

R.E.S. policies challenged regarding Lutheran doctrine

BY BETHANY LOESCH
CAMPUS LIFE/INT'L EDITOR

On Oct. 24 a five page manifesto was anonymously posted onto the doors of the CU Center, CSLD, Residential Education and Services (R.E.S.) offices, Alpha, Beta, a few specific staff members' doors and the office of the "Concordia Courier" detailing the problems and concerns the writer has with current R.E.S. policies.

The passionate, thoughtful and scriptural document was not so well received among the staff members responsible for residence life at Concordia for reasons which will be explained.

The writer, Matt Arnold, senior and former R.A., came forward not long after making his thoughts public.

The basis of Arnold's argument was this: certain policies such as privacy hours and drinking privileges should be severely loosened if not completely eradicated due to their misalignment with Lutheran doctrine.

Arnold, a Pre-Seminary student, felt that R.E.S. having these policies in place in order to bring us closer to God is "a lie" and will do no such thing.

He instead said that, "R.E.S., if they wanted us to grow closer to Christ, would allow us to commit the very sins that they seek to prevent—for then we would discover the absolute horror of our own actions."

By realizing the stench of our own sin, Arnold believes we will be able to experience God's redeeming grace given to us through Jesus Christ, and through that, grow closer to Christ.

Galatians 2:16, which says, "Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ," was used to back up the statement above. This verse was followed by Romans 6:1-4 which Arnold summarized writing, "This is not a defense of the sin being committed for we are not set free by Christ to continue in our sin."

Arnold has since been fired from his R.A. position for this along with two other unrelated reasons. He apologized to the appropriate staff members for the manner in which he presented his complaints.

"I should have probably gone through the proper chain of command," Arnold said. "Otherwise, it looks like I'm just trying to cause problems, which I'm not. I just wanted to cause discussion."

Despite Arnold's hopes of stirring the discussion of these topics, no such thing has happened.

"It seems like it was fairly easy of them to just

put it in a file cabinet somewhere," Arnold said.

Kimberly Chamberlain, Associate Dean of Students, Residential Education and Services, explained that in order for a discussion to have taken place, Arnold would have had to do things differently.

"This isn't the way we change policies," she said. "Students must go through Student Senate to institute change. If a student came to me with these concerns, I would take them seriously and help them go through the process."

R.E.S., if they wanted us to grow closer to Christ, would allow us to commit the very sins that they seek to prevent—for then we would discover the absolute horror of our own actions.

— Matt Arnold

Arnold, in the beginning, considered going about it in a non-anonymous, orderly way but did not think anything would come of it. "If I thought I could trust the system, I would have gone through the system," he said.

While McDaniel respects Arnold's passion and feels that he had every right to voice his opinion, he wished that Arnold had made his opinions known in the appropriate way.

"There is a process, and it does work," McDaniel said. "We've adjusted a lot of rules since I've been here based on student input. When I first got here, dorm [privacy] hours were 10:30 p.m. on weekdays. Students changed that by going through Student Senate."

Derek Vergara, Dean of Student Affairs, also appreciated the fact that Arnold took the time to make his opinions known.

"A student's voice is critical. It's always good to speak up about the rules that govern you," Vergara said. He also expressed regret towards the way in which those opinions were presented. "There was a lot that could have been discussed here. It was kind of like a hit and run. I'd rather have a student forum to discuss this."

As for Arnold's arguments concerning privacy hours and drinking privileges, staff members believe Arnold was mistaken in his thoughts on why these policies are in place. "The reasons stated for why the rules exist are not actually why the rules exist," Chamberlain said. "The University makes the policies to build healthy community."

McDaniel said, "We have privacy hours to help

students manage their time the way they want to. It, of course, has nothing to do with deterring the sexual relations of students. Everyone knows that—I hope. If they're going to engage in inappropriate sexual activity, they are. It doesn't matter the time of day."

