structures. Those of us taking Synoptic Gospels digest the New Testament readings with new attentiveness to detail, and even find material for new, insightful class discussions.

Beyond the already sufficient purpose of enriching spiritual life and beginning

every day with prayer, much of the material in the small morning services have acquired new meaning and significance for us who have been offered insight into the history, poetry and narratives found within the words of the readings.

Some may think our service traditional, but it dynamically draws together old and new worship styles. We have noticed that hymnals can be considered a one-stop shop for worship tools.

We may not be the best singers, but singing praise to God as a community naturally draws us together. Before the service ends, the leader blesses us and we the congregation respond “Amen” in a simple song tone. We file out of the chapel, setting the hymnals back into the shelf, and only have a moment of fellowship before rushing to class and conquering the rest of our day.

Americana Ensemble's premiere concert brings pure passion and talent to the stage

SARAH DIXON
STAFF WRITER

On Monday night, Nov. 14, the Americana Ensemble performed their premiere concert in Good Shepherd Chapel. Currently, the group features five Concordia students and Dr. Tom Mueller. This intimate ensemble concentrates its musical talent into the performance of acoustic folk, bluegrass, country, jazz, swing and blues.

After they had performed a couple songs, Director Mueller explained how the different instruments fulfill different roles in the ensemble. It was pretty cool. Mueller also introduced the student musicians holding those instruments. Erin Cowan played bass, Nate Darlington, banjo and vocals, Paige McCauley, vocals, Dr. Tom Mueller, mandolin, Mitchell Piantanida, guitar, and Michael Verburg, guitar and vocals.

Verburg, Piantanida and Cowan did an exceptional job keeping the group together with a perfect

balance of sounds coming from each instrument. Cowan's bass work was especially impressive because there was no percussion.

The group performed several songs, as well as a medley of three pieces: "Star of the County Down," "Cluck Old Hen" and "Bill Cheatham." Dr. Mueller, on the mandolin, played back and forth with Darlington, on the banjo, and Piantanida on the guitar. They had a fun playful sound that featured these instruments at different times.

Good Shepherd Chapel is a small, but beautiful space to hold music events. The chairs were curved into a semi-circle, and the band stood in front in a semi-circle as well. The instruments resonated wonderfully in the space they were given. There was no amplification, but placing the audience so close to the band ensured that the music would be heard.

My two favorite pieces of the night were "Man of Constant Sorrow," and a folk version of the 80's hit

"Take on Me." McCauley's warm, ringing tone gave me chills. Her voice was perfect for this style of music, and although she didn't have a mic, I could hear her beautiful voice very clearly.

They finished the night with "Take on Me," with vocals by Darlington. If you know this song, you know how high those chorus notes get. Darlington hit each one with a wonderful, light tone, and I could tell the crowd especially enjoyed this fun twist on the song.

Overall, it was refresh-

ing to listen to this style of music. This group is another example of the outstanding talent that our students have. They sounded like professionals. Even though this concert was free, I would gladly pay to watch a group with this much passion and talent perform.

The ensemble is open to all qualified Concordia students, faculty, staff and even other members of the community. If you'd like more information, contact Dr. Tom Mueller at tom.mueller@cui.edu.



Americana Ensemble PC: Sarah Dixon

Speech Team speak out with first showcase of the year

ALEXANDER CARR
ARTS & REVIEWS EDITOR

Last Tuesday, Concordia's nationally ranked speech team hosted their annual COMM-unity sponsored showcase in Good Shepherd Chapel to inform, persuade and charm the campus. The showcase featured nine speakers, each performing a different event practiced within the speech community.

Angelica Grigsby ('14), Assistant Director of Individual Events, expressed how the showcases shed some light on what the speech

team does and why it's important. "It gives faculty and students an opportunity to see what we're continually stealing their friends and students for every weekend," said Grigsby. "But also, it allows the student body to be exposed to topics and ideas and arguments that they might not be confronting in their daily lives."

The speakers shared Grigsby's enthusiasm and were excited to perform for their friends and faculty. "I enjoy showing my peers what we do here," said Diego Perez, senior member of the



speech team. "Specific messages need to be heard, and this is our way of sharing them."

Speaking out and being heard was the theme echoed in the words of other speakers as well. "I think speech is a really creative blend of education and entertainment," said Jamie Whittington-Studer, senior and Speech Team Captain. "Doing a showcase for the student population is opportunity to educate in a way that's exciting and fun for everyone."

COMM-unity faculty advisor Dr. Erin Nelson, Assistant Professor of Communication, was happy to see the speech team in action. "I've only seen a couple little performances here and there [at other universities], but never a full showcase," said Nelson. "It was really cool. I think we should do more events promoting and then sponsoring our awesome speech and debate team. [These events] are a good way to expose people to what the communication department has to offer."

