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Concordia University Irvine

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Pack remembered as loving, giving adventurer

BY JOCELYN POST
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Fri., Feb. 11, Matthew Pack, senior, died while rappelling down Mildred Falls—a 400-foot waterfall—in Cleveland National Forest. An adventurous free spirit, Pack was to graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in Psychology.

Pack was one of seven children, growing up on a family farm in West Virginia. He moved to California a few years ago—quickly acquiring a love for the outdoors.

Pack participated in a variety of adventure sports including rock climbing, ice climbing, snowboarding, kayaking, cycling and running. In the summer of 2009, he biked along the West Coast from British Columbia to Tijuana. Along the way he raised money for the nonprofit Children of the Americas. He also regularly volunteered at the Boys & Girls Club of Laguna Beach and went on weekend trips to Mexico to feed children with his church, theeffect, in San Juan Capistrano.

Dr. John Lu, Assistant Professor of Psychology, spoke with Pack regarding his plans after graduation. According to Lu, Pack was always trying to balance his desire to help people with his love of the outdoors. They had talked in the past about the Peace Corps and social work as possible career options, but Lu believes Pack had resolved to continue pursuing adventure full-time as indicated by his recent purchase of a one-way ticket to Southeast Asia this summer.

Trevor Matthews, '09, was planning on meeting up with Pack during his journey. Matthews first met Pack at Rockreation—a popular rock climbing gym in Costa Mesa. The two became fast friends, enjoying weekend climbing trips to Joshua Tree.

"Matt was all about seeing new things and experiencing new places," Matthews said. "Life was his adventure."

Larry Beausoleil, sophomore, also knew Pack through climbing. Pack taught Beausoleil how to climb six months ago because he needed a lead climbing partner.

"Getting to know Matt, it was always just about kind of pushing each other to do better," Beausoleil said. "[He taught me to] live your life—enjoy your life...If you want to do something, do it!"

Beausoleil was surprised to learn that Pack had decided to try to conquer the waterfall alone, considering Pack was the one who usually insisted on the safety of climbing in a group. Pack was a member of the Southern California Mountaineers' Association (SCMA).



Hikers first heard Pack's cries for help late Friday afternoon. Helicopter rescue crews appeared on the scene shortly after and worked unsuccessfully until midnight to reach him. The attempts resumed at 6 a.m. on Saturday and were concluded by 1 p.m. Pack's death was pronounced as accidental due to muscular asphyxia—more commonly known as "harness hang syndrome."

Ryan DeLuna, senior, roomed on-campus with Pack last spring. A fellow psychology major, DeLuna considered Pack to be a fellow student athlete and a friend.

"When it came down to it, [Matt] would get work done, but while he studied, he was always planning his next big [adventure]," DeLuna said. "He cared about everyone and expected little in return."

Chris Vecera, senior, also appreciated Pack's friendship. For the past year, they climbed together several times a week.

"[My friendship with Matt] was simple," Vecera said. "We knew who we were. We had deep conversation about family and friends, but at the end of the day, we climbed to get away from all of that because we respected each other, and we were both climbing to just have fun. We were just two guys getting away from it for a little while."

A memorial service for Pack took place at

theeffect on Sat., March 5. President Kurt Krueger shared reflections written by several of Pack's professors as well as announced that Pack's parents will be presented with his diploma at graduation this May. Several of Pack's family members were in attendance.

Derek Vergara, Dean of Student Affairs, was in regular contact with the pastor of theeffect during the planning of the memorial. The University sent flowers to Pack's family during the remembrances that took place in his hometown and decided to use theeffect as the respectful medium to honor the family's wishes for his remembrance in Southern California.

Although Vergara did not know Pack personally, he acknowledged the impact that his life has had on Concordia.

"When a student passes—especially on a small campus like this—it affects the whole entire community. It doesn't matter how well that person is known. It does affect us in a very deep and meaningful way," Vergara said.

Vergara reminded students that grief counseling is always available through the Wellness Center.

Over the past few weeks, some frustration has

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Former basketball player seeks justice

BY ANNMARIE UTECH
STAFF WRITER

Andre Murillo, 20, a former student and basketball player at Concordia, was at the Superior Court at the Harbor Justice Center beginning Feb. 7 for preliminary hearings. Two years ago he was stabbed while outside at a party in the Irvine area. In court, he faces the accused, Abdullah Wahidi, 23, a West Hills man.

"Back then I wasn't the type of person to turn the other cheek," Murillo said about the fight, which started as a staring contest, turned verbal and then physical. He spent 15 days in the hospital, went through four surgeries and fought off pneumonia due to the stabbing.

Murillo knew that one day he would have to face his accused attacker in court.

"The trial weighed on me heavily for a year. I was really consumed by it," Murillo said.

Those feelings were further intensified with frustrations coming from the Defense Attorney. They filed a plea bargain that could have reduced Wahidi's charges from attempted murder to assault with a deadly weapon. Those charges would have resulted in only six months in jail for Wahidi.

Articles about the trial featured in the "OC Register" created an outcry from the general public eventually leading to the plea bargain's withdrawal.

"After that, I had low expectations of the justice system. I'm very cautious," Murillo said.

With the withdrawn plea bargain and the judge having ruled that there is a sufficient amount of evidence to show that Wahidi ran out of the house with the intent to kill Murillo, Wahidi could face a lifetime in prison.

Murillo believes that Wahidi needs a sufficient amount of time to contemplate his actions as well as to keep others safe.

"He put a life at risk, and I do believe there should be justice done," Murillo said.

The preliminary hearings have included testimonies from the leading detective, Dr. Frank Nastanski, the trauma surgeon who described Murillo's condition on entering the hospital and Irvine Police officer, Luis Flores, who interviewed Murillo right after the attack.

Murillo credits his faith in God to helping him through the hearing.

"I found the Lord during the summer, and I surrendered everything to him. [The trial is] not something that consumes me anymore. I have been forgiven for so much more. He's given me peace and rest," Murillo said.

Friends are noticing the difference in Murillo. "He's turned his whole life around. You can just tell in how he talks and speaks to everyone," said Alex Wilson, junior.

Due to everything that has occurred, Murillo believes that he has changed. "I've grown up as a person from this. I wasn't the best influence before, and I've realized that."

According to the "OC Register," Wahidi was scheduled for arraignment on Feb. 28, with a jury trial being the next step.

"Thank you for all your support and prayers," Murillo said. "They mean the world to me. But it's not about me. It's a testament to His power that I'm healthy."

Administration looks to expand faculty

BY JESSICA SCHOBBER
STAFF WRITER

In October, Concordia determined which departments could conduct a search for new faculty members. The search took place through the end of February.

"There's always tension over which departments get to hire since everyone wants new faculty, but there's never enough money to go around. It's [also] not entirely clear to everyone how hiring decisions are made," said Dr. Korey Maas, Professor of Theology and Church History.

Dr. Mary Scott, Provost and Executive Vice President, stated that the number of enrollment is the main deciding factor for which department gets to search for new staff.

"We look at enrollment in existing programs and projection of enrollment. The decision is also strategic. Is this a discipline looking to grow? Who's available? We may have been following the potential candidate for a while. It's also dependent

upon the number of units provided and the percent of faculty," Scott said.

Dr. Tim Preuss, Dean of Arts and Sciences, explained the process of applying for new faculty hires. "[In August] the Provost's Office...consults with the deans of the various schools...about the needs of each school. Each dean then submits job descriptions and position announcements for approval by the Provost's Office. Once a search has been approved, the chair of that department selects a search committee that will review the applications and interview the best—usually top three—candidates."

Concordia is currently hiring in the following departments: Biology, Business, Chemistry, Communications, Education, Exercise and Sport Science, Nursing, Psychology and Sociology. A complete list of available positions with job descriptions is available on Concordia's website, the Pacific Southwest District website and the Inside Higher Ed website among others.

In March and April, the President, the Provost,

the Associate Provost, and the deans will interview the candidates. Selected candidates for full-time positions then go before the Board of Regents, which meets four times a year and consists of members elected by the school, the district and the LCMS national convention.

"Ultimately, the regents are the ones who approve the new position and hire the [full-time] faculty. Sometimes this goes quickly. Other times it can take a while. We don't want to just fill a spot—we want to find people who will really excel as a professor," said Dr. Steven Mueller, Dean of Christ College Undergraduate Studies and Professor of Theology.

"The Board of Regents has never said no to the staff we've proposed in my four and a half years as Provost. That's because hiring the 'right' faculty member is one of the most important things we do. We take this very seriously and prayerfully," Scott said.

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Pack remembered —

surfaced amongst students questioning what has been done on-campus to remember Pack. Rev. Quinton Anderson, Campus Pastor, acknowledged this frustration and commented regarding the difficult balance between ensuring both family and friends felt cared for.

“Obviously, we want to provide care for the stu-

dents as best we can, but it is always difficult knowing the best balance with also providing respect to the family—to the parents,” Anderson said. “This was their child so we want to be able to respect their desires first and foremost.”

Anderson also spoke to the question of what tragedies—such as Pack’s death—reveal to us about life.

“We can’t shy away from the very difficult questions that force us to say, ‘Alright. There is a very real reason why Christ is needed in our lives and

the lives of the world, and it’s the only place where there can be victory in the midst of all these things,” Anderson said. “Ultimate support and comfort can only come through the promise of God where He says, ‘Look. I can show you that I defeat death.’”

Matthews, Beausoleil and Vecera continue to climb together regularly as a way of remembering their fellow adventurer.

As Vecera said, “Here’s to the guy who simply loved every minute of life that he made life worth living.”