According to Arnold, having looser R.E.S. policies would be more in agreement with Lutheran doctrine than the current policies.

"Concordia is a Missouri Synod Lutheran institution, and Lutheran doctrine is what we are taught. Though not all agree with our doctrine, it would only be logical and reasonable that all elements of our university uphold the Lutheran confessions faithfully. R.E.S. does not do so, most conspicuously in its enforcement of a Christian lifestyle and policies that punish students for behaviors that might lead to sin," he wrote.

The specific questions brought up in Arnold's letter of the relationship between Lutheran doctrine and R.E.S. policies remained unanswered by Campus Pastor Quinton Anderson when presented with the issue. "I can't speak to the detail of the points being made," Anderson said.

McDaniel saw some validity in Arnold's opinion that R.E.S. policies do not directly bring us closer to Christ, but also said, "If we didn't have policies and everyone did what they thought was appropriate, it probably wouldn't be conducive to the community at large."

McDaniel believes that the way to run a R.E.S. life program based on Lutheran doctrine involves a

balance of Law and Gospel. "It's all about grace," he said. "If [Arnold] has an issue with R.E.S. life not being 'Lutheran enough,' I would have a problem with that."

Though no concrete changes came of this experience, there was much learning and growth experienced by everyone involved.

"I think Matt is a great guy. I think he has great passion and a lot of moxie to do something like that," Vergara said.

According to McDaniel, "We need to recognize students' passion, and students need to bridle their passion. It needs to be managed. In the end, it came back and bit him a little bit. It didn't need to be that way."

Arnold stands firm behind most of the points made in his letter but feels his voice was a bit short-changed. "The university has given its response on this issue. They fired me. It could have been worse. I don't want to make any more enemies," he said.

For more information on how to go about initiating any sort of change on campus, talk to Student Senate in order to create a student/faculty forum to discuss and consider the issue at hand.

We need to recognize students' passion, and students need to bridle their passion. It needs to be managed.

— Dr. Gary McDaniel

Shorter Winter Break considered

BY TARYN LAWRENCE
STAFF WRITER

Over the last year there has been talk about offering a new May semester for Concordia students and shortening winter break to two weeks beginning the 2011-2012 school year.

The fall semester will continue to end in December. However Winter Break will be shortened from four weeks to two. The new spring semester will begin the first week of January and end the last week of April. The new optional May semester will begin right after, lasting only four weeks.

"I think it's great to have the option to be able to take a four week course. It will be quick and allows you to get something out of the way especially if you are behind," said Katie Ravener, senior.

Faculty and staff began the discussion earlier this year, including students on the panel to get their ideas regarding what to offer and if they would even be interested in taking a May semester.

"I would rather do something like take a class during that time so I am not bored since summer will still be a month away and my friends at other schools will still be in classes at that time. It also helps me get a class out of the way," said Gina Maricondo, senior.

"The goal of the May semester is to have four courses offered and available. These courses will be determined based off the demands of the students and what the faculty is able to come up to meet the students needs," said Dr. Mary Scott, Executive Vice President and Provost. "We liked the idea of having a shorter winter break since so many students lose their learning retention when the break is so long. Only breaking for two weeks allows them to learn more when they come back and be more focused."

The new semester could also allow for a few international trips to also take place in May. The international students and the students involved in the May semester will be allowed to take one course and earn anywhere from three to six credits.

"The May semester is a great idea to learn more creative course work in a faster amount of time, and the students can retain a lot of great information," said Dr. Scott.

With the spring semester ending in April students will be able to graduate sooner and have a better chance of going out and getting a job since they end before most colleges get out.

"I would definitely take a four week course. It doesn't bother me having a shorter break. Anything to get me out of school sooner is fine with me," said Katie Baldwin, senior.

Drowning surfer rescued

BY KATELYN BARRECA
STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, Nov. 14, Chris Spriggs, junior, Drew Wissler, sophomore, and Eric Anderssen, senior, took an evening trip to the beach to surf.