Yaw Kyeremateng, Di-

rector of Individual Events, is hoping to hold another showcase that tackles racial issues in honor of black history month. If you'd like to support the team, the February showcase is your opportunity to do just that. Currently, dates for the event are tenuous, but posters are sure to appear as the intended date draws near. Issues about race can be tough to talk about, but if you'd like to join the conversation, the speech team is an excellent place to start.



PC: Alexander Carr



PC: Alexander Carr

TV Reviews: Cartoons for the Adult Kid

Steven Universe, Bobs Burgers and Rick and Morty

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

YVETTE MENDOZA
SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday morning rituals are no longer a thing of the past. Sure, I don't wake up at 7 a.m. every Saturday to catch my favorite cartoon; instead I stay up until 2 a.m. on a Tuesday binge-watching television when I really should be working on a research paper. Either way, the

alien rebels who have devoted their lives to protect Earth against the colonialism of their home planet. They are also Steven's guardians, and help him navigate his life. Oh, and the big twist, Steven himself is a Crystal Gem. Well, half Gem, half human, and the first of his kind. This coming-of-age show captivates adult-audiences because of its genuine



Steven Universe, courtesy of wikia.com

general conception that cartoons are for kids is a thing of the past. Shows like The Simpsons and South Park were some of the first cartoons to normalize the idea of reaching and adult audience. Today, with an array of options, I pin down three cartoons that speak to our zeitgeist--the spirit of our age: Steven Universe, Bob's Burgers and Rick and Morty.

sweetness. Steven's character is admirable and inspirational as he constantly finds himself at moral crossroads, overcoming them with perseverance and a positive attitude. Over the course of 100 episodes, this show has become an actual gem for all ages.

If a show about four aliens with incredible superpowers protecting the earth and all of its living creatures isn't your cup of tea, you should first re-evaluate your life choices, and second, check out Bob's Burgers, created by Loren Bouchard and Jim Dauterive. Bob's Burgers follows the life of the Belcher family as they manage and run their burger business called, you guessed it, Bob's Burgers. Bob (H. Jon Benjamin)

and Linda (John Roberts) are owners of the restaurant. Their employees are their three children, Louise (Kristen Schaal), Gene (Eugene Mirman) and Tina (Dan Mintz). Louise, the youngest of the three, is the most cunning. Her signature look is her pink bunny ears that she never removes. Gene is a music-loving, loud-speaking boy who is the middle child of the family. And then there is Tina. Once named one of T.V.s best characters, Tina is a young girl with an awkward demeanor working her way into woman-hood. Tina reminds us all of the embarrassing middle school moments we thought we repressed, but gives us the chance to laugh at those moments. With her unintentional witty one-liners, Tina has earned her position as a favorite of the show. I know, you're probably wondering if this is a review of the show or of Tina, and admittedly it's probably about Tina. But hey, she's my spirit animal, I can't help it.



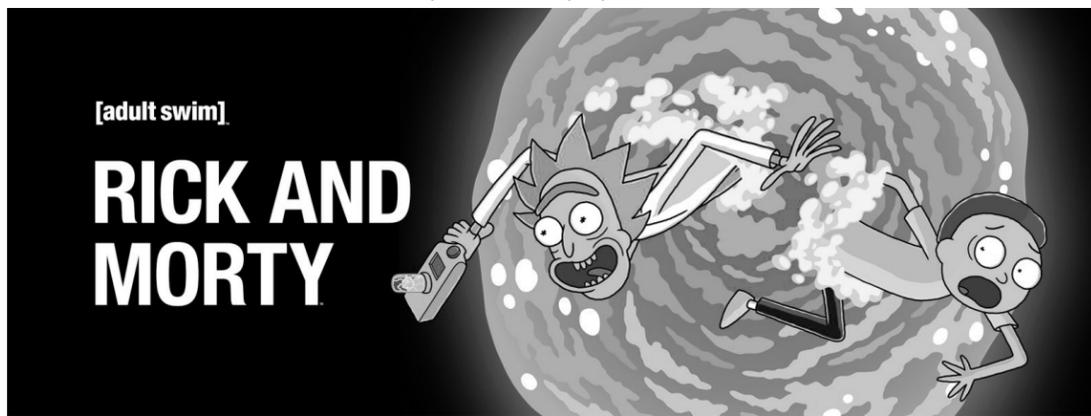
Bob's Burgers, courtesy of IMDb.com

Venturing closer to the realm of crude comedy and more, uh, adult content, we can find one of my favorite cartoons of all time. Rick and Morty, created by Dan