Editorial

ATW lives out the Great Commission

The Board of Regents has approved the next Around-the-World trip for the Fall of 2012. As a member of the trip during the fall semester, I would like to share the value I place on the experience being an essential outlet of Concordia throughout the world.

On the morning of Aug. 14, I had no idea what I had gotten myself into. I closed the door to my sister’s apartment not knowing what was going to happen to me in the next 24 hours let alone the next 4 months. I was nervous but excited. I felt alone but looked forward to getting to know what would become my new family during the fall semester.

I did not even know how I had ended up on the Around-the-World trip in the first place. I had formed expectations—many wrong and few right—but had no clue that by the end of the trip I would come away with my best experience at Concordia and a story that will have a considerable impact on the rest of my life.

People close to me know that I do not make things into something they are not. People continued to talk to me about how studying abroad was going to change me. Yet, I originally saw the experience in what I thought to be a practical, realistic light.

I was going to travel the world, learning new things and drawing entertainment out of unique opportunities but knew that when it was over I

really would not be that different. I cannot concretely prove that I’ve changed externally or internally but definitely know I now look at things in a different perspective.

A paradigm shift is the greatest aspect of change that can impact an individual’s life. I have not purged my wardrobe, fasted for awareness or begun to walk barefoot around campus but have developed an entirely new reference of understanding, containing a value of much more than increased knowledge for Jeopardy questions.

This change is subtle and most likely cannot be observed. Whether it be during a history lecture or a message in chapel, I can beyond doubt say that elements of the trip are connected to events in my life today several times a day, every day.

I am not writing this article to brag as students can and do undergo these same type of transformations during a semester on campus. I am writing this article because the Around-the-World trip is everything that Concordia is about as a liberal arts, “Great Commission” university. The fact that the trip is happening again should give all associated with the University a reason to be proud as its mission statement is being lived out to the fullest extent.

The trip consisted of three themes: spiritual surrender, rigorous academic study and the development of a servant’s heart. All three were blended together in each activity. Our faith was discussed

during class lectures and service projects while course material was dialogued with professors around the clock.

Our group started every day with a group devotion along with a weekly SHOUT! service and some form of Sunday worship. A unique element of Christian community was bolstered over four months of living together without a break. No one was ever alone. Members shared stories they had never before talked about while developing a sense of identity.

The trip was a liberal arts education lived out to the fullest extent. We read literature that defined the culture of each country. We realized the wide span of the Cold War as we made connections to the global conflict during each stay. We examined the theological doctrines in each area, walking into places of worship and having dialogue with religious leaders.

Essentially, we lived the life of the country’s citizens for two weeks.

Finally, we learned that the greatest outlet of sharing faith was through love. We were not going to bring someone to Christ by giving reasons for why our God was so much better than theirs. The Truth would be made known through the love of Christ in us. We were not responsible for others coming to Christ, it was the Holy Spirit.

This trip allowed Christ to work through members of Concordia to make disciples of all nations.

Immigration reform facts and fables

BY JOSEPH LAUGHON
NUESTRA VOZ PRESIDENT

On Feb. 24, an event was held in DeNault Auditorium regarding immigration and human trafficking. It was put on by Live2Free, Nuestra Voz, the Republican Club and SIFE.

Tiffany Wong, president of the Vanguard chapter of Live2Free, spoke on the issue of human trafficking and how it relates to illegal immigration into the U.S.—Orange County in particular. A debate was also held with Concordia’s nationally ranked debate team, arguing the motion, “Given the social and economic consequences, illegal immigration causes more harm than good.”

In between these I spoke on the myths of immigration. Due to America’s status as an immigrant nation, the issue of immigration is one that is consistently discussed regarding politics and economics. As a result, a variety of arguments have consistently come up regarding the effect immigration—in particular illegal immigration—has on America.

When we look at the facts, these arguments don’t line up. We discussed a slew of myths that day. For instance, there is the issue of crime. Since Scotch-Irish settlers came from Northern Ireland in the ‘40s, the connection between violence and newer immigrants has been made. We see this connection made in our popular culture from the movies “Gangs of New York” and “The Godfather.” However, this argument falls on its face when we examine the facts.

In February of 2008, the Public Policy Institute of California came out with a major study called “Crime, Corrections and California: What does Immigration have to do with it?” This study outlined the fact that the incarceration rate for native-born adult men was 3.3 times higher than foreign-born men. When we look at men from the ages of 18 to 40, the demographic that commits most crimes in America, this rate increases to 10 times higher.

For California—a state in which 35 percent of residents are foreign born—this is incredibly telling. When we increase the scope of study to a nationwide facet, we find that the results are the same. In Congressional testimony in 2007, Anne Morrison Piehl of Rutgers University told the House Judiciary Committee that “...immigrants have much lower institutionalization rates than the native-born—on the order of a fifth the rate of natives. More recently arrived immigrants had the lowest relative institutionalization rates, and the gap with natives increased from 1980 to 2000.” So much for that story.

The next major myth that was talked about

was the supposedly adverse effect that immigrants have on wages, jobs and government assistance. This seems intuitive to many Americans, but realistically, it is not how the labor market works. In 1995, in one of the most exhaustive studies of immigration’s effect on the economy, Cato Institute authored a study entitled, “Immigration: The Demographic and Economic Facts.” It cited over 16 studies from the 1940s until 1995 that found that increases in immigration had no adverse effect on the jobs market or on American wages.

As far as government assistance and taxes goes, “USA Today” noted on Apr. 11, 2008, in a piece titled “Many illegal immigrants pay up at tax time,” that the famous 1996 welfare reform signed by President Clinton made it legally impossible for non-citizens to gain any kind of Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid. Despite this, billions are paid into the tax system—specifically Social Security every single year.

The article finds, “...illegal immigrants contributed \$428 billion dollars to the nation’s \$13.6 trillion gross domestic product in 2006.” The intuitive and reasonable fear that many Americans have regarding economic woes simply isn’t grounded in truth.

The last major misconception we discussed

prior to the debate was the issue of cultural integration. Since mass droves of new immigrants coming through Ellis Island, a social fear has begun that “these” immigrants are different and will not easily become integrated and enter the American cultural mainstream.

This argument is unfounded. The simple fact is that this fable is repeated for every new immigrant group from Irish to Italians to Germans and does not hold much water. In addition to this, the Census Bureau held a report in 2007, called the “Selected Social Characteristics of America: 2007.” This report found that while the first generation has only 23 percent proficiency in English, by the third generation, 94 percent of those recently descended from immigrants speak English as their first language.

It is clear that immigration is a thorny issue with many different sides. We can plausibly disagree on issues with respect to visa caps, national quotas and how to handle the current undocumented population of the U.S. However, it is clear that these particular myths are not only consistently told but that they are false and have no place in a mature discussion of the issue. It is my hope that for a more positive discourse on the subject, we can collectively lay these fables to rest.

Letter to the Editor

Releasing the graduation grasp

It’s spring semester, and for many of our seniors, graduation is fast approaching. Unfortunately, there are some seniors who have been working towards this goal without realizing that, come this May, they will be scrambling to sign up for more classes instead of receiving a diploma.

Because of the small nature of Concordia, we come in as freshman or transfers and are immediately ushered into the classes our advisors tell us to take. Semester after semester, we are ruled by our grad plans—signing up for classes that have been written down for us. Sometimes these grad plans are correct. Sometimes they are not.

It is tempting to hold Academic Advising accountable for the mistakes that leave these students a semester or two behind in their plans, but that would be just another mistake.

Though Concordia has turned the advising experience into a hand holding epidemic, students must ultimately be responsible for their own graduation—just as they are for their own learning.

In the classroom, students are expected to manage their time and turn in all of their assignments without reminder. As a student working towards graduation, one needs to manage one’s own semesters so that each necessary class is completed without relying on Academic Advising to take care of it.

At our first advising appointments, we are given a catalogue that lists the particular courses we are required to take to graduate on time. Our school website has worksheets for the general education requirements. Our advisors are happy to look through our list of questions and ideas for the future. We have the resources to get ourselves to graduation.

Students at other schools may never meet with their counselors until it is time to apply for graduation. Some students may even bypass this meeting, choosing to apply for graduation online. We are blessed to have such access to our advisors, but we cannot abuse that access. I think it is time for Concordia to take a look at how it teaches its students to function in the adult world. We need to stop treating our advisors as the key holders. They are there to advise us—not to do the work for us.

The fact is that a mother trying to hold more than two hands cannot really have a hold on any of her children because she herself has only two hands. Our advising department reaches out for the hand of each and every student on campus. At some point, it changed from a firm grip to a desperate grasp at our fingertips.

The good news is students on this campus are not children. We do not need to hold our mother’s hand so much as we need to learn to cross the street ourselves.

Take responsibility for your education, Concordia. Look both ways. Check and double-check your graduation plan against your catalogue and the other resources at your disposal. It’s your degree. Take charge of it.

—Ruth Ellis, senior

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We want to hear from you.
Write a “Letter to the Editor.”
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Letters to the Editor must be typed and include the author’s full name and telephone number. Letters that are printed may be edited for space and content. Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Concordia Courier*.

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Student Leaders Speak

Emily Goins
ASCUI President Elect

2011-2012 Presidential Goals

I am extremely blessed to have the opportunity next year as ASCUI President to represent and serve my peers.

There are many goals that should be fulfilled next year through my role personally as ASCUI President, the Executive Board as a team, student leadership as a whole and the efforts of the student body. With the support and trust of the students, faculty and staff I am confident that much will be accomplished this upcoming year.