Deciding that it was the final wave he was going to try for before heading home for the night, Wissler stood up on his board and immediately noticed another surfer face down floating in the water.

"I was going right towards the body so I jumped off my surfboard and once the wave passed I was able to find the body again," said Wissler.

The body was that of a teenage boy. Because he did not know how long this boy had been floating there, Wissler expected him to be dead. Grabbing him, turning him over and discovering that he was alive but unconscious, the three Concordia swimmers carefully steered him to shore not knowing if he was paralyzed.

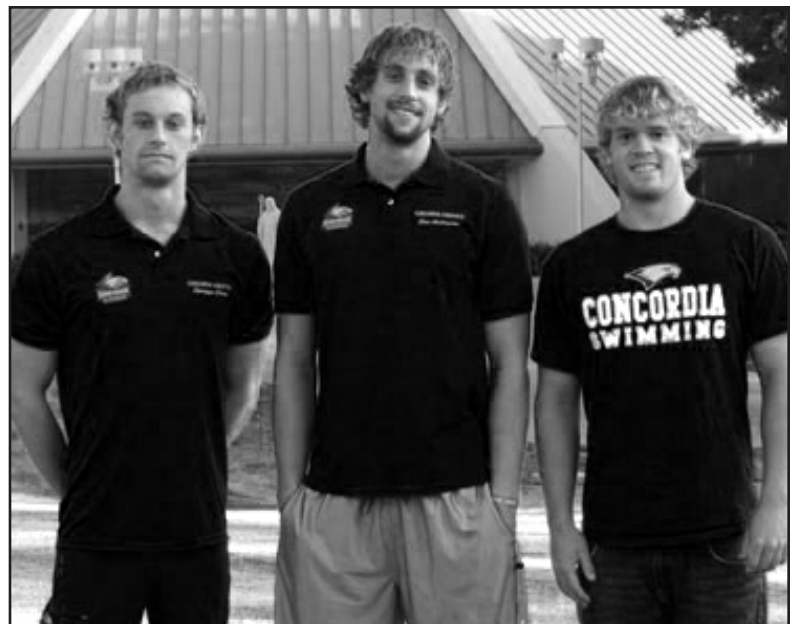
Once on shore, the young man became conscious again, sat up and started coughing up a lot of water.

"It was clear that his lungs were really saturated so we were afraid he was going to stop breathing on the beach," said Wissler.

Luckily, someone with a phone was close by, and they called for an ambulance, which arrived within ten minutes. Spriggs, an experienced lifeguard, worked to keep the boy from choking while he was coughing, and Anderssen propped his head up.

The boy, Austin Brooks, is a junior at Aliso Viejo High School and also a member of the school's surf team. After a short stay at Mission Hospital, Brooks returned to his everyday life.

"It is a miracle that the wave came for me to catch because I believe that if it wasn't for that, we would have never found him in time, and I don't think anyone else was close enough to find him either. It was also getting close to dark so he would have been extremely difficult to see," said Wissler. "If I would have gotten to him just a few seconds later it may have been enough time for him to suck in enough water to stop his breathing. It was definitely a work of God."



From left to right: Chris Spriggs, Eric Anderssen and Drew Wissler

Editorial

Does higher education really mean higher morality?

On Nov. 18, Fox News reported that New Jersey Sen. Frank Lautenberg introduced legislation prohibiting bullying and harassment on college campuses. Lautenberg was prompted by the news of an 18-year-old freshman at Rutgers University who committed suicide this past September after being bullied by his roommate.

When I first heard of this incident, the thought that came to mind was, "College-age people *still* do that? I thought we graduated from middle school." The fact is that just because we have a diploma from high school, doesn't necessarily mean that we have "graduated" from immature, selfish behavior.

