This year didn’t pass quickly, but still I can’t believe that it is nearly over. I will be walking the graduation line in just a few days, and after my three years of undergraduate education, I will be finished here at Concordia.

Throughout the time that has passed, I know one thing for certain; I will forever be grateful that I chose Concordia. I have met some of the kindest and weirdest people, and I now call them my friends. My supervisors, my professors, and all the staff and faculty that I have had the privilege of knowing, have been my mentors and will be for a long time. Their lessons don’t only exist inside the classroom and I hope everyone recognizes that. The beauty of Concordia is that it helps cultivate the relationships that we hopefully will value for the rest of our lives. I pray that everyone leaving Concordia will have found the people at Concordia as wonderful as I have.

My experience as Editor-In-Chief has been an amazing one. I am truly inspired, always, by my staff, and am supremely grateful for their hard work, even in this stressful time. I hope you enjoy our last issue of the Sword as much as I have.

Thank you to my staff, who will always advocate for their right to write what’s on their minds, and thank you to all of the readers who continually support our small but beloved newspaper.

Very Sincerely,
Katrina Bell
Editor-In-Chief
Did You Do Your Taxes?
The Truth Behind Tax Evasion
By HD Downs

If you’ve ever had a job and gotten a paycheck, chances are you’ve had to do your taxes. Perhaps you took to an online tax service like TurboTax. Maybe you bribed your dad with cleaning the kitchen every day for the next six months so that he’d do them. Or, possibly, April 19th rolled around and you realized that taxes were due yesterday. Now, what? At one point or another, we’ve all had the question cross our minds: what really happens if you don’t pay your taxes?

Sure, you might have heard stories about people going to jail for avoiding taxes or about our President’s lack of tax returns, but what does that even mean? Tax evasion can be defined either by the deliberate underpayment of taxes or the complete illegal nonpayment of taxes. However, it’s important to note that tax evasion and tax avoidance are two very different concepts. While tax evasion is illegal, tax avoidance is actually completely legal. Despite its similar name, tax avoidance is a legitimate process that is approved by the Internal Revenue System (IRS) with the intent of minimizing taxes. Usually used by businesses, avoidance often consists of things like tax deductions, deferral plans, and credits.

As expected, the penalties for tax evasion differ from your income level. For the purposes of you as a reader, let’s assume that you aren’t a multimillionaire and that you’re a run of the mill, middle class, Jane/John Doe. It starts out simply and not as threatening as one might think. If you fail to file in full or not at all, you will get a letter from the IRS that basically files the taxes for you. Actually sounds kind of sweet, right? Depending on the situation you’re in, not really. The IRS will file your taxes as a single person with one exemption, which is kind of the worst case scenario, especially if you have dependents. Then the IRS will calculate your tax liability with penalty and interest. If this still doesn’t sound like that bad of an idea, there’s more. Not only will it take exceptionally longer and cost more money, but you’ll probably need to hire an actual tax professional to help you clean up the mess you’ve made.

Your credit history will also likely be compromised and the negative impact is quite significant, affecting your ability to get loans. As a run of the mill middle class citizen, jail time is unlikely, but not something to be completely ruled out. Most jail time for tax evasion is only awarded to those who are wealthy and could be seen by the government as purposefully trying to defraud it. In the wise words of Nike: just do it.

No Fines Are Just Fine!
CSP Library Fine Policy Change
By Brooke Steigauf

Concordia’s library is anticipating a change in its policy on overdue book charges to maintain positive relationships between it and the student body. In the past, books were fined twenty-five cents and videos, a dollar, per day past the prescribed due date. Reserves, since they are in higher demand and have a shorter check-out period, currently have a fine of twenty-five cents per hour past late.

Netanya Roden, the Access Services Coordinator in the library, observed these fines provoking anxiety in the students. Often, the books would be returned, but the fine would remain unpaid and linger on their account. This discouraged library-users from checking out more books and counteracted the purpose of the library as a convenient, helpful resource. The charges, referred to as “petty fines,” are not income-based, but are a mere incentive for students to return books on time. Roden decided that the fines are not worth the damage done to the patron/library relationship and therefore, revoked the policy.

Beginning June 1st, fines will no longer be used to enforcing timely book return. Instead, students will be given an eight-week check-out period (as opposed to the previous 6-week loan) for general books, as well as two opportunities to renew the book for an added 4-weeks each. In the future, students will continue to receive the automatic reminder emails about their overdue books, however if they fail to return it within the notified time limit, the book status will convert directly to “billed.” The standard billing fee remains at $65, which includes the average $60 book price and a $5 processing fee. Along with this, a hold will be put on the patron’s account, as done in the past. The juvenile books will also be granted an increased check-out period, from two weeks to eight weeks. With the extended check-out period, the library is hopeful that the students will be able to return the books more responsibly, for their own sake and that of the other users. Other upcoming adjustments in the library include a new system for finding books in CSP’s library and the other participants in the InterLibrary Loan program.

Instead of Summon and CLICnet, the search system will be transferred to “CLICsearch.” All of the forthcoming changes are to ensure that the students feel encouraged and rewarded for the utilization of their school’s resources. The library is working on making its policies as accommodating and supportive as possible for the success of its patrons.

An Experience of Connections:
Concordia Service Trip to Jamaica
By Cydi Yang

Eight Concordia students and two faculty leaders spent their spring break in Jamaica serving at Robin’s Nest Children’s Home. Robin’s Nest is located near Montego Bay on top of a mountain. The children, the Midwest connections, and high activity week kept the team motivated and busy.

The mission statement of Robin’s Nest is to “provide a nurturing, loving, safe, Christ centered atmosphere in which all children will grow at their own speed - physically, mentally, and spiritually.” The Nest is not an adoption agency, but solely exists to provide a safe environment for children in difficult situations and to help them thrive. The adoptions go through the Child Development Agency of Jamaica.

The Nest hopes the children can go back to their homes when it is stable or be eligible for a new home. The Concordia team connected, played, and helped the 35, ranging from seven months to 13 years old. From jumping on trampolines with bouncing babies, to leading art activities, to enjoying a concert performed by the elementary kids, the experience left an unforgettable mark on the lives of the students and faculty. Kimberly Newton, the co-faculty leader of the trip and Student Activities Coordinator at Concordia, said, “I loved that we had Minnesota and Midwest connections, especially meeting two Concordia alumni! The staff at Robin’s Nest were some of the most selfless, kind, and hardworking people I have ever met. The beautiful children at Robin’s Nest left a mark on my heart and I think about them all the time.”

Robinette was a St. Paul gal who began her dream by founding Robin’s Nest in 1997. Robinette stated, “I did not have one doubt at that moment that this was God’s will for my life, to start Robin’s Nest Children’s Home for those children who were without a home.” Other directors have stepped in her place since that time, but her passion to help never ceased.

Three out of four members of the director team were also Minnesotans. Janet and Kevin Krusmark, accepted full-time positions back in September 2016, sold all of their belongings along with their northern Minnesota lake house, and packed their summer clothes for the hot weather. They followed what they felt was their calling from God. Janet Krusmark attended CSP for a short time back in her college years and was ecstatic to see the Concordia team.

The other Minnesotan member of the team is Daniel Straka, who served at the Nest for 16 months back in 2013 prior to accepting the new position. Not only were the directors from Minnesota, but two of the interns were from Cambridge, Minnesota. The Concordia team chose the right time to serve. During the week, they witnessed the new tradition Kevin Krusmark created. A tree would be planted every time a child leaves onto their next chapter in life with their new and loving families.

Jahim, a 12-year-old boy, helped fill the soil back on top of his tree and spoke a
Corndelia makes the Switch: Graduate with a 120 Credit Minimum
By HD Downs

In order to be more in touch with the other private colleges in the Twin Cities, Concordia has made the decision to move from the minimum of 128 credit hours required to graduate to just 120. Effective Fall semester of 2017, almost all bachelor’s degree programs can be completed with a minimum of 120 credit hours. However, some programs will continue to require more than 120 hours because of state licensing or accreditation.

This change is expected to mostly affect transfer students and incoming freshmen, as well as current students. With this change, Concordia will become more affordable for the students affected, thus reinforcing their commitment to making higher education more affordable. In 2013, Concordia dropped its tuition by $10,000 in its tuition reset and made the university not only one of the most affordable private colleges in the Twin Cities, but also increased retention rates for the following years. Increasing retention rates is another result that Concordia hopes will come from the new credit hour shift.

Heather Barnes, a junior majoring in Early Childhood Education and minor in Psychology, says that she is excited for the change, but wishes it would have been instated earlier in her time at Concordia.

“When I was sophomore, I found myself taking a lot of classes that didn’t have anything to do with my major or minor, just so I could graduate on time,” she explained. “While I’m happy for those that it will affect, I just wish it would have been a little sooner.”

While students in similar circumstances feel the same way that Barnes does, some transfer students will be able to graduate an entire semester early because of this change.

One transfer student was advised to take eight more credits of electives to graduate on time, but now doesn’t have to spend the estimated $3,000 and will have more free time to possibly find an internship or start her job search.

Another student who transferred from a different private college in the Twin Cities commends Concordia for the decision and says that it makes him feel even more proud to be a student at Concordia.

Concordia seems to always be looking for ways to make the university more adaptable and a better place for students in all facets. Concordia prides itself on the ability to provide a quality, private higher education for anyone, no matter where they are in their journey of life or where they’re from. This change is just another step in the right direction.

End the Semester on a Giving Note: Concordia Food Shelf and Good-Will Boxes
By Jordan Peiser

The last couple weeks of the semester are here, and many have likely found out that—yet again—there is more than enough money in meal plan accounts. With 300 points or more left, the daunting thought circling their head is, “How on earth am I going to eat this much food?” Students are probably tempted to make a mad dash to the dining hall to buy countless pounds of candy and enough bottles of soda to last for months in the rush to make sure all the points are used up.

However, there is a better outlet for the overfilled funds! Many may not be aware that Concordia has a policy where the extra money that on the meal plan account can be donated to the food shelf by the time the last few days of the semester hit. The food shelf offers the opportunity for students—who otherwise might not be able to have enough food—to receive the nutrition they require. So, rather than stocking up on chips and pop, students can do a good deed and donate some of the money to the food shelf to help others in need.

This is an important and great cause, because according to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, “About 611,000 Minnesotans, including 189,000 children under 18, and 56,000 older adults (65+), lived in households with annual income below the federal poverty threshold (about $24,200 for a family of four) in 2014.”

This means that this is an amazing opportunity to make a positive impact on the community and university! On top of all of this, Concordia also leaves out bins towards the end of the semester to collect donations for Goodwill. If there is extra unneeded stuff you don’t want to pack up and bring back home for over the summer, there is a chance to make a contribution to charity. Old books, games, or anything else that might be found at a Goodwill can be donated.

This is another opportunity to make a positive impact on our community at the end of the semester.