My personal goals as ASCUI President are focused on my peers and their success and happiness at Concordia. I intend to be approachable to the student body, appreciative of criticism and focused on Christ throughout my term.

Students should feel comfortable approaching me with their questions and concerns. Criticism—when used appropriately—can be very beneficial. I am excited for students to share with me their thoughts and assessments of the efforts made by ASCUI, and I will strive to use this information to benefit CUI in future decisions.

To be an effective leader, I must place the needs of the students above all else and aim to keep my focus solely on living out the Great Commission through my vocation as ASCUI President.

We are blessed to have had elected for the 2011-2012 school year a very strong and passionate Executive Board. There are definite general aspirations that should be met in the semesters to come.

ASCUI should focus on the positive alterations made in the past few years and expand upon them. This includes keeping Concordia Christ-centered, ensuring that the students are always taken into consideration when decisions are being made by administration, maximizing Concordia's aesthetic appeal through event advertising, maintaining a unionized student leadership calendar, encouraging an eco-friendly campus, supplying ASCUI Senate with additional purpose and responsibility and unifying the student body. The best way to ensure that these topics are addressed and goals are achieved is to establish within ASCUI a universal focus and create obtainable goals.

I have watched student leadership at Concordia grow constructively and fruitfully in the past three years. This past February, Concordia had a substantial amount of students apply for positions throughout all elements of student leadership. This is an exceptional accomplishment for the success of student leadership on campus.

In order to maintain this positive growth, student leadership must focus on our joint goal to serve the students of CUI guided by the Great Commission of Christ.

As student leaders we need to be a constant reminder to each other that servant leadership is real leadership. I am excited to see next year's student leaders continue to develop our campus into the university that we know it can be.

My most important goal for you, the student body, is to be involved. If we want Concordia to continue to be a university that we are passionate about and satisfied with, we need to encourage and support each other as peers. As students we must show respect for our campus, faculty and staff, as well as the community surrounding our beautiful university. I want to see the student body more directly involved in the decisions ASCUI makes and the concerns of the students met.

I am anxious to see how we live up to these goals next year and excited to have the opportunity to begin next year with such a passion from the student body. I am confident that this next year is going to bring growth and excellence to our university through the enthusiasm of student leadership.

Student Services Fee increase explained

BY KAITLYN SOLTESZ
STAFF WRITER

Beginning this past fall, Concordia raised the Student Services Fee from \$300 to \$600 per year in hopes of benefiting student activities.

In 2008, Concordia experienced a harsh budget cut which affected Student Affairs greatly.

"There were many complaints from students after the budget crisis so I wanted there to be an increase in the fee in order to benefit on campus activities and give the students back the advantages of being involved," said Derek Vergara, Dean of Students.

The decision to raise the Student Services Fee was not taken lightly. The administration put together a presentation which was presented to and voted on by Student Senate.

"There was some pressure from above to increase the fee, but Senate asked tough questions. Senate just wanted to make sure that they had a say of where the money would go and made sure that it would generously be given back to the students," said Nathan Carnahan, ASCUI President.

The Student Services Fee was first introduced in 2005 but was very small.

"When the fee was first introduced it was more of just a general fee and not tracked very well but now we have gotten much better at tracking where exactly the money is going because it is all filtered through me," said Vergara.

Due to the raise in the Student Services Fee, Concordia has been able to provide many benefits for the students. Some of these benefits include a counselor in the wellness center, graduate assistants, money for the Provost to invest in commu-

nity development for on campus students, LEAD and ASCUI events including Concordia T-shirts at the beginning of every year, TOMS shoes events, homecoming, A Concordia Christmas and the new flat screen televisions in Sigma and Rho.

"In the future I would like to use some of the Student Services Fee for redoing the weight room, fixing and painting Sigma Square and the lounges in the quads and providing a place for commuters to be and hang out at on campus," said Gilbert Fugitt, Director of Student Leadership and Development.

Another expense that the Student Services Fee covers is the organizations within LEAD and all of the student leaders.

These organizations consist of Civic Engagement, Commuter Outreach, Diversity Awareness, Fusion, Intramurals, On-Campus Clubs, Outdoor Recreation and Screaming Eagles.

First-Year Experience (FYE) is another organization, but it is specifically for freshman students. FYE's main purpose is to integrate freshman into an academic setting.

"FYE is completely self-sufficient. There is an orientation fee which covers WOW and Freshman Seminar has a fee as well. We don't have anything to do with the Student Services Fee," said Monica Lum, Director of First-Year Experience Programs. Residential Education and Services were unable to comment on whether they benefit from the Student Services Fee or not.

Concordia's Student Services Fee is in the middle to high range compared to other schools within the GSAC. Azusa Pacific's fee is \$300 per year with an additional fee for freshman parking of \$275. Concordia's parking is free for all students.

New ASCUI leaders promise direct communication

BY JOSEPH LAUGHON
STAFF WRITER

The Associated Students of Concordia University Irvine (ASCUI) elections are over, and the votes of over 350 students are in.

The results are as follows: Emily Goins has been elected President for the 2011-2012 term. Michelle Lee won the office of Vice President. Melissa Karnazes will be Secretary. Alex Harris was elected as Treasurer, and Margaret Foreman will be the new Communications Director.

The University's Senators for the 2011-2012 term are Miseker Abate, sophomore, Jose Alatorre, freshman, Keane Anrig, freshman, Brianna Lamanna, sophomore, Gabriel McDermott, freshman, Sarah Pineda, junior, Nicolas Townes, sophomore, and Breanna Wengel, sophomore.

Anrig, who was a senator last semester and who ran for the position of Communications Director, noted how important elections are to the functioning of student government.

"It's important that you get the right people to represent you and do the job to which they are elected. It's important that they know what they are doing and that they want to serve their fellow students—their peers," Anrig said.

Furthermore, he emphasized that student government is, in fact, very relevant to the student's day to day life.

"They are your intermediaries between you and the faculty and staff. They represent you and work for you."

The new candidates promised to address a variety of issues relevant to students, but the one thing that everyone agreed on was "maintaining

Point Loma's Student Services Fee is the same as Concordia's at \$600 per year. Cal Baptist charges \$470 per year for Student Services but also has a mystery "general" fee of \$665 per year. San Diego Christian's Student Services Fee is \$526 per year but also has a technology fee of \$346 per year and a health fee of \$62 that all students must pay. Other universities within GSAC such as Biola, Vanguard and Westmont would not release information on how much their Student Services Fee is.

"I believe when it comes to the Student Services Fee, I have a strategic plan. I try extremely hard to be a good steward to the students here at Concordia and their money," said Vergara.

The only numbers that Concordia's administration was able to provide about how the money is distributed was provided by Vergara. "This is a very rough estimate but about half of the money goes directly to student experience, a quarter goes to Gilbert Fugitt for Leadership and Development and a quarter goes to the Provost to further the learning community," said Vergara.

"I haven't seen any of the numbers, but I do see that the student fee has made a positive difference... Student leaders and administrators are more comfortable spending money specifically for student activities," said Carnahan.

Vergara stated that the Student Services Fee will not increase again for a very long time.

"It is all up to the students as to where the money from their fee will go. The directors of Student Services and I try to approve all student requests within reason... I love that the student leaders take responsibility for themselves, each other and the student community by trying to create activities for everyone to get involved in," said Vergara.

direct lines of communication between students, faculty, administration and all decision making bodies" as outlined in the ASCUI Student Government Constitution.

What also has been clear is that for many—both those who were victorious and those who were not—participating in student government is a very positive experience as a part of their student life.

Lamanna said, "Running for Senate was an amazing experience. I enjoyed being able to participate in discussions, and everyone always had new ideas for improving the school such as the clock in the cafeteria and the DVD rental machine in Sigma. It was really nice to contribute to the school and actually get things done."

Latin for History majors?

BY PAUL MENDEZ
STAFF WRITER

The History Department has been considering adding Latin as a requirement for History majors. Dr. Daniel van Voorhis, Department Chair and Assistant Professor of History is excited about the possible inclusion of Latin.

Currently, there is no real need or necessity for students to partake in any of the few foreign language classes offered on campus. At the moment, there is only discussion about teaching classical languages. However, it is very close to being incorporated.

Incorporating Latin into a History major will play a large role in students' lives after graduation. Many current History majors are not annoyed by the idea but instead, are excited to learn a language that will give them further knowledge in their area of study.

Van Voorhis said that the History majors have, "risen to the occasion." History major Emily Ramey, sophomore, is excited to learn Latin as a part of the requirement for her major.

Caleb Karges, current graduate student at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and recent History major graduate from Concordia, said, "Students would definitely benefit from having to learn Latin—even if only reading it."

Currently, the languages offered at Concordia are limited, with only a handful of classes offered and very low numbers of students in these classes. Having to bring in other professors to teach these small classes has been a struggle. There are two professors on campus who are fluent in Latin. This will make it fiscally easier to incorporate the classes.

The incorporation of Latin into the History major would not take place until the Fall of 2012, but as of now, everything seems to be leading in the right direction towards a more unified and focused academic teaching on campus.



Cameron Pullmann, senior, leads the group in a worship song on the lawn in front of the CU Center.

BY JOSEPH LAUGHON
STAFF WRITER

Ashley Turner, senior, is leading a new open-air worship session with the organizational help of fellow senior, Mary Ettner.

Turner explained that she was inspired by Concordia's summer mission trip to India and the worship experiences she encountered there.

Energized by the summer, Turner and many other students have been holding Wednesday morning worship outdoors on the Grimm lawn at 10:30 a.m.

Turner stressed that the group is not trying to replace chapel.