When reflecting on this concept, I realized that I had witnessed bullying firsthand right here on Concordia's campus. Last year, I remember a friend of mine recounting multiple stories of how he and a buddy would play pranks on his roommate like sneaking up and scaring him, having his girlfriend "come on" to his roommate just to start confrontation and even pretending to steal items from the room and then yell at him in order to "prove a point."

Hearing the colorful stories at the time seemed like harmless fun. Now, it seems to me that what they were doing wasn't fun—it was harassment.

My friend liked to pull these pranks not because his roommate expressed a want to be the brunt of their jokes or that he liked being judged based on his introversion, but because his roommate was weaker and, therefore, an easy target for embarrassment and humiliation.

We also have to take the Internet into consideration. Students have the capability to be connected 24/7. Whether that be via email, Facebook, AIM, Twitter and other networking sites. Thanks to this convenience, bullying has become incognito

compared to your old school "kid getting sand put down his shorts because he has braces and glasses" type bullying. It has also become more in-your-face, in the sense that thousands of individuals can instantaneously receive a message about some "skanky" girl without the actual individual hearing a word of it. This is what the experts call cyberbullying, and it's some "serious shiz."

Let's do some expanding on all this business. First of all, how does one go about defining a "bully" in college? I would start by breaking it down into the various levels at which bullying works. First, there are the students who are bored. A student with some downtime posts something online that he or she thinks is funny without thinking of the consequences. Another type of bullying would be the students who bully in defense of a peer or friend who he or she believes has been wronged or even bullied by someone else. The communal living and "group dynamics" of roommates can feed the groupthink effect.

According to Patty Kleban, a professor at Penn State University, most of the time bullying takes place because the bully feels powerless and insecure. Sadly, the "power bully" usually needs an audience to feel more important. The Internet meets that need perfectly. It's not always the "fat kid" or "gay kid" or the "nerd" who is the victim of bullying. Sometimes it's the popular kid. Particularly with females, there is often the urge to try to bring down the peer who is seen as confident as a way of feeling powerful.

The college student's need for instant gratification and the Internet can be a bad combination. The victims of college bullying experience the same harmful effects as an elementary student bullied on the school bus: fear that no one will

listen to the complaint. Fear that telling will aggravate the aggression. Fear that feelings of helplessness and hopelessness will persist. Fear of loss of friendship or status—particularly if that person is a roommate or suitemate. Add on the additional pressures of managing the transition from high school to college and the pressure to handle the situation as an independent "adult," and it becomes overwhelming.

So what does this mean to me—a Christian college student in this age of technological expansion who has at some point in her life been both the brunt and a witness to bullying?

Ideally, I would like to say that we, as a generation, are working towards a bully-free future. But unfortunately, that concept will be left untouched. No matter where you are in life—high school, college, or in the workforce—bullying will always be present. There will always be that person who either views himself or herself as "holier-than-thou," who has so little self-esteem that they feel the need to put others down in order to build themselves up. There will also always be those weak individuals who, for some unexplainable reason, find themselves vulnerable to these situations.

However, we, as followers of Christ, need to remember his blatant love and mercy for us despite our ever-sinful ways. We, in turn, need to reflect that in our daily lives. We need to show all people love and grace. By doing so, we will slowly begin to build up our community in love.

If you or a friend has been bullied, I encourage you to visit the Wellness Center on campus. For more information on bullying and its prevention in general, visit cyberbullying.org.

Middendorf writes Romans commentary

BY ADAM STETSON
STAFF WRITER

How do pastors get all that information for their sermons? Some would probably point to the phone book sized, royal blue books with the name of a book of the Bible written in gold letters that line their bookshelves.

Currently, Dr. Michael Middendorf, Professor of Theology, is writing the first volume of the commentary on Romans. It will become a part of the Concordia Commentaries series.

He is spending the entire semester grading papers—an entire book's worth of his own papers. He will write out the commentary for a section then print it out and grade it as if it were a paper being turned into him. Then, he will go back and revise it and do the same thing again.