Club Spotlight: CHAMPS
By Cole Schuessler

Concordia Health Alliance of Majors in Physical Education/Kinesiology and Sport, or the CHAMPS club, is this month’s club spotlight. This group is comprised solely of kinesiology majors, which includes sport management, exercise science, physical education, community health science, or sports psychology. The CHAMPS club is headed by junior president Lizzy Swenson and faculty advisors Dr. Samuel Haag and Dr. Lana Huberty.

The mission statement of the club reads, “CHAMPS club is committed to personal growth and professional development through enrichment activities and promotion of health and wellness throughout our community.”

CHAMPS shows this commitment to health and wellness in the community of Concordia-St. Paul by the events that they put on throughout the year. “[We put on the] Volleyball Tournament with Tetra Delta, Healthy Snack table in the tunnel for finals and a bean bag toss tournament,” said Swenson.

The bean bag toss was the first event of the year for the kinesiology club at the beginning of the year, followed up by the volleyball tournament in coordination with the science-based Tetra Delta club near the end of the first semester. The club capped their events for the semester with the healthy snack table, helping Concordia students get some beneficial calories in the tunnel as they stressed over finals. The CHAMPS club is also involved in having members volunteer at Regions Hospital and putting on professional development workshops to help students excel after college.

Starting off the school year with 20 members, the CHAMPS club has dropped down to 10 as the early graduation and spring sports cut the club’s membership in half. But the club is optimistic they can improve on that total, as they have been in existence for less than five years and hope than can grow as they get more tenured. In regards to goals for next year, Swenson stated, “Expanding is our main focus, it has been difficult to find a stable and consistent foundation as we are still a relatively new club.”

The leadership of the club starts with the junior president Swenson, a softball player and Sport Management major. Swenson became president after serving as vice president last under former president and now graduate assistant in the Concordia athletics department, Lucas Peterson.

Both faculty advisors, Dr. Haag and Dr. Huberty, have received Ph.D.’s from the University of Minnesota, and teach a variety of classes in the Kinesiology department. Both have been involved in many different aspects of the field of Kinesiology, from athletic performance research to management of various sport-related organizations. Their experience gives CHAMPS club members valuable resources and something to shoot for as they prepare for careers in the field. With an increasing enrollment at Concordia and a drive to be healthier
Saying Goodbye to Res Life’s Sharon Schewe

By Renee Cortez

Concordia’s Residence Life manager, Sharon Schewe, has enjoyed a 36-year career at this institution. “The ultimate irony of my career path is I applied to be an RA here when I was a junior and I didn’t get hired,” Schewe stated. Concordia is in her blood; her parents met here, her first memory of being on campus was from age five, and her godparents lived on campus as faculty members.

She is currently the longest continuous staff member at CSP, she has made countless differences in students’ lives past and present, and has made numerous contributions to the school. She has seen people and buildings come and go and the demographics change, while simultaneously staying young at heart. Schewe started school at CSP envisioning a career of teaching Lutheran grade school. However, she eventually figured she was more suited with work with high school students and she yearned to direct plays. Concordia Saint Paul at that time did not have a secondary education major, so after three years here, she transferred to Concordia Nebraska for the final year of her Bachelor’s Degree to teach secondary English speech and theater first call was to Saint Paul’s College in Concordia, MS. She worked with the students there for three years and was the Dean of Women of the college for a year. While in Missouri, she attended Central Missouri State University where she began her Master’s Degree in Speech Communication.

Before finishing her degree, she was called back to Minnesota to work at CSP. She later finished her program by returning to Missouri for a summer. Schewe did not come to Concordia Saint Paul ever since. “I joke that I’ve been in college since 1973,” stated Schewe. She began working at CSP at age 26 and most of her colleagues were a generation older than her. Schewe chuckled when she stated that her current supervisor used to be a student.

Her relationships that she has had with the students, the strawberry festival, and the volleyball championships are some of her favorite memories from working at CSP. There were years when she would take the RAs down to Camp Omega and they would sit around the fire roasting marshmallows and telling stories. She calls the students her nieces and nephews. One year, her RAs even gave her a sweater that proclaimed, “For our Aunt Sharon.”

Schewe has seen many new structures built on campus since working here. In talking about Holst Hall, she stated that it was her suggestion for the curved corners of the building, having a middle stairwell, and to have the sporadic lounges that filter through the Holst Hall floors now.

Upon Schewe’s retirement from CSP, she is going to miss hanging out with the students. “When people find out that you genuinely care and are interested, then the trust builds; they are willing to share and let you into their life; that is precious; that is sacred,” she stated. “I’m going to miss that; I really am.” She feels honored when students have trusted her with heart to heart talks and these have been invaluable to her. “It has been a blessing for me to be here.”
The mission of Love Your Melon was formed to improve the lives of children battling cancer, and Love Your Melon began with the objective to put a hat on the head of every child fighting cancer in America – over 45,000 hats.

After the apparel brand reached their goal, Love Your Melon set out to raise money for pediatric cancer research and provide encouragement to children and their families. Over the past 5 years, they have raised over 2.6 million dollars and have donated over 90,000 beanies. This organization has become a national college club with over 800 crews, including a crew at Concordia University, St Paul.

The crew at Concordia used to be run by graduate students in the physical therapy program, but this semester, it has transitioned to undergraduate students. Renee Cortez, Katie Wenger, Reeve Currie, and MacKenzie Thiesfeld serve as the crew's board and are looking to raise awareness about Love Your Melon (LYM) at Concordia. They started by hosting a tunnel event earlier in the semester to give out information about the organization.

LYM is looking to be active at sporting events, including upcoming baseball and lacrosse games, where they will be holding a raffle and allowing people to sign up for the crew. Crews can be as simple as following the crew's board and are model their stylish new hats.

Improving Lives One Beanie at a Time: A Love Your Melon Crew Starts Back Up At Concordia

By Eden Garman

In 2012, two students from St. Thomas University wished to improve the lives of children battling cancer, and Love Your Melon was formed. The mission of Love Your Melon was to put a hat on the head of every child fighting cancer in America – over 45,000 hats.

After the apparel brand reached their goal, Love Your Melon set out to raise money for pediatric cancer research and provide encouragement to children and their families. Over the past 5 years, they have raised over 2.6 million dollars and have donated over 90,000 beanies. This organization has become a national college club with over 800 crews, including a crew at Concordia University, St Paul.

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LYM is looking to be active at sporting events, including upcoming baseball and lacrosse games, where they will be holding a raffle and allowing people to sign up for the crew. Crews can be as simple as following their Instagram account @csplyncrew to stay updated on their events, or by purchasing some apparel from loveyourmelon.com and selecting Concordia, St Paul as the campus crew. Hundreds of softly knit beanies are available along with various styled caps, headbands, mittens, shirts, and accessories. 50% of the profit from product sales goes directly to nonprofit partner organizations in the field of pediatric oncology – funding cancer research or supporting families of children battling the disease.

Love Your Melon strives to make each new day a chance for a child with cancer to rejoice in its warmth. Concordia's new crew aims to make this possible while also allowing the children to model their stylish new hats.

The United States and International Relations: What You Should Know

By Katrina Bell

There have been conflict going on in Syria for some time now, according to BBC, more than 250,000 Syrians have lost their lives in the six years of armed conflict. The conflict began with anti-government protests before escalating into a civil war.

There are a lot of politics involved, but it began with those who opposed Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and demanded his resignation, and those who were loyal to him. By June 2013, the UN said that 90,000 people had been killed in the conflict, armed and unarmed civilians alike. By August of 2015, the number of causalities had climbed to 250,000. In 2013, the use of chemical weapons brought about the threat of United States military intervention, and although the Syrian government blamed rebel forces, to avoid this, President Assad agreed to the complete removal and destruction of Syria's chemical weapon arsenal. Despite this, reports of the use of chemical weapons were still found.

On April 4th, 2017, one of the worst chemical bombings in a Syrian, rebel-held zone, occurred, killing over 60 men, women, and children. This event incited international outrage, although the government of President Assad denied their involvement. In retaliation, the United States launched a military strike on April 6th, 2017. According to CNN, on President Donald Trump's orders, US warships launched 59 Tomahawk missiles at the airbase that was home to the warplanes that carried out the chemical attacks.

It is the first direct military action taken by the United States in the six-year civil war. Russia, an ally of Syria, condemned the choice as an "act of aggression," and Assad's office deemed it as a "disgraceful act" that "can only be described as short-sighted."

Syria and Russia are not the only countries that the United States has had tension with recently. The United States has had rising tension internationally after the U.S. dropped the most powerful non-nuclear bomb on what has been reported to be an ISIS cave complex in Afghanistan. The bomb is formally named the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast, and according to the LA Times, the assessment of the number of ISIS killed is at least 94.

President Donald Trump has also recently made moves to strengthen forces in the Korean Peninsula, and North Korea has made it on the media testing some of their nuclear missiles. Although some of these missile tests failed, tensions are still escalated. And according to CNBC, North Korea has warned of a nuclear attack on the United States at any sign of a U.S. pre-emptive strike.
Golden Bear Softball Opens Season Strong

By Tanner Peterson

Led by a mixture of youth and veteran leadership, the Golden Bear’s Softball team is working its way into the mix for a potential Northern Sun Interscholastic Conference Tournament seed. As the season progresses and each game seems to mean more and more, it looks like the Golden Bears are playing some of their best softball of the season. Although, they haven’t resulted in the wins they are hoping for, this team is playing competitively in every game.

Head coach Bob Bartell said, “It’s tough to measure this team at this point. We’ve been hit by injuries that have put us in a tough spot, the kids keep competing, and to me that means we’re successful.”

Although the team probably hasn’t seen the amount of wins it was hoping for at this point in the season, they are providing an exciting product on the field.

Senior Liz Jarosz is one of the players that Coach Bartel mentioned who has really stepped up so far this season. She has been a productive offensive player this season, as she ranks near the top of the team in terms of homeruns and runs batted in (RBI). Coach Bartel also mentioned the leadership of junior Nicole Thompson. He said, “Nicole Thompson is our motivational leader, always staying positive even though her season has been cut short by injury. All of our seniors go a good job of leading by example.”

With such a mix of young talent and wise veterans this team has exceeded the expectations of others. As the regular season continues and begins to come to a close, the focus of this team has continued to be to try and be more consistent according to Coach Bartel. He said, “Our focus is to try and be more consistent in all aspects of the game and just playing a little bit looser and carefree.” As the season continues and the race for the final NSIC Tournament spots are clinched, the Golden Bears should be in the mix for one of those final tournament spots.

Coach Bartel continuously credited the fight of this team. He said “This year’s team has stuck together extremely well under difficult circumstances, and continues to strive to meet our goals that we set at the beginning of the year. They could easily make excuses, but refuse to do so.”

As a team carried by young talent and veterans, it has been the play from players such as Liz Jarosz, Justine Schattner, Carlie Hart, Nicole Thompson, and Samantha Sullivan that have propelled to the position they’re in now. Be sure to head down to Carlenes Field and check out what this year’s team has to offer before the season ends!