"We figured because so many people enjoy SHOUT!, we might as well have more worship," Turner said.

"Every time I've been to chapel, it has been a highly rewarding experience. Having one more day for such an opportunity wouldn't be a loss in any way, shape or form," said Elyssa Sullivan, junior.

Turner emphasized that this effort is a fairly spontaneous and student led event.

"We are not part of any one organization. It's just us having some worship," she said.

The style of organization reflects this free form approach. People can suggest songs, read Bible verses or pray out loud.

The effort has spread via social networking sites such as Facebook and through word of mouth.

According to Turner, it seems students have been reacting positively to the additional worship and have been expressing interest. There have been three meetings so far, and there will be more in the future as long as the group grows.

Tennis preps to return to Nationals

BY TEAL METZNER
STAFF WRITER

The tennis season got off to a great start when both the men's and women's teams beat out Hope International University on Feb. 15, with the men winning 8-1 and the women winning 9-0.

The success continued with the men's matches on Feb. 19, against Biola University. The women's team beat Cal State LA as well on Feb. 21. However, both teams lost to Point Loma and Azusa Pacific. The men posted a 2-3 record going into their match against top ranked Fresno Pacific on Saturday, while the women were 2-2.

Head Coach Jonathan Sanchez is in his first year with Concordia. Sanchez was a former stand-out tennis player at the NCAA Division 1 level for Brigham Young.

"Coach Sanchez connects well with us and allows our input for practice and matches, which is great for the team," said Kristin Yep, junior. Yep is currently ranked number 4 on the women's tennis roster.

Jordan Hovis, sophomore, said, "I think he's a great addition to our team this year. He's easy to talk with, and even though it's his first season, he knows what he's talking about when he gives us pointers on the courts. Also, he's easy to relate to since he's so young."

Both the men's and women's tennis teams have top international players coming from places such as Germany, Russia, Argentina, Brazil, Switzerland and Hong Kong.

Jan Guler, sophomore, is from Switzerland. "I was nationally ranked in the under-16 category. I was 17th in all of Europe and in the under-18 category, I was 40th in the world," Guler said. A wrist injury later proved to be a setback in Guler's tennis career.

The team is hoping to have a greater turnout for matches this year.

"The bad thing is that we don't really have any fans come out. It's because we rarely play on campus since we only have four courts," Guler said.

"We know it's difficult since most of our matches are not on campus, but when we are on campus, it's really nice to feel the energy from the crowds. And if you are able to support off-campus, it would be greatly appreciated," Yep said.

The men's team was ranked number 5 in the NAIA's latest poll while the women's team held down the number 10 spot.

The next match for the men's team that will take place near campus will be against Midwestern State on March 12, at 1 p.m. at the Costa Mesa Tennis Center. The women's team will be playing Indiana University at 5 p.m. on March 15, at the same site.

Track and Field breaks records in Boston



PHOTO BY MARK DUERR

BY PRISCILLA BARBANELL
STAFF WRITER

Track and Field attended the annual Valentine Invitational, hosted at Boston University, on Feb. 11. The team performed quite well producing a number of new records.

On top of winning their heat in the Distance Medley Race (DMR), Jenny Mallen and Emily Ramey, sophomores, and Jordan Baker and Rocio Pelayo, juniors, also improved their time to 12:35.25. They knocked off more than 16 seconds, surpassing the "A" standard—the highest attainable personal goal for track and field.

Pelayo sprinted through the finish line, winning the medley by a tenth of a second. "We were all just standing there in excitement, watching Rocio finish and thinking, 'We're really going to get 1st right now,'" said Baker.

The first day of competition, Pelayo and Mallen both had late evening races, but that did not hold them back from improving their individual standards in the DMR the following morning.

In those evening races, Mallen set a personal record in the 5K, which also qualified her for nationals by more than half a minute. In the 3K, Pelayo improved her "A" standard time while also qualifying for nationals.

Baker and Ramey both set personal records in

the 800 meter and were within close reach of an "A" Standard. "Coach was definitely satisfied with our results, but I know he sees a lot more out of us," Baker said.

Martin Gonzalez, Head Coach of Track and Field, has high expectations for his athletes.

"Boston was not an easy itinerary. We had to learn how to use the subways and the indoor experience is newer and different, but they didn't let any mental blocks get in their way."

Nick Robinson, senior thrower, broke a school record in the shot put competition. He won first place in his event while Caleb McCurry, sophomore finished fifth. Shane Tucker and Josh Allen, juniors, finished eighth and tenth respectively.

Junior Bryan Harkins ran the 60 meter dash in 7.33 while junior Francisco Garcia came within five seconds of an "A" Standard in the 5K.

"Bryan has broken school records and is a great leader. I see it at practice all the time," Gonzalez said. "They all work extremely hard and welcome my style of coaching. I am always asking for more. They all have a very coachable spirit."

The team is very thankful for the Boston experience—especially because of the high respect of talent at their invitational. Coach Gonzalez saw character out of his athletes and felt that Boston was the right place to do so well.

The team competed in NAIA Indoor Nationals in Ohio over the weekend.

National champ continues NAIA dominance

BY KYLE INFANTE
STAFF WRITER

Nick Robinson is a state champion thrower who is back to dominate NAIA track and field for one more season.

Like most sports on campus, there is a face to every team. Justin Johnson for basketball, Amber Ridens for volleyball and Katie Carson for softball. Out of every sport on campus, the one who towers above them all, literally, is Nick Robinson, senior.

Robinson, standing at 6'4", is the top thrower on the track and field squad and is the well-deserving face of the team. The lefty won a national title in both the shot put and the discus last season with throws reaching 60'3" and 168 feet respectively. Out of the two throws, Robinson says that the shot put is his strongest, which he has thrown 61'1" for

a personal record and a school record.

Robinson started throwing during his sophomore year at El Toro High School.

"During my junior year, I knew that throwing was something I was good at and could compete at a higher level," Robinson said.

For someone who started throwing late, Robinson has turned out to be a solid addition to Concordia Track and Field. He threw 197 feet in the discus—fourth in California.

After high school, Robinson attended UCLA for three seasons—redshirting one season. During his time at UCLA, Robinson posted personal records of 61 feet in the shot put and 171 feet in the discus. He then transferred to Concordia in 2010 and made an immediate impact on the team.

The track and field team has 32 members this season—both men and women—with five of them

being throwers. Robinson's former team, UCLA, is significantly larger with 73 members on the men's team alone. With a considerably smaller team, Robinson has been able to separate from the pack and emerge as the team's face.

An example of that was at the APU Last Chance Qualifier, which took place in Azusa on Feb. 19. Robinson won the shot put event by six feet, and his throw did not even break 60 feet. In fact, Robinson has separated himself from second place by five to seven feet each meet so far this season. Also, Robinson does not just have the furthest throw at Concordia this year but at UCLA as well. His 61'1" indoor mark is one inch further than UCLA's top shot putter, Darius Savage.

Robinson's next appearance will be in the first outdoor meet of the season—the Point Loma Collegiate Open Meet on Sat., March 19, in San Diego.

More than a biblical tribe

BY BETHANY LOESCH
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

During this Concordia Men's Basketball season, four students have been paying tribute to Coach Ken Ammann and his team by imitating the coach's signature look: a sweater vest, collared shirt and slacks.

Ryan Kuddes, senior, started the trend during his sophomore year. "I was the first one to dress like him two years ago one time at a game as a joke," he said. "I was also the victor on the first ever Ammann Sweater Vest Contest."

This season, Kuddes was joined in the front row by fellow Ammann imitators Jeff Tatum, senior, Mitch Mattoon, junior, and Dustin Noel, junior. Together, they are the Ammannites. They can be seen front and center in the stands at virtually every game—home or away.

Ammann was unsure of the Ammannites' motives at first. "I thought they were from the other team making fun of me," he said. "My kids think

they're the funniest thing ever."

Despite Ammann's initial impression, the Ammannites' motives are far from any form of mockery. "Imitation is the largest form of flattery," Kuddes said.

The Ammannites are not at all shy about their respect and admiration for Ammann. "He's got style," Mattoon said.

"In my opinion, Ken Ammann is a better coach than John Wooden," Noel said.

The Ammannites have confused many fans with their attire. "One time, a guy asked if we were a quartet singing the national anthem. People have thought we were coaches before too," Kuddes said.

The four upperclassmen enjoy showing their support for the team through their matching Ammann apparel. "I like doing it because it separates us from all the other fans," Kuddes said.

"I feel we can will this team to a championship," Noel said.

Ammann appreciates everything the Ammannites have done for the team this season. "They've

been unbelievably loyal. They've made the season a lot of fun," he said. "It's a little irritating that they all look a little better than I do in the sweater vest, but it's flattering."

Two of the Ammannites, Kuddes and Mattoon, will even be accompanying the team to Kansas City for the NAIA National Championship Tournament. "It'll be cool to go on this trip and support them on their national championship," Mattoon said.

Kuddes, who lives in Kansas City, told Ammann that if the team makes it to the final four, he would host a party at his house.

"It's great that they're coming along," Ammann said. "They're gonna have a blast." Ammann encourages the Ammannites to, "Pack five sweater vests because we're gonna win all five."

SportsLine



Stephen Puls
Sports Editor

Midwest Madness

The Buffalo Funds NAIA National Tournament is almost a little too much madness for me. The format of crowning a champion out of 32 teams in one week allows parity to run its course. Every team in the field is a championship contender as the best teams in the NAIA also have to be the hottest teams at the time of the tournament.

Thirty win seasons, conference championships and GSAC hardware are no longer considered in Kansas City.