Middendorf's focus is to really take a hard look at the text in the original Greek in which it was written. At the same time, the goal of the commentary is to make all of that important Greek stuff available to non-Greek-nerds. The last commentary of this sort that we have is over 50 years old. The older commentaries do not have the current scholarship that we have today.

If you still want to learn more, there will be a wealth of information in a giant blue book on the shelf soon.

Core Curriculum comments

BY LAUREN WALSH
STAFF WRITER

This semester the Core Curriculum debuted. As it comes to a close, freshmen were asked how they liked the new general education pairings.

The Core Curriculum is meant to give students an opportunity to read from great works not only from the West but also the East and to think in a critical and creative manner. They write academic papers in many different disciplines, getting to investigate various points through "an interdisciplinary perspective." These Core classes encourage students to analyze faith and its interaction with academics while learning how to see things from a global perspective.

The students that were interviewed all decidedly loved their first semester of college, highlighting good classes and great professors. However, when asked how they like the Core Curriculum, there were mixed feelings. The majority said that for the most part the connection between the paired classes was minimal while others said that the big connections helped them understand the classes better.

A main concern was the time constraint that this curriculum puts on a student's schedule. The fact that these specific classes are required is not the issue. Rather, there are limited scheduling

choices, and fitting major classes around the Core classes is proving to be difficult.

Another grievance was with the Core Convocation time. Students feel that there are not enough helpful connections being made between the classes to make the convocation class period productive.

"The Core Convocation is merely an extended Core class as it is rarely used to relate to the classes but is instead used for exams and extended lectures," said Trenton Semple.

The importance of emphasizing the correlation between the pairings was expressed by Nicole Salimbeni. "In some ways it is beneficial, and I am looking forward to seeing how the other pairings connect in the next couple of semesters," Salimbeni said.

Although the freshmen do have some concerns regarding the Core Curriculum, it should be acknowledged that this is the first semester of this new configuration of classes, and time will make it better.

"I think the Core Curriculum is a good idea, and I think it has potential. But I think—so far—that it has not lived up to that potential," Nicholas Duerr.

Stephanie Ashton disagrees. "I think [the Core classes] have increased my educational experience because I am getting the best of everything—my education will be well-rounded," Ashton said.

Faculty Letter

Why you should 'Showcase'



In addition to teaching Concordia students about the rich, engaging and surprising world of mathematics, I also have the pleasure each year of coordinating the President's Academic Showcase of Undergraduate Research. This year marks year number eight for this annual opportunity that allows students to work one-on-one with a faculty member on a project from any academic discipline and possibly take away a part of the \$3,000 in prizes awarded. There are two tiers to the competition so that all students—freshmen to seniors—can participate.

Sometimes I'm approached by students who want to know why they would want to participate. Why would a student want to do extra work like meeting regularly for stimulating in-depth conversations with a faculty member, writing a paper on a topic of their interest and choosing and creating a poster that allows them to showcase their unique piece of knowledge to the entire Concordia community?

Honestly, if you are a student who is looking to maximize your education and not just get a piece of paper four years from now, how could you not seek to participate in this type of opportunity?

Here are just some of the benefits of participation:

1. A chance to work one-on-one with one of Concordia's excellent faculty members (this is also the number one answer to the "What did you like best?" question asked of previous participants)
2. Excellent preparation for graduate school or other post-Concordia experiences—gives you an edge for your application and helps prepare you for how graduate work is done
3. A chance for you to interact with other Concordia scholars who want to take their education to the next level
4. The option of receiving a unit of credit if you are working on a new project (one not already done as part of a class assignment)
5. An opportunity to indulge your curiosity factor—a reason to study "What if..." or "Why does..." or "Can I take this a step further?"
6. Did I already mention \$3,000 in prizes?
7. Academic Excellence—It's what Concordia stands for, and what we want you to achieve (six of the last seven "Outstanding Graduates" have been Showcase participants)

Here are some quotes from past participants stating what they liked best about the showcase:

"The privilege of working with some of the greatest minds here at Concordia was a great experience."