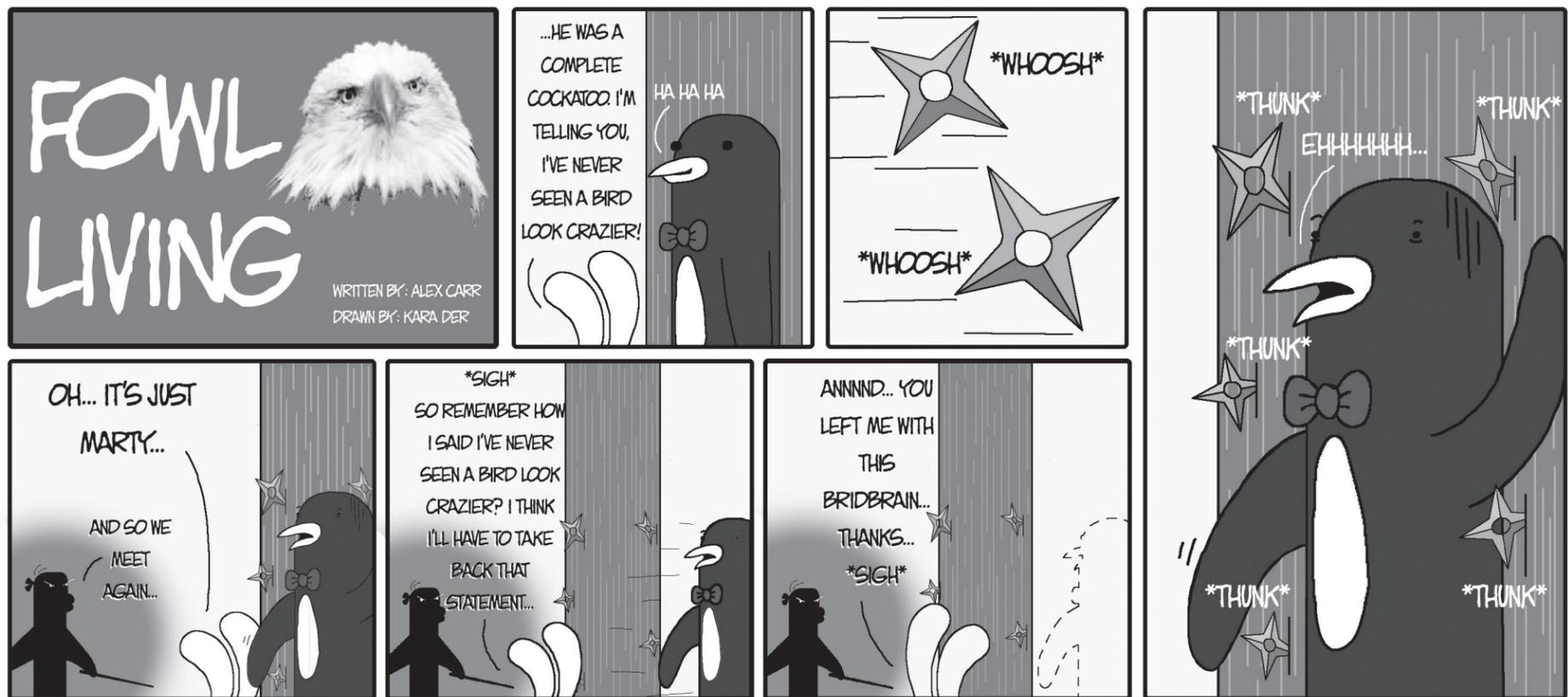
Harmon and Justin Roiland, is a show about your typical nuclear family...and grandpa Rick. Rick (Justin Roiland) is a mad scientist and your good ol' fashioned alcoholic who drags his grandson, Morty (Justin Roiland) into his crazy misadventures. Constantly dragged into otherworldly dangers, Morty, a fourteen year-old boy, becomes Rick's sidekick. The complete opposite of the Belcher family in Bob's Burgers, the Smith family is incredibly dysfunction-

al. Jerry (Chris Parnell) and Beth (Sarah Chalke) are on the cusp of divorce is practically every episode. Summer (Spencer Grammer), Morty's older sister, is the stereotypical seventeen year-old who occasionally finds herself caught up in Rick's adventures. The only way I can really sum up the show is by saying that it is a nonsensical cacophony of nihilistic hedonism--and I enjoy every moment of it. If you can handle an excess use of curse words, some graphic imagery and a jumble of nonsense wrapped around a well written plot, Rick and Morty is the show for you. If not, I would stick with Steven Universe.

There is something special to be found in all three shows. Whether it's Steven's sweetness, Tina's tenacity or Rick's absurdity, the realms of these cartoon universes will have you recollecting your days as a youth watching cartoons. You can catch new episodes of Steven Universe on Cartoon Network, Bob's Burgers on Fox, and Rick and Morty on Adult Swim--well, whenever Roiland and Harmon select an official release date for season three and stop messing with my emotions.