However, the Eagles have shown that they could not be more prepared for the coming free-for-all. They are more than just a ping-pong ball spinning around in the NAIA lottery box. They have one of the greatest players in GSAC history in Justin Johnson—who can surely show off his serious clutch clout to the Midwest-ers if needed. JJ should be the focus of every half court set as no NAIA defender can guard him.

Its been eight years since Ken Ammann cut down the nets in KC, and he surely wants more this year than a consecutive GSAC Coach of the Year honor. Maybe he'll bring something back from his days at Stanford—where he molded Adam Keefe into a future NBA superstar and led the Cardinal to an NIT title in '91.

Stamina and endurance are obviously essential to the tournament. The developed fast break and perimeter shooting attack of Cameron Gliddon and Austin Simon will be key to Eagle success—especially when facing the depleted lineups of opponents. There is no question Peter Smith will constantly be looking to push the ball down court. Speed and transition will be a key factor in later rounds.

The brute strength of Tommy Grando will also be an added weapon. Big Tom will give the Eagles instant energy off the bench with his rebounding abilities—especially on the offensive glass. Taylor King enters the tournament in an ideal situation as teams have begun to adjust to his presence in the NAIA. He's surely capable of single-handedly guiding the team in a championship run if he can properly balance his post play and his unlimited range on the perimeter.

I can't end without giving Women's Basketball some recognition as well. The Eagles' five senior starters not only endured a challenging season, but on top of it, managed to contend in conference play. Take away a few last-second shots by opponents and the team is preparing for the national tournament as well.

It was a season of great improvement regardless, with an upset win over Biola in the GSAC Tournament coming as a great way to conclude.

PHOTO COURTESY BETHANY LOESCH



From left to right: Tatum, Mattoon, Ammann, Noel and Kuddes

The Ammannites hope that what they have started will continue for Concordia Men's Basketball in the future. "Hopefully we've started a tradition so that when some of us graduate, others will fill in," Tatum said.

"I want to give a public thanks," Ammann said. "It's a nice shot in the arm on my tenth year to have these guys making the season a little more lively. It's nice to see students having fun and being passionate about their time here. They're doing it."



Artist Spotlight

Savannah Merrill

Dance Revelations

Over the past 14 years of my life, I have been blessed with the opportunity to study dance not only in my hometown of San Luis Obispo but also in places such as the Czech Republic and China. My repertoire varies from classical ballet to hip hop. My junior and senior year in high school I taught hip hop to students at a studio my old tap teacher owns. I would also substitute for ballet company classes, pointe classes and jazz and contemporary classes.

The person who initially made me want to dance and has kept my passion thriving is my sister, Brittany Merrill. She has been pursuing dance as a career for the past four years since her scholarship at the Edge in Hollywood. Her amazing work ethic and dancing talents are such an inspiration to see. She has performed with artists such as Katy Perry, Asher Roth and Charo. My sister is a constant inspiration for my dancing.

Throughout my ballet career, I have been privileged to be in performances such as *"The Nutcracker,"* playing a variety of roles including Clara, *"The Twelve Days of Christmas,"* playing a lead role of Boy in Green and several other roles, and *"Robin Hood,"* playing the lead female role of Maid Marian.

For jazz and contemporary, annual performances were done to show off what we had competed year round. My studio, American Dance of SLO, would travel to different conventions and competitions such as LA Dance Force and Tremaine Dance where we almost always won best overall. My favorite best overall win was when my sister put an adorable duo on my close friend and I. I have won several year-round convention scholarships, meaning I can attend that convention at any point in the year, and it is prepaid.

Summer dance intensives are a period of time—usually a month or two in length—where a dancer can go study with new instructors in a new environment and really focus on just dancing in hopes of improving. I have attended intensives at San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, American Ballet Theatre (ABT), Ballet Austin and Ballet Ostrava. I was awarded full rides to both the Ballet Austin and the SF Conservatory intensives.

Although traveling to Czech Republic, was a trip full of exciting adventures and people I will never forget, SF Conservatory was by far my favorite. This was due to the unique styles I studied there. There was very little classical ballet or cliché jazz. Instead we studied contemporary ballet and modern.

I was lucky enough to go to China when I was nine along with my studio, which at the time was Academy of Dance. We visited Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai and a couple other cities. Although I was young, I will never forget the busy streets, different atmosphere, humidity and above all, the gorgeous architecture. We performed for dance studios there, and they would perform for us. It was astounding how flexible the children were at such a young age. It was truly a memory I will never forget.

I am currently a member of CUI's Dance Company. I was very excited to hear about it when I initially came to visit. After 14 years I wanted to continue to devote part of my life to my passion and love for dance. Working with other girls in a mature college atmosphere has been a great experience. Tyson is a wonderful choreographer, and I feel blessed to work with him.

A dance company is sort of like a sorority. It is filled with people whom we get close with and have each other's backs even though we may not hang out all the time at school. We work very well together and are all open to each other's input. Due to our great communication and work ethic, I believe that CUI Dance Company will grow amazingly well in the time ahead of us.

I could never fully give up dance. Not only has it been something I have spent a lot of time on, but it is also something that brings me great happiness especially on days full of stress or sorrow.

Drama's 'Dream Team' makes history at theatre festival

BY MICHAEL ANNUNZIATO
STAFF WRITER

Theatre students Aimee Burdette and Justin Jorgensen, seniors, advanced to the American College Theater Festival (ACTF) finals in dramatic fashion—leaving the Los Angeles Theater Center as one of the top college drama duos in the western U.S.

The Irene Ryan ACTF is a national tournament which judges actors, directors and playwrights on their ability to write, direct and act out scenes during the four day event.

The acting portion consisted of 260 pairs of actors from universities all over the western U.S. and even included actors from as far as American Samoa and Guam.

"[It's] the college world series of acting. I don't mean to toot my own horn, but it's kind of a big

deal," said Burdette.

This is the furthest that any Concordia duo has ever advanced in the regional tournament.

Jorgensen could hardly believe how successfully they performed on such a big stage. He added that he had jumped in excitement when he found out that they had made the finals.

"We wanted to get to the finals, but it always seemed like an unattainable goal," Jorgensen said.

However, it wasn't as if Burdette and Jorgensen just stumbled into the finals by accident—the two have a very impressive history.

The 2011 ACTF tournament was Burdette's fourth year participating and her third year nominated as the lead actor of the campaign. Jorgensen turned down his own lead actor nomination to pair up with his stage partner and best friend, creating his self titled "lazy dream team"—due to their similar talents and a propensity for putting off busy-

work until the last minute.

Burdette and Jorgensen were anything but lazy in the four day tournament. In the first round, the pairs of actors each performed a five minute scene upon which they were judged. Next, the field was cut from 260 down to 32 teams. The 32 then each performed two scenes. The field was again cut to 16 teams with the final round consisting of two scenes and a monologue.

The days were long—starting at 9 a.m. and continuing until as late as midnight. After her achievements on the big stage, Burdette attracted the attention of professional casting companies and others in the industry.

The two actors agree that the support they received from staff and students alike was impressive. There was so much emotional energy put in from all involved, that even Professor Lori Siekmann, Director of Theatre Activities, was brought to tears.

Choir sings 'Aloha!' in Hawaii

BY MARK PIRCHER
STAFF WRITER

During the week of spring break, Dr. Michael Busch, Director of Choral Activities, and the Concordia Choir, had the opportunity to tour Hawaii as a part of their regular four year tour cycle. There will be a home concert in the CU Center on Fri., March 11 at 7:30 p.m.

The Concordia Choir consists of 60 singers. Music majors make up more than a third of the ensemble while others include a cross section of majors offered here on campus. Many choir students are preparing to be pastors, youth directors and music directors.

While on tour, the Concordia Choir performed at various venues including Our Savior Lutheran Church, Aiea, which is the largest Lutheran church on the islands of Hawaii and at the Ala Moana Shopping Center.

During their leisure time, they had the chance to visit the world's largest outdoor shopping mall, eat dinner at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. and tour Pearl Harbor for the 70th anniversary of the attack.

Busch was excited to take the choir to Hawaii. "I enjoy mentoring students who like church music and watching them reach out to proclaim the name

"Generous Energy" comes to campus

BY KRISTEN SAY
STAFF WRITER

"Generous Energy" is Concordia's current art exhibit with art created by Sheryl Smith Seltzer.

Seltzer was born in New York, grew up in Ohio and has been living her artist lifestyle in Laguna Beach for the past eight years. Her art studio is located at the Laguna Canyon Artist Studios in Laguna Beach. She studied printmaking and painting at Duke University. She also studied art at Silvermine Institute in Connecticut and at Evanston Art Institute in Illinois.

Seltzer's art ranges from paintings and drawings to prints and even ocean paintings of waves close up and from afar. Her art pieces are each unique and vibrant and have a story behind each one. Seltzer has portraiture art, landscape and figure work—all in different variations of abstract art.

Seltzer's art specializes in contemporary woodcuts. According to rst-art.com, woodcuts are created with ink, paper and wood. It is an "art-trip involving wood."

"The art at the exhibit was very different and interesting; I have never seen wood crafted the way Seltzer had ever before," said Allison Stevens, sophomore at Irvine Valley College.

"The composition is not to show a vista or make a likeness but to establish a framework—to organize and demonstrate the energy, the rhythm, of specific but common visual delights. My images gain force as they are viewed from a distance. I hope they come alive for you and that you carry them with you in your heart," said Seltzer in her personal statement on her website. She also states that her art stands for what it is like being alive in the world and how, when we walk in the world, we are always surrounded by energy.