**Female Athlete of the Month: Kailey Heinl**

By Eden Garman

Freshman athlete, Kailey Heinl, has stepped into the spotlight of CSP’s lacrosse field; she is ranked eleventh in the nation for goals, and is number one for freshman. Heinl plays midfield, which is a position that consists of running the full length of the field playing both offense and defense.

Concordia’s inaugural season started out strong, and the team has continued to push forward with a record of 8–5. A biology major, whose aspirations including joining the medical field, Kailey Heinl knows a little something about hard work. Heinl believes the key to success is giving 110% and nothing but your best. A competitive player should go above what is expected and never give up in the face of adversity.

It was in the seventh grade that Heinl first held her lacrosse stick; she joined the team with her middle school friends because it was the popular thing to do, but it soon became much more to her than that. Heinl eventually started playing for the Minnesota Elite team over the course of two years. The team played in many states where prominent coaches kept an eye out for talented players and then reached out to them for recruitment.

Concordia University, St. Paul struck her interest, as it is one of the only Division II lacrosse programs in the five state area. Kailey Heinl joined 20 other women to form Concordia University, St Paul’s first women’s lacrosse team. Over the course of the year, the team has strived to work hard, improve their game, and create a competitive program. Heinl has discovered a family in her team, and they have had each other’s backs through thick and thin. Though she has gained a new family on the lacrosse field, Kailey Heinl remains close with her family back in Oakdale, Minnesota. Heinl’s parents have always been role models to her and have been her support system from the start. They push her to be her best and have helped her reach the success she has experienced so far.

They have taught her that she can accomplish anything she sets her mind to. Heinl has many goals and aspirations for her next three years as a Golden Bear. Kailey Heinl hopes to make an impact on the program and continue to improve her skills on the field as a player and as a leader for her team.

Remaining both a student and an athlete has not been a problem, as Heinl has mastered the art of planning ahead. Her health is also a priority for her, as Kailey Heinl has been battling pain in her shins for some time, however, a recent MRI has ruled out stress fractures.

There are quite a few incoming freshman coming next season that will bring more competitive ground to the team, which excites Heinl. Their roster will include more players and more substitutes. Heinl’s love for the sport of lacrosse is evident on the field, and she hopes to continue to have success at Concordia in the years to come.

**Baseball, photo by Jordan Vredeveld**

**Samantha Sullivan**

**Nicole Thompson, and Carlie Hart, Nicole Thompson, and Samantha Sullivan**

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**You are not alone. We can help!**
Minnesota Twins Start Up Season, Offer 5-Dollar Student Deal
By Cole Schuessler

One advantage of going to college in the Twin Cities, and more specifically Concordia St. Paul, is there are many different and entertaining ways for students to spend their free time. One of these ways is going to sporting events, and with the Wild, Timberwolves, Vikings and Twins only a light rail or short car ride away, CSP students don’t have to travel far to see their local professional teams.

As spring now kicks into full gear and the improving Twins are nearly a month into the season, going to Target Field to see the ball club is a great way to spend your night or afternoon. This is especially affordable for students, as the Twins offer five dollar tickets for students along with a metro transit pass to get to the game. The process of getting the student tickets is fairly simple, starting with signing up for messages about the discounted tickets at twinsbaseball.com/student. A text message will then be sent with a link to getting the ticket to the game, which are always on Wednesdays and are standing-room only (but many people move into seating if it is available).

These tickets can be purchased through both iPhone’s and Android’s, or at the Twins box office with a student ID. A digital barcode will be sent to get into Target Field, or the ticket may also be accessed through the MLB.com Ballpark app.

With the Twins posting down seasons recently, including 90+ losses 5 of the last 6 season and 103 losses last year, attendance at Target Field has decreased since its opening in 2010. However, this year the Twins have gotten off to hot start and have lots of young players with potential to possibly provide some wins for the local nine. This combination of losing season (which have lowered the ticket value) and a more exciting team make a ticket to the Twins’ games this spring a great value.

The Twins have a few players that have driven the early season success and optimism for the future around Target Field. At the forefront of this charge right now is 23-year-old third baseman Miguel Sano, whose power is matched by few around the world and provides fans in the second or third deck with a chance to catch a home run ball. Another rising star is also 23 years of age, center fielder Byron Buxton.

Buxton hasn’t quite adjusted at the plate as of yet, but he provides spectacular diving catches and leaping grabs and is quickly becoming one of the best defensive center fielders in the in game. Young outfielders Max Kepler and Eddie Rosario and shortstop Jorge Polanco have also shown flashes of potential and are players to look for when heading to Target Field. Veteran pitcher Ervin Santana and hometown boy Joe Mauer help anchor the young Twins and round out some of the Twins more marquee players.

So when considering an afternoon or evening activity this spring, a trip to Target Field to watch some baseball for just five dollars is surely a legitimate option for both baseball and non-baseball fans alike. With a more exciting Twins team playing at one of the MLB’s best parks, the value of the Twins student ticket is a can’t miss deal.

Baseball Looking to Get Hot Heading into the Postseason
By Cole Schuessler

Starting off the non-conference season hot, the Concordia St. Paul baseball team looked ready to roll into NSIC play. Fresh off a 30-15 season in 2016, the Golden Bears were picked fourth in the conference and were 5-3 through eight games, averaging a robust 7.1 runs a contest. A hitting slump then set in for the squad, as they only manage to score more than four runs in six game in which they went 2-4.

The bats started to show some life after being shutout 2-0 against Southwest Minnesota State, beating the Mustangs in the second game of the doubleheader 11-1. From then on, the Golden Bears have started picking up the slack in hitting department, and have picked up some wins along the way. Now, as the season comes to a close, they will need to continue to provide runs to make a run in the conference tournament and possibly the NCAA Tournament.

After the big hitting display for Concordia in the 11-1 win over SMSU on March 19th, the final game of the weekend series was a close one, as the teams were locked in a 3-3 tie at the end of the ninth inning. Fortunately, junior designated hitter Connor Olson would end the suspense with grand slam in the 10th inning for a 7-3 Concordia win. The next week (March 26th and 27th) Concordia would play an upstart Minot State team, dropping their first two games 12-0 and 6-5 at Veterans Field in Minnetonka (where the games against SMSU were played as well).

The Golden Bears would rebound in the second half of the doubleheader, splitting against the Beavers with a 6-4 loss followed by a 3-2 win. That victory would kick-start a seven game winning streak for the Golden Bears, as they swept a doubleheader in Benidij (6-3, 13-2) as well as picking up four wins at Minnesota Crookston (4-2, 9-6, 12-4,1-0). Things would get tougher for CSP after that, facing nationally ranked Minnesota State Mankato in a doubleheader on April 5th and dropping both games by scores of 12-2 and 8-2.

They schedule continued to prove tough as the preseason pick for 2nd in the conference, St. Cloud St., beat the Golden Bears in three straight games by scores of 5-4, 9-3, 8-5 (April 7th and 8th) after Concordia took the first game in the series 8-5. The losing streak for the squad continued with a messy 8-5 loss to UMary on April 11th before CSP rebounded to win the second game of the day against the Marauders 11-1. While the Golden Bears have gotten production from a number of different hitters this spring, a few stand out in terms of statistics. Junior transfer outfielder Zach Elder leads the team in homers and is tied for the NSIC lead with 10 round-trippers. Sophomore IF/OF Isaac Hornmann is batting an impressive .391 while sophomore catcher Carter Schmidt follows him up with a .354 average and team leading 27 RBI’s.

On the mound, sophomore Gus Varland and seniors Kevin Woebke and Josh Lenz have anchored the pitching staff. Varland leads the team with 55 strikeouts in 42 innings and pitched Concordia’s first ever no hitter against Southwest Minnesota State in a 6-1 victory on March 18th. Woebke leads the team in innings with 48 while also pitching in 42 K’s and a solid 3.56 ERA. Lenz has been a factor from both the bullpen as well as starting games, sporting an impressive 2.91 ERA.

As the season winds down, the Golden Bears will need these key contributors to step up with the NSIC Tournament looming May 11th -14th. Going through rough patches throughout the season has left the Golden Bears in a situation where they need to secure the automatic bid by winning the NSIC tournament to get into the NCAA tournament. But as the team picked to finish 4th in the preseason poll has shown, they have potential to catch fire and do just that.
CSP Women's Track Goes to Nationals: Burney and Ighovojah Achieve Lifelong Dream
By Kelly Pierce

Kalle Burney and Wakpor Ighovojah sat just on the cusp of qualifying for the DII Indoor Track National Championships. For the week leading up to the announcement, they continued training for their indoor events with cautious optimism. As the time for the announcement came near, they agreed to refrain from looking up the results on their own.

On Tuesday, February 28th, the Concordia Saint Paul (CSP) track team held an unveiling ceremony to recognize and congratulate the qualifiers. Burney and Ighovojah necessities anticipated the announcement, still unsure if they made the cut. When Coach Sam Johnson revealed that they had qualified, it marked the beginning of the most surreal week of their lives.

A few days after hearing the news, the pair got on a plane for Birmingham, Alabama, accompanied by two coaches. Upon arrival, Burney described the atmosphere as intense. “We were surrounded by all of these amazing athletes, and they were all there to compete.” But as soon as she stepped on the track, her perspective changed entirely. “...when it came time to compete, all the nerves went away. I knew this was just like any other meet and everyone else there was just another competitor.”

“I couldn’t stop smiling all week. I was so grateful to be there and compete with elite athletes.” The athletes didn’t allow their whirlwind of emotions to distract them from their objective. Both of the girls set a goal to finish top 8 and be recognized on the podium. Though they both outperformed their seeds, they fell just short of their goal with Burney finishing in 10th and Ighovojah finishing 13th. “I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t a little disappointed,” says Burney. “To me, it’s motivation. I used to think of Nationals as a dream, as something I’d never actually be a part of. It just seemed unattainable.”

Now, Burney and Ighovojah know that with the help of their coaches, and teammates they’re more than capable. Burney and Ighovojah are hard working, determined, and humble. They worked tirelessly throughout their careers for this opportunity, yet they never forgot about the people who helped them along the way. “Our coaches have been there for us every step of the way. They sacrifice a lot and [provide] a lot of emotional support.” They also recognized their teammates as huge contributors to their success. “Having good teammates to challenge you in practice every day and support you is huge. They push me every day to get better,” says Ighovojah.

Burney recalls a particular moving moment shared with her teammates and coaches before competing. The group gathered in their hotel to discuss the next day’s competition. Their coaches told them how incredibly proud they were of their accomplishments and the group prayed together. “The whole experience was way more rewarding knowing that I was a part of something bigger than myself,” says Burney.

Supportive coaches, competitive teammates, and a relationship with God led Burney and Ighovojah to success. The athletes show no signs of slowing down as they head into the outdoor season. Just a week ago, Burney broke the school record for high jump for the 4th time since she set it last season. Burney and Ighovojah will both return next year for their senior seasons. As a pair, they aim to finish on the podium at Nationals and achieve first team All-American status and cement their legacy as two of the highest-achieving athletes in CSP history.