Rick and Morty, courtesy of Hulu.com



SHOUT tailgate gives thanks and praise before the holidays

SAMANTHA JENSEN
STAFF WRITER

On Thurs., Nov. 17, SHOUT's November "Merry Christ-giving" tailgate gathered students for devotion and time with friends before the SHOUT message and the holidays. SHOUT, the student-led chapel service, was started in 1995 and is hosted every Thursday night at 9:30 p.m. in the CU Center.

Sophomore Morgan Holcomb, Spiritual Care Coordinator, said SHOUT "encompasses testimonies or devotions, worship music

and a time of prayer." Holcomb added, "It is a wonderful time to come and surrender everything to our Heavenly Father and praise Him. I love going because it's a great opportunity to build relationships with my peers, and worship our God together as brothers and sisters through Christ."

Senior Michael Verburg, SHOUT Coordinator, said, "It started with a couple of students meeting for devotion in their dorm rooms and slowly turned into a big event which abbey west then took over and made official."

Tailgates are held once a month before the service from 8:30-9:30 p.m. They feature food, games, fellowship and more. Holcomb said, "It's an awesome event that brings people together before the worship service to catch up with friends, build new friendships and have fun." Verburg says that the purpose of the tailgate is "to get people to mingle, mingle, mingle." He added, "it is a great way to make new friends or to make existing friendships stronger."

After the tailgate is the SHOUT service, which fea-

tures worship music, prayer, scripture reading and devotion, all led by students. The planning for this event involves all student volunteers. The students choose the worship songs, readings, and come up with devotions and reflections. Holcomb said, "God has blessed us with great musicians and leaders to make this event happen. All the praise should go to Him." Verburg said "[it] is accomplished through several different people, me, Phil Bartelt, who picks people to give messages and picks scripture vers-

es, and many other volunteers, like the band, greeters and tailgate people."

For those who are interested in abbey west and SHOUT, or on becoming more involved with worship and ministry on campus, head to the CSLD and talk to abbey west. Verburg invites any students who wish to help out with campus ministry to do so. He said, "There are so many opportunities to serve on campus and we always love and appreciate help!"

For more information and contact info, visit www.abbeywest.org.

Concordia Heritage Garden Grows through sustainability efforts

SAMANTHA JENSEN
STAFF WRITER

The Heritage Garden is now making efforts to make our campus more sustainable. Founded in March 2014, the Heritage Garden is located in a former dump-site and is a place on campus where students can relax and enjoy nature. The garden is home to a herb garden and several native plants, as well as a few critters. The garden hopes to improve sustainability efforts through the use of worm tubes, green waste that can be used as compost, and the use of reclaimed water to irrigate.

Efforts have been made recently by forming a partnership with

the cafeteria. Dr. Professor Thea Gavin of the English department, and one of the people who started the garden teamed up with Dr. Sarah Karam of the biology department, and Rafael Covarrubias of the cafeteria. They started regularly collecting kitchen scraps to make into compost in two newly donated compost tumblers. They started small with two five-gallon buckets of waste each Wednesday, and plan to build from there.

Students are invited to bring their own food waste to the garden. Kimmy Olivar, a student who is also involved with the garden, says she brings coffee grounds, banana peels, apples and



Heritage Garden PC: Samantha Jensen

other food waste to the garden to use as compost.

As a liberal arts school, students learn about more than just their majors and minors. Chase Krakilo, the resident student worker at the garden, says that we can use the garden to learn about where food comes from and the work that we put in to produce it. Olivar says, "We're trying to cultivate people's minds, why aren't we cultivating people's lifestyles?"

Gavin believes the garden can help show students how to be good stewards. "Why would we not want to be good

stewards of God's creation?" Olivar adds that "part of being stewards of God's creation is to take care of it." She believes that cultivating sustainability not only benefits the school financially, but it's also good for the future generations that will come after us.

The Heritage Garden will hopefully continue to grow over the next several years. Gavin hopes that more of the campus will get involved, and they are hoping to get a full-time staff position to work on the garden soon. Olivar hopes the garden will eventually grow enough produce

so we can donate food to charities and give back to the community.

Krakilo, who grew up on a farm in Iowa, believes we need balance in a world with concrete jungles, and the garden can provide that balance to our campus. Krakilo says, "Every place that can be filled with living things should be."

For more information about the garden, and to follow for updates, visit <http://heritagegarden.blogs.cui.edu>

<http://www.cui.edu/studentlife/student-leadership/index/id/24935>



Heritage Garden PC: Samantha Jensen