"The opportunity to work with a professor one-on-one to explore the topic of research. It was so wonderful to receive their knowledge and to be challenged by both their encouragement and criticism."

"It gives participants a chance to further explore something they are passionate about and gives other students a chance to see other students' work."

"I liked the opportunity to do very focused research. That's not often the case with classes where we do a lot of little projects. I also liked being able to choose what I wanted to study."

"I enjoyed getting to interact with other students participating in the showcase. As we were preparing, I felt like we all had a special bond because we knew what the others were going through. I loved seeing so many people attending the poster session and presentations that showed excitement about learning!"

I invite you to consider participating in the 2011 President's Academic Showcase of Undergraduate Research.

If you have questions about the competition, email me at melinda.schulteis@concordia.edu. To participate in the showcase, talk to a faculty member (in any discipline) to see if they are willing to serve as your faculty mentor. Sign up deadline is Jan. 28.

— Dr. Melinda Schulteis

THE Concordia Courier

Jocelyn Post, Editor-in-Chief

Michael Hartley, Assistant Editor

Tyler Howard, Sports Editor

Breanna Lafferman, Arts/Reviews Editor

Bethany Loesch, Campus Life/Int'l Editor

Daniel Baba, Business Manager

Publishing by Anchor Printing
anchorprintingoc.com

Ashlie Siefkes, Faculty Adviser

Faculty Advisory Board

Dr. Ken Ebel

Dr. Korey Maas

Professor Lori Siekmann

Dr. Daniel van Voorhis

Primary funding provided by
the Office of the Provost

1530 Concordia West, Irvine CA, 92612

Lambda Lounge
newspaper@cui.edu

Writers

Brandi Aguilar, TJ Ariyatanyaroj, Trevor Bangma, Katelyn Barreca, Kevin Black, Spencer Blair, Leesa Cantrell, Chelsea Castillo, Alyssia Castro, Ashley Garner, Lindsay Gerner, Mandy King, Heather Lansford, Taryn Lawrence, Annelise O'Doherty, Shannon Saine, Kaitlyn Soltesz, Adam Stetson, Adrian Valenzuela, Lauren Walsh & Trevor White

Photographers

Taylor Bearden & Margaret Langdon

Comments? Suggestions?
We want to hear from you.
Write a "Letter to the Editor."
newspaper@cui.edu
Letters for the next issue must be
received by Friday, Jan. 31.

Letters to the Editor must be typed and
include the author's full name
and telephone number.
Letters that are printed may be
edited for space and content.
Letters to the Editor do not
necessarily reflect the views of
The Concordia Courier.

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



Student Leaders Speak

Citalli Calderon
Peer Advising
Coordinator

What would I do without my P.A.L.?

My name is Citalli Calderon. I'm a senior here at Concordia graduating in May with my B.S. in Exercise Sports Science with an emphasis in Rehabilitation.

This is my third year in the Peer Advising Leadership (P.A.L.) program. This year I had the privilege of being the Transfer Peer Advising Coordinator (P.A.C.). It was truly a blessing and an experience I will never forget.

The P.A.L. program, which is put on by the Office of First-Year Experience (F.Y.E.), is an amazing program that sometimes gets overlooked. The P.A.L.s are volunteers that come back to school early to train and prepare for Week of Welcome (W.O.W.).

W.O.W. is a great way to get the new students integrated to CUI and meet other incoming students and build friendships. They are the first peer resource to the new students.

I joined the P.A.L. program because I wanted to get involved on campus. I have gotten the chance to meet so many great people and developed strong friendships with some of them.

As always W.O.W. was our big event to kick-off the school year, and we couldn't have done it without the help of our other student leader groups. So a big "Thank You" to A.S.C.U.I., LEAD, abbey west and the R.A.s as well as all the professors and other volunteers. A Special shout out to Monica Lum and John Hyttsten— Thank you for another successful W.O.W. (Side note: It's "Week of Welcome" a.k.a. "W.O.W"—not "W.O.W. Week.")!