"Generous Energy" will be on display from March 10 to April 6. Seltzer will lecture in the CU Center at 7:30 p.m., on March 16.

of Christ," Busch said.

Rehearsing for the annual winter tour takes a lot of hard work and dedication.

"In order to have successful tours, the choir meets four days a week for practice," Busch said.

A significant amount of preparation for this tour also occurred. "My involvement with the tour was to purchase alternative outfits for the choir to wear while in Hawaii," said Benjamin Helge, senior and current president of the Concordia Choir.

"Natalie Hovsepain and I had the privilege of each conducting a piece for the tour."

There were members of the choir who felt the preparation for the Aloha Tour was never ending. The choir was required to sing a song in Hawaiian.

"Memorizing the words and songs was really hard," said Anna Hayhurst, junior.

Other choir members were looking forward to this week long tour on the islands of Hawaii. In fact, this was the first trip to Hawaii for Jeffrey Pullins, sophomore, who joined the choir as a freshman.



Choir members relax in the sun between performances. PHOTO COURTESY BEN HELGE

OCCCA features photojournalists

BY KATHERINE HOKANA
STAFF WRITER

At the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art (OCCCA) in Santa Ana, photojournalists from around the world are showcasing their latest artwork in *"Wide Angle View."* Some of the photojournalists featured were from big name publications, such as the *"Los Angeles Times," "Time Magazine"* and *"European Pressphoto Agency (EPA)."*

Wide angle view photography is taken with a lens recording a larger circumference than the human eye is able to see. This can apply to either still photography or video, and both are featured at this exhibit.

The OC Center is designed as an artist's studio with only the front desk and a few chairs for furniture in the entire place. For the areas where the photos were displayed, natural light from the floor to ceiling windows was the primary source of light. In the video room, it was darkened, and headphones were optional for each of the stations where videos were shown. Videos were no longer than five minutes, and most were one to three minutes long.

The first photo by Carolyn Cole was one of a white Saddam Hussein statue in Baghdad taken against a background of black burning buildings. Cole, an *"LA Times"* photographer, is often sent to the most dangerous areas of the world areas of armed conflict. She earned her first Pulitzer nomination in 2002, for a photo of Palestinian soldiers storming the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

Many of her photos favor civilians affected by the conflict in their areas and disfavor

U.S. military.

She also photographed at the beaches where the BP oil spill affected the environment. There was one of a pelican that was so covered in oil that he looked like a bronze statue. The caption commented that he was unable to move.

Abir Abdullah, of the *"EPA,"* also is showing a great deal of political photography. His photos mostly consist of the aftereffects of a cyclone where several thousand people were killed. The most aesthetically significant picture was of a child clinging to his mother. Besides the professional photos, he included more personal ones. There was a picture of his young son with a cricket bat in the office. He also submitted a picture of his son playing with a mask.

Heidi Laughton is an English stills photographer who teaches her trade to girls in China. She began her work in film production with Sony Music UK. She now works with the Red Cross around the world. Her photos show women in China— young and old—in various poses. On a more personal note, she showed pictures of herself when she was struggling with breast cancer. They included her receiving medication and combing her hair out.

The video photojournalist husband and wife team of Ackerman and Gruber produced several videos. Their video work focuses on the mental institute as well as several of their stills. They also did a video on what it was like to be in the Miss America pageant.

"Wide Angle View" will be showing until March 26. Admission is free. For more information visit occca.org.

Local News Briefs

COMPILED BY BETHANY LOESCH
LOCAL & GLOBAL INTERESTS EDITOR

UCI released an emergency notification to students on March 4, that reported a possible kidnapping of a woman in her 20's. After investigation authorities found that what spectators had seen was not a kidnapping but a family intervention in which the woman was actually being taken to the hospital.

On March 3, authorities found a marijuana grow house and operation center in Santa Ana that city narcotics investigators described as the largest and most high-tech operation they have ever seen. No arrests have been made, and the investigation is underway.

The City of Irvine seeks to find a slogan with a contest. As reported in the "OC Register," Mayor Sukhee Kang said it will be a "creative, innovative" statement that "will define the next 40 years."

Police arrested a man on March 3 after he was found to have robbed a Home Depot. The man took a taxi to the hardware store and got back into the taxi after committing the robbery. The taxi's GPS was used to track the robber down.

Orange County lost 21,000 jobs this year with the unemployment rate increasing from 9.0 percent in December to the current rate of 9.2 percent.

Six men were arrested in Huntington Beach in an undercover sting operation targeting internet child predators. An undercover detective posed as a 13 year-old girl on a Craigslist ad, looking to provide sexual favors in exchange for \$100. Some of the men brought drugs along when showing up to meet with what they thought would be an underage girl.

Someone has been maiming seagulls in the Huntington Beach area with over 20 gulls since Feb. 5, found with suspicious wing breaks. As reported in the "OC Register," wildlife technician Kelly Beavers said, "Everything was broken. They were only hanging by the skin. The ligaments, everything was torn; only the skin was holding the wings together."

New Director of Global Programs position created

BY MICHAEL SANOSSIAN
STAFF WRITER

Since January of this year, Concordia has been on the hunt for an individual who will take on the role of Director of Global Programs.

The University strives to give students the opportunity to travel abroad to gain a deeper global understanding of their studies. This will develop wise, honorable and cultivated students.

As the Director of Global Programs, one individual will lead and manage each of these study abroad programs. He or she will ensure that the programs are directed toward international experiences and that they meet university academic and safety standards. As the Director of Global Programs, this individual will be the "go to" person for any student, faculty member or staff person regarding any concerns or questions about overseas programs.

Ariel Castagna, junior, believes that a leader of this type would benefit the school and its programs. "I think I could have used a lot of guidance

while I was gearing up to study abroad," Castagna said. "We need someone at the helm making sure we do as much good as possible."

According to Adam Lee, Assistant Professor of English, the Director of Global Programs will be responsible for developing and maintaining a vision for the department that serves faculty, staff and students as they learn about their subjects all over the globe. This includes working closely with the Provost to communicate and coordinate the opportunities and expectations of the global studies.

The individual will also be responsible for leading various programs such as the exchange programs, study abroad programs (both third-party and faculty-led) and the global missions teams. While staying in communication between all of these various programs, the Director of Global Programs will assist faculty as they plan these programs and also work closely with various academic and student departments to coordinate travel and study plans to ensure that these travels do not fall short of the University's policies.

In the past, all of the University's study abroad programs operated in and amongst themselves. Each program was responsible for reporting to the various leadership positions on campus. In order to improve communication between these programs, Concordia is eager to fill this new position.

Although everyone is excited to see who may fill this seat, finding someone is not necessarily the easiest task. In order to qualify for the Director of Global Programs, the individual must have excellent communication skills, organizational skills and proficiency in English: writing, spelling, grammar and speaking. He or she must also possess the ability to work with a diverse group of students, the ability to work effectively with and through other people, the willingness to learn new or additional job-related tasks and the knowledge of immigration policies as they are always changing.

The search for this individual has only just begun. However, Concordia has faith that God will soon provide with a strong leader able and ready to fill this position.

Egypt's success sparks civil unrest

BY ANDRIA WASHINGTON
STAFF WRITER

Recent protests in Tunisia and Egypt have sparked much civil unrest in the Middle East as citizens rally together to gain more political freedom.

The world has watched closely as Muammar Qaddafi of Libya vowed to remain in power for the remainder of his life. Rebel forces have gained access to munitions from defecting military members and are preparing for civil war.

Protests in Yemen led to brawls in the alleys, non-cooperation with authority and President Ali Abdullah Saleh ending his term in the year 2013.

Around that region security efforts have increased. In Algeria, 50 people chanted slogans against the government in the capital city. Police surrounded the group to prevent any riots going on as a result of the incident in Egypt.

John Norton, Assistant Professor of English, said, "It is a complicated matter. Destabilizing of a nation is a frightening and dangerous thing. A brutal dictator can do many terrible things. My prayer for them is that God will bless these nations with fair, loving and strong leadership. To overthrow a leader doesn't always end positively."

Citizens in Cameroon have demonstrated "Egypt-like" protests, trying to force the president out. Sudan's president is not running for another term. Officers have been said to use excessive force during peaceful protests.

"I think people are now afraid of the government in their countries. Now people are standing up for themselves. It's the fear of a hierarchy taking down society. Plus, people shouldn't be scared but be able to live their lives. One country's troubles should not scare the rest of the worlds and their governments," said Natalie Hernishin, junior.

Some students are happy to see countries beginning to stand up for their beliefs. "From a religious stand point, Christians in the Middle East will suffer



On Feb. 25, in Benghazi, Libya, a child proudly displays the flag of the Kingdom of Libya amidst a crowd of anti-government protestors.

persecution at the hands of the radicals who took power from the dictators. But looking from a political standpoint, this will benefit the world because of the democracies that will be created," said Keane Anrig, freshman.

The King of Jordan has been asked to replace his cabinet to appease the protests there. In Bahrain, rally of citizens wanting more political freedom and jobs was repressed by the police, ending with the death of two individuals. In Iran, tear gas was used to break up opposing crowds in Tehran's Enghelab (Revolution) Square.

As for the next few weeks and months, the world will watch eagerly as more countries follow Egypt's lead in a struggle to gain various political freedoms.

Second annual Missions Week overview

BY NANNETTE TAWIL
STAFF WRITER

Missions Week took place Feb. 21 to 25, for students passionate about caring for the needs of people all around the world. Missions Week exists to provide insight and accessibility into the missions available to students at Concordia.