Deer
The End of the Lacrosse Regular Season Draws Near
By Tony Kohanek

The first season of CSP Lacrosse, Concordia has a lot to cheer for. The future looks bright for this group of athletes. As of March, Concordia has an overall record of 8-5 with 3 games to play in the month of April. All they need is one win in their final three games to finish their inaugural season with an overall record of 8-5.

According to Coach Matt Keiser, the Golden Bears followed that tough loss by going on a three game win streak, defeating Northern Michigan, Ave Maria, and Keiser.

Lacrosse, photo by Mark Stickler

They started the month by defeating Rockhurst 16-12. The Golden Bears followed that up by losing a tough game to McKendree by a score of 19-2.

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CSP Football Making Plays Off the Gridiron
Golden Bears Go to ACR Homes
By Tanner Peterson

Recently, members of the Concordia St. Paul football team made a trip to Roseville, where they made some smiles a bit brighter while volunteering at the ACR Homes Spring Homecoming Dance. ACR Homes provides residential support for people with physical and development disabilities, as well as care for the elderly including memory care.

A group of Golden Bear football players volunteered for the elderly including disabilities, as well as care for the elderly including memory care.

A group of Golden Bear football players volunteered at the ACR Home's first Spring Homecoming Dance on March 21st. The dance was the final event for their Homecoming week, which was full of dress up days and fun activities for the residents. This was a great experience for Golden Bear football players. Freshman Tight End Brandon Stevenson said, "This will be a night that they might remember for the rest of their lives, and it brought a lot of joy to most of the guys faces."

The CSP football players took pictures with the residents, and signed a few autographs. The night concluded with a dance where ACR residents and the football players danced the night away. Head coach Shannon Currier puts a special emphasis on community involvement. He said, "Our main goal here is to make these young men ready for life after football. One day they're going to be a part of a community and we want them to be involved and help make it better.

Learning to give something is one of the best things they can learn to do for themselves because it's a part of our mission and being a Christian is all about serving and caring for others." Coach Currier continued by talking about, how he hoped helping these less privileged individuals would help his players to realize how blessed they are, and to be grateful for what they have. Sarah Abbot, a coordinator for ACR Homes, couldn't say enough nice things, and how grateful she was for the CSP football team's involvement in the Homecoming dance. She said, "Their generosity in volunteering their time was so appreciated." She continued by saying, "Their enthusiastic participation was so meaningful. They seemed entirely at ease and natural at interacting with our residents, some of who have very unique physical disabilities and diagnoses.

The CSP players made every person who interacted with them feel special." This isn't the only time the CSP football has volunteered at a local event. Special Olympics, Feed My Starving Children, and the local Humane Societies are just some of the organizations that Golden Bear football players have volunteered. This is just another example of Golden Bear going out into the community and making a difference for the better.

Male Athlete of the Month: Carter Schmidt
By Cole Schuessler

As many of Lunch McKenzie's teams have done in his 17-plus years as head coach of the Concordia St. Paul, this year's squad as shown they can hit the ball. This was evident at the beginning of the season especially, and leading the charge for the Golden Bears was sophomore starting all the team's games at catcher and batting in the middle of the order, Schmidt realizes there is still room for improvement to help boost Concordia performance on the field. "Every day you play you have a chance to get better. That's kind of how I look at it, every day I want to do something to improve," Schmidt stated.

Defensively, Schmidt tries to emulate Yadier Molina while offensively he likes the consistency of Mike Trout. Schmidt said the player he has taken the most from though is Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo. "I really have taken a lot from Rizzo, trying to adapt his hitting style and approaching [including] getting deeper into counts and hitting with two strikes," Schmidt stated.

As the season winds down for the Golden Bears and they approach the NSIC and NCAA tournaments, they will likely lean on Schmidt as one of the players to propel them to a strong end of season run. And with the sophomore catcher's improvement this year, we're all on the same page, were all together. Already integral part of the team as a strong end of season run. And with the sophomore catcher's improvement this season and team driven approach, Schmidt will have a chance to do just that and be a mainstay in the middle of Concordia's lineup for the years to come.
Make America Honest Again
By Brooke Steigauf

Environmentalists were at a loss when President Donald Trump passed his executive order to "promote energy independence and economic growth," a title that shines light on only one side of the action. The order asks for a re-evaluation of many fundamental standards put into place by Obama to reduce the rate of climate change, a concept that Trump calls a hoax. The Clean Power Act is one of former President Obama's decisions being summoned for recall, which enforced mandatory curbs in power plant emissions, along with his request for a revision of carbon guidelines from coal plants and methane emissions from the oil enterprise. To those who are aware of how close the planet is to its irreversible carbon tipping point, this is a disaster.

To put their minds at ease (a bit), the efforts to save the earth will not be stifled. Since the environmental policy and federal regulations must be approved by Congress, Trump does not have the authority to cancel any statutes, such as the Clean Power Act. Now we are left to hope that the real decision makers are rational enough in thinking to see where the real money and benefits lie, in renewable energy. Although Trump promises a spurge of new jobs and cash, most of the coal industry is mechanized, requiring insignificant labor from actual people. On top of that, with advances in technology and accessibility, renewable energy will soon be less costly to produce than coal, leaving meager incentive for businessmen to continue the use of a product which is disadvantageous to both them and the environment.

The biggest concern is the impact that Trump's actions will have on the country's ability to meet the standards set by the 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement, which unifies 197 countries in a joint pursuit to regulate the environmental impact of the human race. With the United States being one of the largest consumers and contributors to the earthly issues, this is a big hit to the agreement. The country's withdrawal from the agreement would leave scarce inducement for the other countries to comply with the standards when they see the U.S. collecting more revenue because of their leave.

Although many are not surprised, the selfishness of Trump's decision leaves me in awe. With so little benefits and such a potentially catastrophic impact, the only explanation for the action is that Trump is rationalizing it with lies and shallow promises. It draws attention to an important question that has been asked since before the election process: Is he really lying if he believes he is right? In my opinion, yes. This executive order is not a result of him denying climate change, but rather a result of his superior motive to generate more money for him and his benefactors, at any cost (so long as it doesn't come from his own pocket).

While he may present the positives to his actions as the end of the story, his perception is beyond foggy and more like blind. He may be using his denial and neglect of environmental concern as a lame, half-hearted diffuser the reality of his action, the real issue is his concentration on his own interest and what affect that will leave on history.

What Pro-Life Really Means to Me
By Rove Currie

I am a Christian who believes in the beauty of life. I believe that God gives all people breath in their lungs and the blood pumping through their veins. I believe strongly that women should have equal rights: the same salary, equal opportunity and the equal rights: the same salary, equal opportunity and the...
Should We Have Sanctuary Churches?

By Jordan Peiser

A n issue that has been in the news and the subject of a lot of debate is the idea of Sanctuary Churches. Most of us are probably aware of President Trump’s immigration reform and many of its implications. In recent days, churches desiring to live out the words found in the Epistle of James, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world,” have taken the stand for those who face potential deportation and separation from their families.

In their desire to help the downtrodden, these churches have decided to support those who are scared and worried that they may be torn away from their loved ones. These churches, much like some cities, have become sanctuary locations where people can hide in hopes of being protected from deportation.

One such person who has taken refuge in a church is Jeanette Vizguerra—an immigrant who used a fake I.D. to work—who has now taken refuge in a Colorado church. Her story is explained in the APR article about Sanctuary Churches by Pastor Mike Moran said, “It is our position as a people of faith that this is sacred and faithful work... We know Jeanette. We know her to be an honorable human being.” Of course, this has sparked a debate as to whether churches should be allowed to provide sanctuary for illegal immigrants. It is argued that laws are laws and to knowingly harbor someone who is going to be deported is illegal.

The same APR article quoted Jessica Vaughan, the policy director at the Center for Immigration Studies, “It is illegal for anyone to harbor someone who is going to be deported. It is illegal. The same NPR article quoted Jessica Vaughan, the policy director at the Center for Immigration Studies, “It is illegal for anyone to deliberately and knowingly answered with a resounding yes. However, some critics continue to argue, much like Jessica Vaughan, that laws are laws and neither churches nor cities have the right to violate them even if it is in the name of compassion. Despite arguments against the movement, churches have been throwing out support for this ministry, according to the Colorado Gazette article sanctuary church movement growing in the U.S by Sarah P Bailey, “Over the past three years, the sanctuary movement has grown greatly. In 2014, it attracted 250 congregations, including synagogues. Following raids in January 2016, the number climbed to 400 congregations, according to Rev. Noel Anderson of the World Church Movement who works with and tracks the U.S. sanctuary movement.

“Is it our position as a people of faith that this is sacred and faithful work... We know Jeanette. We know her to be an honorable human being.”

Anderson of the World Church Movement who works with and tracks the U.S. sanctuary movement.

By November the number of churches involved doubled to nearly 900 congregations, Anderson said. “It is my conviction that true as it may be that these people have broken the law to come to America, so long as they have not committed violent crimes, they cannot be a threat. I recognize that immigration reform is not a simple issue and people who think that all illegal immigrants should be deported are not all necessarily racist so much as they are concerned for their families and work. However, America was founded on principles that all people are created equal, and while we can argue about having immigration reform and toughening boards, I do not think it is right to tear families apart.

For this reason, it is my conviction that sanctuary churches should be used and respected until this is no longer a problem. In order that the sanctity of life, family and the American principles of justice and unity in diversity may be supported.

Is Technology Ruining Our Lives?

By Jordan Peiser

M any of us can hardly imagine life, at this point anyway, without technology. We rely on Facebook or other social media apps to remind us when our friends birthdays are, or on a GPS to get to places that we’ve been to several times. Our technology also makes the world seem much smaller and opens communication across the world and provides access to information like never before.

However, with that in mind, I must ask: is this technology ruining our lives? One area in human intellect that is beginning to suffer from our development of technology is Crystalized Intelligence—the ability to use learned knowledge and experience—if we are tempted to ask why this seems to be negatively impacted by our reliance on technology I think it is prudent to consider this practically.

For example, Crystalized intelligence would be memorization of dates and formulas. The more humans rely on technology to help with these formulas—take math, for instance—the more we rely on one technology to help us with finding the solutions the less we actively remember. The form of learning is slowly becoming knowing where to find the right answers and less so just knowing.

Think back to the last time you had a conversation with someone, and a question came up. This question was something that you, at one time, knew you learned but just could not remember. What did you do? Odds are you went ahead and googled it because, as we all know, Google is the mecca of knowledge. The reason this issue presents itself is that our Crystalized intelligence began as fluid intelligence. So, for example, if you have ever had to learn and new language you had to rely on your fluid intelligence—that is the intelligence which changes upon experiences and adapts to new situation. However, once you learned that language, its grammar rules, and vocabulary it became crystalized intelligence.

According to a Huffington Post article “8 Ways Technology Makes Us Stupid” by Rebecca Hiscott, “People used to be able to retain vast quantities of knowledge — like reciting entire novels, word for word — but technology has eliminated both the need and the drive to do so. When you know that Google or your smartphone can retain a piece of information for you, you’re less likely to store it in memory, studies have shown. Scientific American last year likened the Internet to an ‘external hard drive’ for our brains, as we outsource an increasing amount of information to the web,” this quote elaborates on the practical implication of technology on our crystallized intelligence.