Melissa Karges, senior, started Missions Week last year. "Whether it's decorations up in the Caf, food focusing on regions or Bible verses resembling missions at chapel, students are constantly reminded by the celebration of Missions Week," Karges said.

During the week, chapels were centered around missions. Information was provided about mission trips to China, documentary videos were shown, and the Around-the-World Team shared their experiences from last fall with a 10 minute video.



Zach Oedewaldt and Wesley Gong, freshmen, explore the Honors Map Project in the Caf donated by the Honors Ethics Initiative Program. The map will highlight where students are travelling.

Missions Week encouraged students to be aware of the fact that serving others is a job the Lord commanded his children to do.

"In Mark 16:15 it says, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.' That is what God calls us to do," said Vicky Chiem, junior. "Missions Week is a catalyst for that—hopefully not only sparking some interests to serve but opening eyes and hearts to live and love dangerously wherever God leads you."

Students are encouraged to expand their faith by helping others outside of school whether it is nationally or internationally.

"Missions Week is necessary because it is too easy to sit in our comfort zone and pretend all the poverty in the world doesn't exist. It's very easy to get caught up in our lives and neglect those who are in need," said Misker Abate, Global Missions Coordinator.

Dana Burkey, senior, said "Last summer I was blessed to go to India and Nepal with a team of twelve for nine weeks! This year I'm going with a group of students and Professor Lee to China to teach English for about six weeks. I graduate this year. So looking ahead I see myself in the future working overseas either teaching English or working with LCMS World Missions."

The need and goal is for more students to be engaged in missions and reach every continent by 2016. For any student wanting to get involved, there is an application process in which anyone is eligible to apply. Contact Abate at misker.abate@eagles.cui.edu for more information.

Bath salts are to cocaine as salvia is to marijuana

BY KYLE INFANTE
STAFF WRITER

Bath salts are the new legal drug sweeping the nation's youth, and they can be bought at most local drug stores.

Like salvia which made its appearance a few years ago, bath salts are a new legal substance used by people to get high. This drug is said to be the legal equivalent to cocaine because of its looks and its effects.

Bath salts can be purchased at any local gas station convenience store, drug stores and even on the internet. The drug comes in powder form and can be ingested by way of snorting, injecting or smoking.

Like cocaine and methamphetamine, it can cause hallucinations, paranoia, rapid heart rates and suicidal thoughts. Unlike cocaine and meth, bath salts are inexpensive—around \$20. The components in bath salts that create the high are mephedrone and methylenedioxypyrovalerone—also known as MDPV.

According to the "Huffington Post," bath salts are sold under many names including Ivory Wave, Bliss, White Lightning, Hurricane Charlie, Red Dove and Vanilla Sky.

On the website bathsaltsdrug.com, a review was written about the three most commonly used containers—black, white and purple. The reviewer said of the black container, "Just like most other bath salts, the feeling of stimulation I was expecting came and unlike the other blends, it exploded throughout my body. This was almost an alarming amount of stimulation and was accompanied by a general

feeling of great discomfort."

He stated that his heart rate had noticeably increased and that he felt for a few minutes that he may have overdone it. The black container did not last nearly as long as the others with a high of 45 minutes but was incredibly strong.

Because of the extreme effects of bath salts, law enforcement agencies and poison control centers say the advertised products with complex chemical names are an emerging menace. Several states have talked of banning their sale as stated in the "Huffington Post." So far, the states of Louisiana, Florida and Alabama have removed bath salts from convenience store shelves and have also made them illegal.

The same is being considered in Mississippi. In Louisiana, over 125 calls were made to the state's poison center about the exposure to the chemicals in bath salts in the final three months of 2010, according to the "Huffington Post."

Throughout the Concordia community, students are puzzled and in awe about why people would even consider ingesting bath salts.

"I can't believe anyone would be dumb enough to use that stuff," said Jayd Banuelos, sophomore. Since cocaine is illegal, people who want to get high resort to bath salts since it shares the common chemicals.

"It is unbelievable that people are now resorting to smoking and snorting bath salts to get high," said Jessica Terena, junior.

Bath salts may not be illegal, but they are extremely dangerous and are not recommended for use.

THRIVENT ON CAMPUS TIPS

By Jacob Canter and Alex Harris

Below are simple tips on **SAVINGS**. Another tool to electronically organize your finances is Mint.com. This website allows you to safely track where you are spending money. Saving with a specific goal in mind always helps.

- **Open a checking account or assess the one you already have.**
 - Find an account that works for you. Make sure it is a no-fee and a no-minimum account by calling your bank. Check out accounts first at bankswitcher.com.
- **Open an online high-interest savings account.**
 - Compare at bankrate.com. There are many benefits to having checking and savings accounts separate.
- **Fund your online savings account.**
 - Leave about 2 months of living expenses in your checking account and transfer the rest to your savings account.

Our next session will be about managing investments and retirement on March 15, at 7 p.m. in the DeNault Auditorium. There will be free donuts!

Health Tip

Don't Skip Breakfast

By Carol Holt PhD RN CNS
Department of Nursing

- People who eat breakfast do better in school. People who eat breakfast daily live longer than those who don't. People who eat breakfast will have better luck losing weight. Eating breakfast helps to fine tune appetite regulation and stimulates your metabolism.
- According to a study by Haire-Joshu, Schwarz, Budd, Yount and Lapka (2011), teens that ate breakfast more regularly than those who did not consumed less calories per week and had less obesity than those non-breakfast eaters. Healthy snack consumption was also higher in the regular breakfast eaters.
- For breakfast choose something with protein and fiber since these forms of fuel last longer. By the way, a donut and a Diet Coke does not count.

The Concordia Courier's
Ballin' Bracket Battle

We aren't going to promise you \$1 million for a perfect NCAA bracket, but the winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to BJ's. Sign up online through Yahoo! The group ID number is 21175, and the password is Eagles. Only one entry per student. Leaderboards will be posted in future issues.

Career Tip

Secrets of Interviewing

By Melissa Hinrichs, Career Center Intern

How long does it take to make a first impression during an interview? On average, it can take as little as 10 seconds. Below are ways to position yourself for success:

1. **Be on Time:** Arrive 10-15 minutes early, and give yourself plenty of time to relax before the interview.
2. **Appearance:** Dress should be conservative and professional. It is better to be overdressed than underdressed.
3. **Limit Distractions:** Turn off your cell phone before an interview. Avoid taking the employer on tangents. Keep your responses focused.
4. **Be Prepared:** Research, research, research! Learn about the company. Read their mission statement, and learn about their products and services. Prepare thoughtful questions for the interviewer. This shows your interest.
5. **Thank You Note:** A timely thank you note or message is part of business etiquette. It can make a difference in the selection process.

Resources:

Practice for your interview in your PJs!: Use Concordia's on-the-spot coach, interactive interview program at cui.optimalresume.com (register with Eagles email).

What is a Behavioral Interview? Sample Questions quintcareers.com/sample_behavioral.html

STAR Method for Behavioral Interviews web.mit.edu/career/www/guide/star.html

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Sudoku Puzzle

Difficulty: Difficult

			6					2
9		3						
				3	7	4	1	
				5	6	7	2	
6		2						
			2					8
5		4		6			3	
	7		5					1
2		1		8			4	

Food Truck lunch: Fun not filling

BY ERIK OLSEN
GUEST WRITER

When I think of food trucks, I think of parking lots full of office drones swarming around grease-fueled vessels crawling with E. coli. Basically, cheap food that's more likely to kill you and less likely to fill you up.

But the OC Fairgrounds are looking to change that misconception by filling their parking lot with a wide variety of gourmet food trucks, serving up a wide variety of gourmet food every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Why? "Because," as their advertisement states, "you miss the OC Fair food. Because you're hungry!"

On the Thursday that I went, there were 10 trucks, offering everything from traditional burgers and fries to lamb meat tacos to pizza dough pillows filled with bacon and melted mozzarella. I arrived at 11 a.m., and there was already a solid turnout of construction-types, average Joes and bearded hippies. It was like Woodstock only with less nudity and more pot(s full of delicious sauces and meats). Unfortunately, the turnout was almost too good as I was only able to sample from three

of the trucks.

Spudrunners was my first stop. Spudrunners (spudrunners.com) is kind of like what the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. would be if it focused on potatoes instead of shrimp... But they also serve Texas Tri-Tip Chili and grilled cheese sandwiches if spuds aren't your thing.

I got the ¾ lb. order of French fries with French garlic dipping sauce and a cup of fresh squeezed strawberry lemonade. It came out to \$7.00 even. The lemonade didn't have much of a flavor to it, which was disappointing. The fries, however, were excellent—thick cut and with a taste of onion that was strong enough to be noticed without being overpowering. The French garlic was a surprisingly tasty substitute for ketchup that complemented the side nicely.

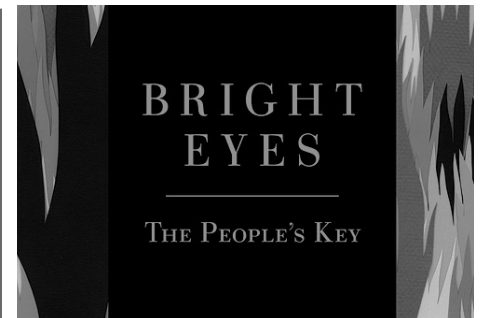
The ATW trip turned me into an insatiable burger fiend so I got pretty excited when I found the Burnt Truck (theburntruck.com)—the second stop on my extensive five second walking tour. They specialize in crafting unique sliders topped with unconventional items such as meatballs, Vietnamese Pork and Korean BBQ. Because I love to branch out and try new things, I got the cheese-burger. It was great, albeit standard stuff. The avo-

cado spread, however, set the dish apart from the average, everyday slider, giving off a cool, fresh flavor that I really enjoyed. One slider is \$2.50.