Keep in mind that we obviously still have crystallized intelligence. The issue is not that we don’t use it but that we are increasingly restricting our need to use it as well as its cousin, fluid intelligence. Again, rather than forcing ourselves to learn things from experience, we are teaching ourselves how to find information; not as much how to resolve issues on our own, let alone how to develop the resolution to these issues for later use.

However, memory is not the only way technology is negatively affecting us. Because technology is also changing our sleep patterns according to Hiscott, “Studies have shown that blue-enriched light, which is emitted by gadgets like smartphones, tablets, and laptops, can suppress the body’s release of melatonin at night. Melatonin is a key hormone that helps regulate your internal clock, telling your body when it is nighttime and when to feel sleepy. Blue light can disrupt that process, making it impossible for you to stick to a proper sleep schedule,” this is significant because it is also true that when our sleep is of poor quality, we are more prone to have issues with our mood, retaining information and general thinking. So, when you think that you didn’t get enough sleep because you spent too much time on Facebook, that is probably true. However, it is also true that the light from your phone screen tricked your brain by messing with its natural chemistry causing you to be more likely to stay up later. It isn’t just the addicting feature of games, communication, or videos.

To be clear there is also of good that comes from technology, from advancements in technology to making life easier so that we don’t need to spend so much time on basic daily tasks and can develop culturally and ethically as a society. But, as is the case with many other blessings, we can stand to take more time and consider our reliance on modern technology. 
The Sword Newspaper: Why it is Important?
By Katrina Bell

The Sword has been Concordia’s Student newspaper since 1966. Our paper archives go back to the 1970’s, and the way our newspaper has developed from a one double-sided sheet to the many pages of work we see today is an incredible feat of time and hard work. The Sword is Concordia’s student-run, student-written newspaper. It is funded generously by the school, and by any advertisers that buy space.

Despite being funded by the school, it is up to the students and Sword staff to determine what is put into the paper and what is not. Although staff and faculty of Concordia, and anyone else, have the right to submit work to the Sword, this is a student-run publication, meaning the students write the articles and the editors and staff determine what to include.

Sword staff have the privilege of saying no to anything that is submitted. As a university newspaper, we encourage freedom of speech, we encourage Concordia events, we encourage knowing about what’s going on in the world. But we have the choice of what we wish to report on and we have our own reasons why. Because of this, and because of many other reasons, we are completely grateful to those who support us, our faculty advisor, our Concordia president, the board of regents, and all of those who read the Sword. We appreciate them allowing this freedom, because not every paper is allowed to be uncensored by the power that supports it. With the changing times, it is more important than ever for students to have a way to voice things.

I understand that and I hope that everyone else does too. Some may believe that with these changing times, the controversy that open opinions bring isn’t worth it, but I truly believe that the healthy discussion it brings about on our campus makes it a more inclusive and welcome place for all. The Sword is not only a place to write one’s opinions, it is a place to report and celebrate the events that are occurring on campus, as well as the students that thrive there.

It is also used to educate the writers and staff and give them experience in one piece of the field they might be interested in. is also a way to educate in a way that allows other students access to news and information they may not seek out themselves.

Concordia funding and encouraging their students to state and print their opinions that some may not agree with is a rare and wonderful act, because it shows the inclusion of the many different backgrounds and cultures that makes Concordia unique. I hope that the Sword stays around way past my time here as Editor-In-Chief, and not because I am leaving behind a legacy, but because the Sword is a part of the university’s legacy, and it always should be.

Logan
By Jordan Peiser

In a time when superhero movies in America are hollow clones of each other more to elicit emotions with the promise of a simple resolution and a comically similar plot line, there is, on occasion, bright stars that beckon to a time of artistic creativity rather than a mass produced short-sighted product.

Logan does this as a gut-wrenching film that is a beautifully cathartic end to the X-Men series, the last in the series of Wolverine movies. Hugh Jackman stars as Logan, and the film chronicles the journey of laboratory designed mutant children, specifically a girl, Laura, who shares some of the Logan’s DNA.

The movie is about Logan—known as Wolverine—and his struggle to deal with his body, which is slowly deteriorating from the same thing that gave him power. Suddenly, while going to check up on Professor Xavier, he finds out that Laura, whom he had only briefly been introduced to earlier, is a mutant much like him. From here, and at Xavier’s request, he is forced to bring Laura to a special location—called Eden—in North Dakota where she is supposed to meet other children who were part of the experiment that gave her power. However, as is to be expected, a militant group is after them to stop the mutant children from crossing over into Canada for safety.

The movie is directed by James Mangold, a director of several films including many of his works are known for their sophisticated look into the minds of characters who live in a hostile world. This is seen through the development of Laura and, by extension, Logan, who finds himself as Laura’s primary care taker, albeit unwillingly.

Laura, played by Dafne Keen, did an extraordinary job as a young actress. Her character is strong against Logan’s stubborn personality. Logan’s self-loathing over his loss of loved ones leads him to say that “those he loves are never safe.” Laura replies; “Well, I’ll be safe then.” Both actors have to portray characters who have had experience killing and both of them have found themselves with these abilities against their will.

Laura is just coming into her own as Logan is aging and suffering from what resides within him. As both characters deal with loss, Laura forces Logan to consider the consequences of his actions. He can no longer drown out the reality of his aging body by hiding behind alcohol and irresponsibility; he must now become the person Professor Xavier, played by Patrick Stewart, has always believed him capable of becoming even if it requires Logan to go through a final crucible.

Mangold’s ability to use characters for thematic purposes is demonstrated by Professor Xavier’s compassion for an oppressed family. During their time with the family, we see that, for all his critique of Logan, Professor Xavier, does have a deep love for him. Mangold uses this to further the plot and to proclaim “kindness without consequences has no home in the X-Men universe.” The weak soon find themselves consumed by the hunger of the mighty.

Logan is not a film for the faint of heart. The effects are spectacular though extremely gory; it is comparative to the Walking-Dead. However, the strong effects and fighting scenes contribute to Logan’s character development; as Logan fights, he also wages war against his own aging. This also provides a rare use of gore because it serves not only for violence’s sake but rather to build the world in which the characters reside. I highly recommend this film.

However, I would advise against bringing younger audiences to it. Be prepared to cry as well as flinch at excessive amounts of blood.

Logan, photo provided from Google Images
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THE SWORD NEWSPAPER
his sophomore year of high
production piqued his
hobby in the fifth grade in
Richardson began his
Lakeville, MN.
A
Michael Richardson has had
"only theater majors can
make you think of theater.
The styles range from
ballroom to hip-hop and
contemporary to Hmong
dance. A new addition
to this year’s show is the
prerecorded video of
interviews with each of the
choreographers. In the past,
choreographer’s intros were
spoken aloud in between
dances. Student Nick
Schroepfer came up with
the idea of filming the intros
ahead of time to make the
show flow more smoothly.

Puffer wanted to create
a performing experience
for dancers, and get more
people involved by opening
it up to all students. When
she was asked what it’s like
to be the director of this
show, Puffer said it was
"a lot of work" but it’s a
"thrilling" experience. She
enjoys seeing her own works
come to life, as well as giving
students a platform to have
the same experience.

Approximately forty-five
Concordia students are
involved in Spring into
Dance this year. The show
features seventeen dance
numbers created by two
faculty, three alumni, and
ten student choreographers.

Although Richardson was
not ultimately cast in that
play, this time his interest
did not waver. Along with
a very small group of other
people, Richardson went to
a week-long summer acting
camp before his junior year
of high school. That school
year, Richardson was cast in
his first serious production,
Once Upon a Mattress, a
musical based on the story
of the Princess and the Pea.

As a choreographer, she
enjoys seeing her creation
come to life. Kate Sandvik,
another senior, is also
choreographing for the
first time. Her dance is a
contemporary piece titled
“My Beth.”

It is based on the classic
novel Little Women and
features voice recordings
of passages from the book
along with music from the
soundtrack to the movie.

Spring into Dance V runs
April 27th-29th at 7:30pm
and on April 30th at 2:00pm
in the E.M. Pearson theater.

Breaking the Stigma:
Michael Richardson,
Theater Spotlight
By Katrina Bell

A
history major with a
minor in religion does not instantly
make you think of theater.
Breaking the stigma that
"only theater majors can
be interested in theater,"
Michael Richardson has had
a lot of practice on stage.
Richardson is a third-year
Concordia student from
Lakeville, MN.

Richardson began his
hobby in the fifth grade in
the production of You’re a
Good Man Charlie Brown.
Despite the fact that the
production piqued his
interest, Richardson didn’t
walk onstage again until
his sophomore year of high
school when his mother
encouraged him to try out
for another play, Little Shop
of Horrors.

Although Richardson was
not ultimately cast in that
play, this time his interest
did not waver. Along with
a very small group of other
people, Richardson went to
a week-long summer acting
camp before his junior year
of high school. That school
year, Richardson was cast in
his first serious production,
Once Upon a Mattress, a
musical based on the story
of the Princess and the Pea.

According to Richardson,
“It was a great show to
introduce me to theater. It’s
funny and it has great music.
It’s a musical that does not
take itself too seriously
and it makes you leave
the theater with a warm
feeling inside.” That year
Richardson was cast in The
Hobbit where he played the
creature Gollum. Richardson
states, “I like [being in
theater] because you meet
a lot of new people, and have
a new experience.

You get to embody someone
completely different from
you. It’s fun to get in the
mind of someone else that
thinks differently from you,
and to be someone else for
just a little bit. I really like
playing crazy characters.
You can really exaggerate it
and make it your own. Ever
since [The Hobbit], I have
been a lot more interested in
theater.”

As a history major,
Richardson is still thinking
about what he wants to do.
“I’m not quite sure what I
would like to do with my
major, but my ideal is that
I would like to teach items
history that people don’t
know much about. Like
Native American culture.
Maybe even go into the
field and study in another
country. I think that history
is a great subject because
history challenges you to
look inside yourself and
around the world. I would
like to teach history because
I think it’s important for
people to know what has
happened and the reasons
behind the things that have
happened so people can be
more informed and learn
from the past.”

While at Concordia,
Michael has been involved
in the Christus Chorus
and has been cast in many
productions, musicals and
otherwise, including: The
Mystery of Edwin Drood,
Skyscrape: The Plebian Scrolls,
Working, The Seagull, Crazy
for You, and most recently,
Rhinoceros. In regards to a
career in theater, Richardson
reveals, “I’m thinking about
continuing to audition for
smaller productions. We will
have to see.”
Social Commentary: A Pleasant Shia Surprise!
By Noah Hamilton

Imagine you’re alone and terrified. Maybe you’re in a dark forest, maybe you’re in a derelict subway tunnel, or maybe you’re even on an abandoned space station. Wherever you are, you’re being watched. You see their face.

They’re covered in blood, and sprinting on all fours, getting ready to pounce. Somehow, this person looks familiar. Now you remember! It’s Hollywood superstar Shia LaBeouf! Imagine there’s a way to get the adrenaline rush from being hunted by the guy from Transformers, without fear of actually being brutally killed and cannibalized. This is the opportunity given by Actual Cannibal Shia LaBeouf: The Roleplaying Game.

Actual Cannibal Shia LaBeouf is a tabletop roleplaying game, or RPG for short. In RPGs, a game master, or GM, outlines a basic premise, and players create fictional characters to role play as in the fictional world the GM creates and makes their own. Players’ actions are dictated by a series of dice rolls. Different RPG systems have different rules about these dice rolls.

In many of the most popular RPGs, such as Dungeons and Dragons and Pathfinder, there are several different dice, and many aspects of character creation and environmental interaction are dictated by various dice. In Actual Cannibal Shia LaBeouf, players have one six-sided die, and it is only rolled for dangerous actions, meaning it has a much higher degree of freedom. YouTuber Rob Cantor’s song “Shia LaBeouf,” describing an unnamed protagonist being chased through the woods by the bloody, and possibly naked, actual cannibal Shia LaBeouf served as the inspiration for Reddit user mattzm’s bizarre and exciting roleplaying game, which can be found on the subreddit t/ACSLB.

Player characters, known as the “unlucky ones,” find themselves alone in a remote or abandoned location, while facing the constant danger of the deranged actor. Using the environment around them, player characters scavenge for improvised weapons to defeat their famous stalker. Improvisation is key in a round of Actual Cannibal Shia LaBeouf, and the game’s simplicity uses it brilliantly to keep players engaged. Players have nearly total freedom with their actions.

In other roleplaying games, exciting tricks and maneuvers can be bogged down by poor dice rolls. Actual Cannibal Shia LaBeouf’s extremely simple mechanics, where only one die is required, versus the seven different dice in many popular RPGs, allow for a greater degree of freedom and hilarity. If you want to ride a hippopotamus while ski jumping, you can without penalty. If you want to try to crush Shia between two Soviet tanks, you can.

There’s just one goal in all the madness: survive. That is where most of the excitement comes from. Every great story has a great antagonist, and who’s greater than the kid from Holes feasting on human flesh. What makes your heart beat faster than being chased by the bloodthirsty star of Disney Channel’s Even Stevens.

Even when you think you’ve trapped him, he’ll come back with a vengeance, no matter how improbable the escape, and you’ll be in for a huge Shia Surprise.
The Gardener gets his butterflies from the elaborate greenhouse garden at his home (which he somehow manages to keep a secret from his wife), where he keeps his butterfly collection. He is a rich man who has been captured by a man, whom he knows as the Gardener. The Butterflies are girls who have been captured by a man, whom they know as the Gardener. He is a rich man who has an obsessive fascination with butterflies, but his butterflies are young women. The Gardener gets his name from the elaborate greenhouse garden at his home (which he somehow keeps a secret from his wife), where he keeps his butterflies. After one has been captured, he tattoos an intricate pair of butterfly wings on their back and gives them a new name.

The main character of Hutchinson’s novel is an eighteen-year-old called Maya, who lived a troubled life even before she became a butterfly. Her previous experiences have hardened her so, unlike the other new butterflies, she never cries. Maya refuses to let the Gardener and his garden get to her, and in doing so she becomes a mother figure to the rest of the butterflies.

She and the other butterflies live comfortably in the garden except for the fact that they can’t leave, and they must do whatever the Gardener asks them to. Their lives go on in this way for many months without much change, until one day when the Gardener’s younger son discovers the garden and takes a liking to Maya. Then the Gardener’s world starts to crumble. Though some parts of the novel are told from the perspective of an FBI agent investigating the Gardener’s crimes, the majority is told from Maya’s point of view. It is refreshing to read a novel that focuses on the victim’s perspective rather than that of the criminal or law enforcement.

That unique perspective, paired with the way Hutchinson describes the world as it exists inside of the garden, makes for an amazing novel. Once you start reading you will not be able to stop turning the pages until you find out if Maya manages to escape the garden.

To Buy or Not to Buy
By Mara Grau

Tapping fingers, clicking pens, and picking at fingers are examples of restless behaviors also known as fidgeting. One of the most recent products that fidgeters can use discreetly. So, let’s start off version. Its general design is the same as the original, though some of the mechanics may be slightly off. After a month with my cube, my only complaint is that it’s too loud to be used discreetly. So, let’s break down the function of each side. One contains five small buttons; three of them make a clicking sound when pressed, and two are supposed to be silent. This is not true of the knock-off version. Two buttons are noticeably quieter, but not silent. The next side features a joystick like those on video game controllers, and there doesn’t seem to be any deviation from the original. The third side has a switch, which is quite loud. If you pivot the switch very slowly, it’s almost silent. The original cube’s switch seems to pivot smoother and quieter than the knock-off. If you aren’t in a quiet environment, quickly flipping the switch—producing a loud click—is more fun. The “spin” side is the most frustrating; it features a dial with a raised knob to spin it, but it doesn’t spin easily. This could be an issue with the knock-off, but on both products, the knob doesn’t stick out far enough, which adds to the difficulty. I doubt this was on purpose since it causes more stress than it relieves. The side for rolling contains three small gears and a little metal ball. Each gear has a different level of resistance, which makes increasing amounts of noise when rolled.

The metal ball is silent when in use, but rattles loudly when the cube is moved. The final side has only an oval-shaped indentation. It was inspired by traditional worry stones which are meant to reduce anxiety when rubbed – this “breathe” side of the cube is a good imitation. These cubes provide hours of entertainment and are useful to all kinds of fidgeters. There aren’t any major differences between the original fidget cube and the knock-off. My advice? Purchase a knock-off, especially if you aren’t entirely sure of how much you’ll use the cube. In the unlikely situation that you end up not loving it, you’ll be relieved that you didn’t spend over $25. If you’re one of the millions of fidgeters in the country, the fidget cube is your new best friend.

Fidget Cube

They noticed that fidgeting was considered an “unprofessional” behavior, but knew that wasn’t true. Studies show that fidgeting helps people think clearer and is beneficial for those with anxiety or ADHD.

They created a professional-looking desk toy for fidgeters to use in all kinds of places, from offices to classrooms. The Fidget Cube saw rapid success, inspiring other companies to create knock-offs. As a broke college student, I chose to purchase a cheaper knock-off version. Its general design is the same as the original, though some of the mechanics may be slightly off. After a month with my cube, my only complaint is that it’s too loud to be used discreetly. So, let’s break down the function of each side. One contains five small buttons; three of them make a clicking sound when pressed, and two are supposed to be silent. This is not true of the knock-off version. Two buttons are noticeably quieter, but not silent. The next side features a joystick like those on video game controllers, and there doesn’t seem to be any deviation from the original. The third side has a switch, which is quite loud.

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Resistance, Protest, Resilience
By Reeve Currie

A young woman stands and holds out a flower towards the crossed arms and stern faces of a line of police officers. A sea of angry people push against the uniformed bodies of gathered guards in Iran. This and more are documented in an exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, in the Harrison Gallery.

Featuring about 60 photographs from Mia’s collection, the exhibition showcases different protests and events that triggered social and political movement in the 20th-century. The majority of the photographs were about the Civil Rights Movement, Japan’s U.S. security treaty conflict, the Iranian Revolution, and the Gastown riots in Vancouver. From the first photo to the last, the exhibit displayed the human experience of marching and standing for a change. These photographers captured the vast reality of what happens in a protest and the many horrific situations that people endure when faced against authority.

The photos were captured in black and white film and showed both calm, solemn moments, as well as blurry images depicting violence. Gordon Parks, Danny Lyon, Shomei Tomatsu and Thomas Arndt are among the featured photographers. The photos were also accompanied by two media works: Waiting For Tear Gas (1999–2000) by Allan Sekula; and Untitled (Structures)/2012 by Leslie Hewitt in collaboration with Bradford Young.

Both of these installations were projected on the wall of the gallery, the only sound being the fluttery “click” of the slide being moved into place. The MIA exhibition is not large, only taking up 3 of the gallery’s rooms. Black and white photos are hung, matted on white card stock in black frames. The walls of the gallery are either painted dark red that provides a contrast with the black and white photos. Next to every photograph is a description of the date and place, as well as the social and political history taking place. What stands out the most as you look upon the photographs, is that, although each photograph was taken by a different photographer in a different location and time period, there are many similarities. “While we are surrounded by an ocean of images of today’s street conflicts and protests,” Nakamori stated, “whether shot by a professional photographer or a bystander with an iPhone, I thought it was of utmost importance to display part of our strongest holdings in our protest exhibition.”

The frightened and helpless expressions on the protesters’ faces are reflected in every photo. Angry crowds and stoic police officers make up more than half the photographs. I can’t help wondering, as I walk down three floors after seeing the exhibition, how many times must these protests happen before change arrives?

All Aboard! Public Transportation in Four Major Cities
By Eden Garman

The evolution of travel has come a long way since the age of wheeled carts and stage coaches, but some cities in the United States have come further than others. Many large cities are comparable with dense populations, skyscrapers sprouting up like giant trees overnight, and crowded streets that ultimately cause rush-hour traffic. In order to combat the inevitable problems that arise from city life, public transportation has become a necessary phenomenon in cities to keep the people in motion in a healthier, cheaper, and safer way.

In the last eight months, I have found myself in the midst of four major metropolises in the United States including Philadelphia, Washington D.C., New York City, and home—sweet-home, St. Paul. All have been startlingly unique places, while still providing for the transportation needs of the public.

Philadelphia, PA is a region chock full of history and innovation; public transportation has been present since the early 1800s. Nowadays, a large variety of options are available involving rail trains, rapid transit trains, trolleys, and motor buses. Philadelphia’s public transportation agency, also known as SEPTA, is the 6th largest public transit agency in the country according to TripAdvisor. The extensive routes through the city allow almost unlimited access for the people. I had no complaints about inaccessible locations, nor did I grumble about

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Adapt or Perish?
Fences Movie Review
By Farha Ibrahim

Fences is a film adaptation of a 1983 Pulitzer Prize-winning play written by August Wilson. In Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, Troy Maxson (Denzel Washington) has bitterness and anger against the world. After failing to succeed in Major League Baseball, Troy got a job as a garbage collector. That does not stop him from expressing his opinion every chance he gets about how the world is rigged against colored people.

Although some of Troy’s beliefs may have some truth, it does not give him an excuse to go on this downward spiral of hate and resentment, which spreads onto the people around him. His wife Rose Maxon (Viola Davis) is more open-minded, believing that society have changed. The film takes you inside a black man’s world in the 1950’s. Fences makes you want to take a second look at history and realize that much has changed since the 50’s.