Flavor Rush (flavorrushtruck.com), the third and final stop on the tour, was definitely my favorite. They're known for their sliders, but I'd already been down that road once before so I opted for the Dos Amigos Tacos: two pulled pork tacos—topped with cilantro and "sweet-n'-tangy" homemade tomatillo sauce—and wrapped in two soft corn tortillas. I wasn't a big fan of the cilantro garnish, but everything else was fantastic—"like a party in my mouth" as the kids say. I got the Dos Amigos Tacos by themselves, for \$6.00, but there is a combo option to add fries and a drink.

This event is a lot of fun and a great way to experience an eclectic array of food in a laid-back environment with fast and friendly service. The only downside is that I spent \$15.75, overall, on portions that really weren't that big or particularly filling. Although I enjoyed the food and had a good time walking around and eating, I'm not entirely sure I got my money's worth.

For a full list of scheduled food truck appearances and other important information pertaining to the event, visit twitter.com/ocfair.



BY CHRISTINE GILBERT
STAFF WRITER

The Indie, Omaha-based band, Bright Eyes, just released their tenth studio album, "The People's Key," this past February.

The record explores Rastafarianism, but not in a Bob Marley "feel good" type of way. The sound of the album could more accurately be described as a rock band trying to play a gig at an existential vaudevillian circus. Bright Eyes' front man, Conor Oberst, then would be the overly self-aware ringmaster of said circus—constantly re-evaluating the different ways to deal with his personal demons of struggling with self-identity and his ambiguous religious faith.

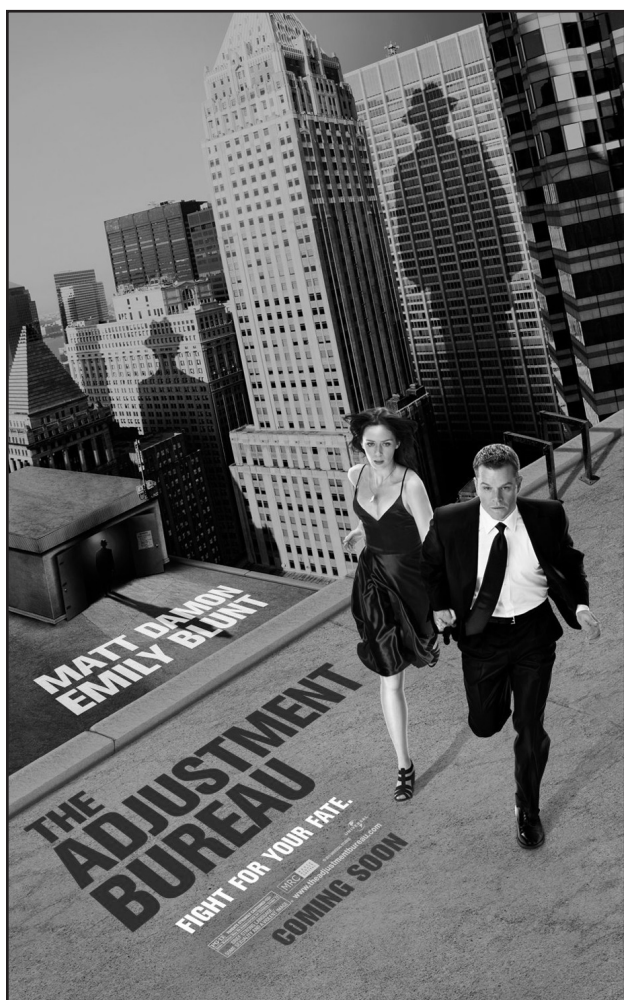
In the ballad "The Ladder Song," Oberst—accompanied only by a piano—alludes to Jacob of the Bible, the meditating Buddha and the somewhat recent New Age movement. Oberst appears to reject these three religions in the space of just under four minutes saying, "I want to fly in your silver ship" and flee from "some imagined freedom."

The catchy drum beat and heavy synthesizer make "One For You, One For Me" on an acoustic level sound like something Molly Ringwald would have danced to in "Pretty in Pink" back in the 80's. However, on a lyrical level, the song incorporates references to Hitler's and Eva Braun's death before lapsing into repeating the Rastafarian Creole phrase of "I and I." "That is an awful lie/It's I and I/It's I and I."

E. E. Cashmore, an expert on such language terms, explains the high importance of this phrase to the Rastafarian people in this way: "I and I is an expression to totalize the concept of oneness—the oneness of two persons. So God is within all of us, and we're one people in fact." So is Oberst saying we are all no better than Hitler and basically one with Hitler? I'll leave that to you to decide.

In terms of how to listen to the album, I recommend fast forwarding through the first track to the 2:23 marker. At this point Refried Ice Cream vocalist Denny Brewer's shamanistic ranting cuts off, and Oberst and the rest of Bright Eyes actually start playing. After listening to the rest of the album, go back and listen to it if you must. It might serve to frame the album nicely in terms of explaining (sort of) what Bright Eyes is trying to achieve. However, when I listen to Bright Eyes, I prefer to listen to Bright Eyes without the prolonged introductions to their albums—generally spouting Oberst's latest misguided philosophical ponderings.

"The People's Key" was produced by Saddle Creek Records. The album can be purchased at Best Buy for \$7.99.



"The Adjustment Bureau" needs no adjustment

BY LINDSAY GERNER
STAFF WRITER

Everyone on this earth has a plan that was made for their life, but what if something happened to you that wasn't supposed to be part of that plan?

Matt Damon has to go through this very unfortunate situation when the "Adjustment Bureau" tries to keep him and Emily Blunt as distant from each other as possible.

Damon plays struggling congressman, David Norris, a man who is trying to become a New York senator. One night before a major speech that is vital for his reputation and campaign, Norris runs into the very beautiful and witty, Elise (Blunt), who steals his heart and his sanity after a very passionate makeout session in the men's bathroom.

The Adjustment Bureau—a group of classy men who wear pretty awesome hats—work for "The Chairman," a mysterious higher power that controls every human beings' plan. For a reason unknown to Norris, they have been given specific instructions to keep him and Elise apart for fear of jeopardizing both of their life plans.

The film is a great concept of fate

and having the power to control your own destiny. It focuses on the small details that lead us to the people and places in our lives, and how everything we do has been mapped out and planned for us. It could happen by chance, or it could be the work of the sharply dressed Adjustment Bureau.

The Bureau men, themselves, were slightly on the cheesy side, but Damon and Blunt made up for it with their charming chemistry and silly banter that show us some great light-hearted moments in the film.

It will definitely leave you thinking about the mysterious workings of The Chairman, and what he has in store for your own plan in life. It will also leave you feeling paranoid and suspicious of anyone wearing a hat.

Will the Adjustment Bureau force Norris and Elise to be a part forever? Or will they write their own plan, proving that free will does exist and that when it's meant to be, love can survive anything? Go see "The Adjustment Bureau" and find out for yourself.

"The Adjustment Bureau" is rated PG-13 for brief strong language, some sexuality and a violent image, and is playing at Edwards Irvine Spectrum 21.

"Marvel vs. Capcom" returns for more

BY JOSH BUSCH
GUEST WRITER

It's been more than a decade since the last "Marvel vs. Capcom" made its debut in 2000. Now even flashier than its predecessor, "Marvel vs. Capcom 3: Fate of Two Worlds" is ready to take anyone for one wild ride! I personally am a strapping fan of the series and owe a great deal of my fandom to its inspiring animations and gameplay.

It is now 2011, and the era of 3-D model fighters is in full swing. The portrayal of the characters' essence is just as accurate—if not greater than—their pixel sprite forerunners. The reason for the jump is that today's systems are now able to support the workload of six fighters duking it out in one match.

Now on to gameplay. The button layout is a tad bit different than the previous game. "Marvel vs. Capcom 3" utilizes a light, medium, heavy and special attack button, along with two assists buttons to switch and attack between your three man team.

If the above explanation was too hardcore-gamer, you can relax. Capcom made this game with the casual gamer in mind. The game offers beginner players a simplified control scheme that lets anyone do outstanding feats with the ease of a couple button presses. Even a hyper combo can be activated from a single button.

Beyond simple mode, is a wealth of moves and combinations that put your wildest imaginations to the test. The special button adds a new element to this iteration of the game, which allows you to switch your team midair to continue the combo for a bit more hits. The strategy the community has come up with is staggering—especially since the game has only been out in the wild a little more than a couple weeks. This is thanks to the excellent work of the Capcom Press Release team, amping-up the hype for almost an entire year before its release.

You can't talk about the game without talking about the community behind it. Countless hours, tournaments and fighting game jargon has spawned from the series over the years, and a new generation is about to witness the magic that can only be known as "Mahvel Baybee!"

Despite the game being as grand as it is, I feel it's missing something that the previous had. Simply put, there's just not enough characters. "Marvel vs. Capcom 2" had an astounding 56 character roster, while "Marvel vs. Capcom 3" has 38. Keeping in mind that the time it takes to make a 3-D character—as opposed to sprites which were for the most part originally from previous games—an understandable dilemma has occurred which Capcom realizes. This is why they will be adding more characters as downloadable content.

Overall I'm as pleased with the game and the diverse play styles of the entire roster. We're still a few weeks into the game's life. Only time will tell if "Marvel vs. Capcom 3" can live up to its predecessor's legacy.