“Sometimes people build fences to keep people out, and other people build fences to keep people in.” Troy’s sons want to following their passions and dreams much to his dismay. His teenage son Cory wants to play football, which could possibly bring him to college. His adult son Lyons has a passion for playing music even though it is not the most financially rewarding career. There is where the problem stems from: money and opportunity. Troy wants success for his sons. Although he might have good intention, he goes about it in a strong-armed way. He is stubborn and unwilling to compromise with his sons. Perhaps, Troy does not want his sons to set themselves up for failure, wasting their time with dreams only to reach a dead end. He would rather have his sons take a second look at history and realize that much has changed since the 50’s.

It’s my job. It’s my responsibility. A man is supposed to take care of his family.”

Getting a job to support themselves and future loved ones; it is only way he can see them succeeding. He uses his ‘dream following’ experience with baseball as a precedence to any argument his sons make otherwise.

Troy does not believe that the world has changed since his day. Getting a job is the only way he knows to survive in this “white man’s world”. The irony is that Troy’s survival relied on his brother, Gabriel. Gabriel is a disabled former army veteran. Troy uses Gabriel’s army money to purchase the current home he is living in. Although Troy loves his brother, Gabriel is a constant reminder that Troy did not earn the things he has today. Fences is a good movie with wonderful characters that draw you in from the beginning to the end. There is no question that Denzel Washington and Viola Davis are wonderful actors; they really captured their characters in this movie.

The plot can be a little depressing being reminded about the struggles of African Americans in the 20th century. You will walk away from this movie thinking, “What did I just watch?” That is not necessarily a good thing; history can be hard to watch. Fences is still in theaters, check your local listings.

Let’s Fly with Our Beautiful Wings
Review of BTS’s Concert in Chicago
By Gabie Yang

The chorus slowly built up. The beat rose, then suddenly stopped as singer Jimin sang, “Blood, Sweat, and Tears” (the English translation of the actual lyrics). The seven members then jumped into a dance, moving in sync as an electronic beat guided their moves. “Kim Namjoon! Kim Seokjin! Min Yoongi! Jung Hoseok! Park Jimin! Kim Taehyung! Jeon Jungkook! BTS!”

Tens of thousands of fans cheered as K-pop boy group BTS danced to their song. K-pop, which is an abbreviation for Korean pop, is a music genre that originates from South Korea. Although it is called kpop, many genres fall into the category: R&B, jazz, hip-hop are such examples. With help from western music influences, K-pop started in the 1990s and spread throughout Asia. It wasn’t until the mid-2000s that kpop became successfully internationally.

Today, K-pop is rising to fame and taking a rightful place next to other well-known genres of music. On March 29, kpop group BTS held a concert in Chicago, Illinois at the Allstate Arena. BTS, their full name being Bangtan Sonyeondan (Bulletproof Boy Scouts in English) is a seven-membered K-pop group whose music is hip-hop and R&B based. The group has members that sing, rap, and excel in dancing (but all members can smoothly move to their choreographed dances). The members with their piercing eyes, chiseled jawlines, attractive glares...
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that are almost deathly, and their exploding talents in voice, rap, and dance, it’s no wonder why girls and boys of many ages and backgrounds have fallen for their charms and talents.

Chicago was just one of the five sold out shows the group had scheduled for the American leg of their tour The Wings Tour. The group stopped in Korea, Chile, and Brazil before making their stop in the United States. At the beginning of the concert, each of the members took the time to introduce themselves in English so the fans could understand them. Rap Monster, the only member fluent in English, made the international communication easier since he can overcome the language barrier and translate between English and Korean. Because of their growing international fame, BTS make an effort to learn and understand English, and practice it at their concerts.

The concert guaranteed its attendees to slip on their dancing shoes and screech to the foreign lyrics. The catchy beats, uplifting lyrics, and flowing dance moves got the concert attendees jumping on their feet and even attempting to dance to the moves the members performed on the stage. Even with the heavy beats, there were multiple parts of the concert in which the songs would come to a stop, and a group of string players would go onto stage to accompany a member in their slow and gentle solo song. Most of the lyrics were in Korean, but concert goers knew the lyrics and sang and rapped along with the group. When the members weren’t dancing to their choreographed dances, they made sure to walk around the stage and look out into the crowds, interacting with the fans in front.

Listening to the songs as they performed, their voices sounded like the studio version, and even better in some parts of their songs. In many instances, one of the singers will add a falsetto note to their solo and even hold out the note until it’s the next person’s turn to sing or rap. When a rap verse comes up, one of the rappers will spit out improvised lines to the already complex rap. Hearing their voices singing and rapping in person always blow me away.

At the end, the group didn’t forget to thank the crowd for coming to their show. “Let’s fly with our beautiful wings,” Rap Monster once said, and held onto the heart-felt saying as all the members said their thank yous, in English.

Confetti shot out from under the stage as the group stood at the center of the stage and looked out into the crowd before taking a bow. They graciously waved and thanked their fans for attending and showing their support in and throughout outside of the concert by spreading the word of their albums. The concert consisted of catchy beats, singers that sang melodies and rappers that spit fire lyrics along with choreographed dances that were always in sync. They’re a great group to listen to, regardless of the foreign lyrics, so why not give them a try?

Eden Garman: A Lover of Stories

By HD Downs

E den Garman, a freshman from Sartell, Minnesota, has been writing all her life. In the first grade, she remembers stapling together pieces of printer paper to make a “book” and began writing. Garman’s love for books doesn’t come from just writing, but instead primarily reading. She mostly enjoys reading fiction and fantasy, especially after she discovered Brandon Sanderson, her favorite fantasy author.

“He’s amazing because he’s constantly coming out with these intricate plots that end up blowing your mind,” she commented. She also found Sanderson’s work to be impressive because he is always writing something new, coming out with as many as three books a year. She looks up to his ability to not only build a captivating world for the readers, but also to come up with big, extravagant plot lines. Garman’s main goal is to hopefully write and publish a fantasy novel one day. However, fantasy isn’t the only writing style she takes a strong liking to. Garman is also an avid poet writer.

It all started on a Mother’s Day when she wanted to do something extra special for her mother that year. In addition to some homemade applesauce, Garman decided to write a poem, and it stuck. From then on, Garman would come to write poems instead of birthday or celebration cards. Her poems are something that she’s proud of and finds it more meaningful than just a card or a gift because it’s always specially catered to a specific person.

Just like most of us, Garman also gets writer’s block from time to time. “I find that I have my best ideas when I’m by water,” she said. Whether she’s up at her cabin or in the shower, the finds the sound of water to be a calming noise that helps get the creative juices flowing. If that doesn’t work, Garman will also try and talk it out with the woman who knows her best, her mother. “My mom knows how I think and sometimes it can help me straighten out my ideas,” she said. In addition to Garman’s love of reading and writing, she also enjoys theatre and acting. So much so that she has even written two plays. “Writing and theatre are both about storytelling,” Garman stated. “The stage requires more actual visuals and not as many details, while writers need to actually create the visuals in the reader’s minds.”

In the future, Garman plans to make good use of her Communication Studies major and her double minor in Spanish and writing communications. She plans to study abroad in Spain and hopes to be a part of a publishing company as well as tour the world.

Harmony from Chaos: Stephanie Hunder’s Gallery

By Brooke Steigauf

Oncordia’s art professor, Stephanie Hunder, is displaying her printmaking collection, Entrance to Wood, throughout the month of March at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, Wisconsin. Through her work, Hunder gave her love of nature a voice, portraying natural elements in an obscure way that is both confusing and pleasing to the eye.

Using a range of printmaking techniques, Hunder combines photographs, ink-transfers, and silhouettes to give viewers an intimate experience with some of the most common aspects of the outdoors, such as flowers, grasses, and branches. Her pieces consist of five to fifty layers of ink, paper, and chemical to create an elaborate scene of organic matter and shapes. Hunder occasionally includes scientific drawings and diagrams to touch on the subjectivity of the human mind and complexity of perspective when it comes to interpreting the natural world. Hunder says, “The works in the show have more expressive than symbolic qualities. However, there are some aspects that are recognizable, the most obvious being that they are plant matter – which has to do with life, growth, cycles, etc. The arrangements and textures may also evoke any branching structure – rivers, families, knowledge. I am interested in the...
Music Review: Fifty Years of Dolly
By Renee Cortez

As Concordia students head into 2017, there is a music anniversary of one of America’s most renowned artists that may have gone unnoticed by some. Dolly Parton celebrated 50 years in the country music industry on 13th of last month with the anniversary of the release of her first album (Hello, I’m Dolly 1967).

The Rolling Stone reported last year that during her career, she had sold more than 100 million records, scored 25 Number One country hits and won numerous awards. Dolly comes from a dirt poor family, but one that was rich in musical heritage that taught her from a young age what music can do for the soul. She described the music of the mountain banjo as the music that was embedded in her from youth. At only 10 years old Dolly was performing on TV and radio, and by 13 she had recorded a song. This was the track that sent Dolly and her suitcase to Nashville the day after her high school graduation. Young Dolly was ambitious and has stuck to her country girl roots throughout her whole career. Writing biographic songs like the Coat of Many Colors and the ever popular I Will Always Love You catapulted Dolly into the limelight of America. She intentionally projected and still does today an image of a glossy girl with big hair. This is what makes her happy. “I was never intimidated by anybody,” Dolly told the BBC. “I felt like I could just stand up there with the best of them. It just takes a few minutes for them to see that I’m serious about what I’m doing.” Her integrity and honesty was refreshing to the American public and helped her image as she shot to stardom.

A monumental part of being an American celebrity is how he or she can respond to the audience. Dolly succeeds far past many artists in this department. In her concerts, she tells stories and makes jokes with a witty sense of humor that many people can relate to. With her it is not just about the music, but also about where the music comes from. She has lived a long and prosperous life with many experiences that she weaves into her songs. Dolly told Larry King last year that hundreds of her songs have been published and she has written thousands. “It’s a lifestyle,” she told him. “It’s a way of life for me.” And it certainly is; since her career began in 1967 she has released over 50 albums and approximately 184 compilation albums worldwide. Her most recent album, titled Pure & Simple, came out in August of last year and was promoted through the Pure & Simple Tour that made a stop at Grand Casino in Hinckley, MN right before the album came out.

According to Dolly’s official website, “Today, Dolly is one of an elite group of individuals to receive at least one nomination from all four major annual American entertainment award organizations; Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony.” A music career in any genre that lasts 50 years is exceptionally impressive. Dolly just keeps pursuing more and speeds forward to accomplish as much as she can. At 70 years old she told Larry King last year, “I don’t have time to get old!”
Writing Spotlight: Reeve Currie
By Renee Cortez

Concordia senior Reeve Currie is an avid writer and eloquent with the English language. This English major with a journalism emphasis is also pursuing a photography minor. Writing has always been easy for her and putting a pen to paper has been a lifelong passion. Despite this, when she began her college career she planned on being a teacher, but that soon changed as her passion for the creative word broke through.

Currie has been writing for years. Starting in first grade, she kept a diary. In middle school, she began journaling more devotedly and put more thought into what she put down on paper. “I also began to write more substantial essays and poetry for school and got a lot of helpful feedback,” Currie stated. Her father, also a writer, helped her perfect papers. However, it wasn’t until high school that Currie began to write personal essays and longer papers that were important to her. “That is when I finally began to feel like I had found a home in writing,” she stated.

Despite her love for the pen, at the end of high school, Currie didn’t think there was any future with her writing at that point. Like many young people, Currie took a break after high school before attending college. This was mostly because she wasn’t sure what she wanted to do in college and felt a bit lost as to how to figure that out.

“When she started at Concordia she was actually an Education major. “Although teaching is a wonderful field, I began to feel a little bit cramped, like I wasn’t able to be as creative as I wanted to be,” stated Currie. “Then, one day, I realized that I would love to take writing classes and something clicked in my mind that I should major in this!” And she went for it with determination. “I quickly fell in love with the English department on campus and have enjoyed each one of my writing and literature classes. Each of the four professors I have had has introduced me to a new world within writing and literature.”

Currie’s three years at Concordia (especially the last two) have opened her up to a whole new way of viewing the world, and herself, through writing.

While at CSP, Reeve has been involved with two major English related activities: Sigma Tau Delta and the Sword. As luck would have it, she just stumbled into writing for the Sword during her second year and by the next year she was the Arts and Variety section editor. “One of the most important things to me as a writer is to always be reading,” Currie said. “I find it immensely helpful to always be learning through reading others’ stories and seeing how they express themselves through writing.”

Last year, the English Honor’s Society on campus (Sigma Tau Delta, Mu Chi chapter) was re-started on campus, and Currie was quick to join, first as the secretary and now as the president. “It has been a fun way to connect with other literature lovers on campus!” She has also ended up writing small tidbits for the library where I’m a student worker.”

Outside of campus, Currie writes for Belong Magazine as their digital editor for their website, usually writing one to two articles per week, highlighting local venues and photographers. She is also the blog coordinator for Belong Magazine -- a California-based magazine for female entrepreneurs. She has been able to write for several online journals and magazines as well. Finally, she keeps a blog (TheGirlOnTheVerge.com) where she writes a few times per month.

Currie’s biggest writing accomplishment was being contacted by the Twin Cities Star Tribune this past November to write an article for their “10,000 Takes” section. She has since written two articles for them and is working on a third. “This was my first experience having a large online base of readers respond to my writing (and my first time receiving quite negative comments!). It is always a joy to have people read my work, but it’s also humbling to know that not everyone is always going to agree with you or even like what you have to say.” Writing for a major newspaper has really helped grow Currie’s confidence as a writer. This experience has helped her not to look for validation from others, but to find inner satisfaction from trying her best.

After graduation, Currie hopes her part-time writing jobs will continue and plans to add a third. Along with continuing her freelance writing, she will be helping write for a lifestyle website (24 East) in California as well as help the creator of the website start a charity working to spread skin protection awareness in children and young adults.

Lastly, Currie added, “I’m not perfect and never will be, and writing is coming to terms with that seeing who I am and not running away. Writing is a form of expression and it often has a mind of its own -- one that grabs you by the throat and doesn’t let go until every last word has been scratched onto paper.”

Worthwhile: Disney’s New Beauty and the Beast Answers Questions Without Losing Its Charm
By Renee Cortez

Disney’s 2017 live action remake of the iconic animated Beauty and the Beast was eagerly anticipated by millions. Many wondered how the new movie would mesh with the original version or if it would fix certain plot holes such as the aging of the prince and castle staff. While the movie stuck to key original storylines, it did differ on certain things to bring the film into the modern 2017 world to keep it relevant.

The movie begins inside the prince’s castle showing the castle staff in their human forms and the prince having a grand ball. It is then when the enchantress comes onto the scene and the prince makes his grave mistake. However, it seems odd that while everyone is running away from the magical being, Mrs. Potts and her young son run towards the danger.

What is nice about seeing the characters before their transformations is we learn that they do not age. Chip is a young boy when he turns into a cup and is still a young boy when he comes back to life as a human. Emma Watson is fantastic as Belle. In the remake her character is even more bold and intelligent as she tries to share her knowledge with the village girls and invents contraptions herself. She is ridiculed in a seemingly over the top fashion by the townsfolk when they throw her laundry on the ground.

It is a provincial life indeed for the girl who wants much more than what is culturally accepted in this French town. What is fantastic about the remake, is that we learn who Bell’s mother is as well as the backstory of how her father came to the village. It is the classic tale of a parent trying to protect his child from harsh realities, which Belle finds out through the help of the Beast’s magic traveling book--another new edition to the remake.

Belle and Gaston’s relationship and antics are more realistic in this film. In the 1991 version, Gaston storms into her house and proclaims they will be married. She proceeds to throw him out and he lands in a puddle that was far away from the house. In the remake, Gaston is more sure about the proposal and he walks into a puddle himself after Bell’s rejection. Gaston doesn’t seem all that bad at first, but as the film picks up speed his character is shown as much more sinister than his animated counterpart as he leaves Maurice for dead.

Perhaps one of the most satisfying changes is the Beast’s backstory. We learn of his childhood and how he became such a selfish young man. In a flashback, we see the prince next to his beloved mother on her deathbed, and we soon learn that his father, left to raise him, treated him horribly. This background creates a more complex character and gives the audience an understanding as to why the beast is so cold hearted.

In the end, the improved story line and fixes in plot holes provide an enjoyable and worthwhile movie. Answers are given, even though new ones were created (it seems the town did not age in conjunction to the servants). Character relationships add to the story line and certain modern themes appeal to the 21st century viewers. The extreme tear jerking “just kidding” moment of all the servants essentially dying near the end takes audiences for a roller coaster loop, but it’s Disney, so what were you expecting?
Thompson’s strong use of the midst of darkness. With window-lit hallway, “Shadows,” captures a Thompson’s photograph, pieces on display, Crystal Among the many stunning artists.

and classmates to share community and for friends to share their work with the opportunity for CU students student show is a great appreciation courses. The where he teaches many art Smith College of Music time professor at McNally William G. Franklin, a full-event. This year’s juror was fruitful and a jaw-dropping event. By Brooke Steigauf

Annie Siebell: Guided by Instinct

A nnie Siebell’s collection was the most recent series to be displayed in CSP’s William H. Teaching Gallery: Siebell uses her own unique painting approach to creating life-filled paintings that provoke emotion through color. Her abstract style is wild and vivid, bursting with unusual color combinations and embellished with intricate line work.

To create her pieces, Siebell fills bottles with paint and moves the canvas beneath them to create shapes and optic suggestions. She mixes her colors straight onto the surface, allowing them to take on whatever pigment they transform into. She is particularly attracted to shape and line configurations, allowing her color choices to be dependent on her current mood. She builds up the bright, playful colors as she goes, using her gut feeling as the decider.

Siebell’s assortment is based around the concept of instinct, which plays a role throughout her artistic process. She describes her inspiration for the collection as a period of time when her life was riddled with mental illness and addiction, in which she was unable to trust her own instinct. She now uses her art as a means of repairing that bond between herself and her intuition. She urges people to relate her art to the personal sentiment of the viewer, stimulating subjective understanding and emotion. Her piece, titled Insomnia, appeared to me as a jumbled mess of thought. The layers created a subtle texture which, to me, was symbolic of the suppression of emotions and build-up of ignored agitation. It bled colors of violet, blue, white, turquoise, and maroon, mixing into tye-dye-like swirls, representational of the many elements of life interacting in various ways.

Siebell series contained one piece that was set apart from the rest due to its definable content. Her self-portrait, titled “I Am Me”, illustrated Siebell in shades of orange, blue, and pink. The emotion-filled and slightly distorted likeness had piercing eyes which were highlighted by unexpected color. The streaks of color in her hair radiated spontaneity and surprise. Another one of my personal favorite pieces, Dismay, used peachy flesh tones,

Partially intertwined to enable their subtle differences to be individually attended to. Deep red, horizontal shapes divided the canvas, dripping vertically down the backdrop. This, in my eyes, resembled cuts slicing supple skin and spilling blood downward with the force of gravity. Siebell is an incredibly talented artist who entices viewers with color and stimulates thought through the originality of her work. Her art explores emotional disorder and subjective insight, while providing a prompt for intuitive perception.

Student Juried Show Success

By Brooke Steigauf

C oncordia’s Student Juried Show is always astonishingly fruitful and a jaw-dropping event. This year’s juror was William G. Franklin, a full-time professor at McNally Smith College of Music where he teaches many art appreciation courses. The student show is a great opportunity for CU students to share their work with the community and for friends and classmates to share their support of the campus artists.

Among the many stunning pieces on display, Crystal Thompson’s photograph, titled, “Hidden in the Shadows,” captures a window-lit hallway, highlighting a brick wall in the midst of darkness. With Thompson’s strong use of negative space, the viewers’ attention becomes focused and entranced in a different place. Its simplicity is profound and alluring.

“Flower Power,” a print by Monique Boulvin Kantor, possesses an intricate dot pattern and vibrant salmon and blue colors that please the eye. Her sharp design and well-balanced colors create a visual explosion in the upper right hand corner of the piece. Lucas Tunell’s photograph of a young man drinking espresso uses black and white ink to beautifully enhance selected aspects of his piece. The double exposure creates a foggy effect over the subject’s face, causing it to appear like his body is detached from his thoughts and the world around him. This photo is so powerful and the viewer is quickly charmed by its depth.

The monoprint series on immigration by Nick Schroepfer draws attention to the demolition of uprooted lives. The ruins created by his textured background conceptualize the distress felt by immigrants, as well as the support they find in each other.

Jamie Tan’s “Geopod” is a gracefully crafted clay sculpture of a squid. Its head has precise geometric shapes and patterns, enhanced with black glaze which gives it a slimy appearance. The tentacles have blue color spattered on them which highlight the extremities and bring it to life.

Amjad Almadani’s “Home” is a photo of a blue-doored duplex which appears perfectly symmetrical at first glance. Upon further inspection, the viewer sees the open mailbox on the right and crooked light fixture on the left. These subtleties are what make this piece so conceptually great, as well as the color compliments found between the blue paint and orange brick walls.

London Vang created extraordinary texture through layered paint, causing it to practically jump off the canvas. The bright colors of her acrylic piece, “Busy Town,” make the scene come alive. The abstract patterns and interesting color-mixing technique have a unique effect of their own which draws the viewer into the wonderful chaos.

The gallery walls will be packed with art, featuring numerous other pieces from Concordia artists. Everyone within and outside of CU’s campus is encouraged to visit the gallery, as well as participate by entering their own work next year. The collection will be on display through May 3rd.

22 THE SWORD NEWSPAPER
April Graduation Wordsearch

H I T Y N O M E R E C I P O V M X
U X N M T W U G G Q J C A P V O W
X K A L R O I N E S D L A M T V Y
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Alumni
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Ceremony
Diploma
Gown
Graduation
Job
Major
Moving
Parents

Party
Picture
Senior
Summer
Tassel
Teacher
Walk
Work
World

FINALS WEEK SCHEDULE

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**ARTS & VARIETY**

Illustration by Madison Buchanan

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