Our last big event we did for the year was the Beauty and the Geek Dance Party. It was very successful. Students had the chance to eat pizza, drink mocktails, socialize and dance all night—well, until 11 p.m.

It's finally December, which means finals are coming up and the semester is almost over. Here are a couple ways to get/stay involved:

- (1) Join an intramural team—sign up in the Gym Walkway right by the CSLD.
- (2) Join a leadership group! Talk to your P.A.L. or go to the C.S.L.D. for more information.
- (3) Go to the events your R.A.s put on.
- (4) Go to sporting events. Support your Eagles! You can check out game schedules at cuieagles.com.
- (5) Get a job on campus. Phoneathon is coming up in the spring. If you are interested in making \$10 an hour, contact Mike Bergler at mike.bergler@cui.edu.

As the semester is coming to an end, this also means the new Peer Advising Coordinators for next year have been chosen. Congratulations to Elyssa Sullivan, Morgan Van Crey, Dana Gentling, Emily Geske (Freshmen P.A.C.s) and Alex Garrison (Transfer P.A.C.)! The current P.A.C.s (Emily Goins, Sarah Montgomery, Michelle Lee and I) know they will do an amazing job next year, and we wish them the best.

If you want to get involved on campus, I encourage you to look into being a P.A.L. You'll get a chance to meet people, move into the dorms early, train with all the other student leaders and create friendships and memories. Most importantly, you will get a chance to impact the lives of the new incoming students—both freshmen and transfers.

If you are interested in applying, P.A.L. applications are now available online at cui.edu/fye. Applications should be brought to RHO 154 by Friday, Feb. 4 at 4:30 p.m.

A Concordia Christmas

BY ADRIAN VALENZUELA
STAFF WRITER

On Dec. 9 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Concordia will be hosting its third annual Concordia Christmas outside of the CU Center. The community of and around Concordia will be invited to participate in the event. Concordia Christmas is put on by the A.S.C.U.I. leadership groups: The P.A.L.s, abbeywest, R.E.S. and LEAD. The groups are each assigned to work on separate areas of the program in order to prepare for the holiday event.

Each year, the event offers a variety of fun Christmas activities to participate in. There will be cookie decorating, sumo Santa wrestling, gingerbread house making, ornament decorating, Around the World Christmas stations, live music, special appearances by secret guests, and of course,

time with Santa.

The leadership groups not only want the students of Concordia to enjoy the event, but also the people in and around the community of the campus. The faculty and leadership students have been working hard to market the event from Facebook invites to the decorations and posters put up on the walls of the school.

Kiki Yaross, Student Activities Coordinator, said, "This year, A.S.C.U.I. has worked very hard to collaborate with other leadership groups on campus and are even providing two big surprises for all the attendees." These surprises will be revealed on the night of the event.

Jenna Greer, junior, said, "Christmas is a time to come together and to celebrate the Christmas spirit, I am personally excited about all the events and games that Concordia Christmas is setting up."



The Yuletide Twins (Chris Hilken, senior [left] and Spencer Blair, senior [right]) decorate for Christmas in last Friday's Ten28.

According to abbeywest, Ten28 is a culturally connected outreach experience for the campus community. Ten28 happens in the CU Center at 10:28 a.m. on select Fridays. Like "Ten28 eXperience" on Facebook for more information.

Alumna develops educational program

BY SHANNON SAINÉ
STAFF WRITER

Concordia Alumna, Jennifer Ann O'Malley, spent the latter part of last year working at Big Springs Educational Therapy Center and School developing a program specific to children with high-functioning Autism and Asperger's Syndrome. The program was created to help these students succeed in a traditional school setting.

O'Malley, previously Jennifer Huscher, graduated one semester early from Concordia in the fall of 2002 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She then went on to complete a master's degree in school psychology from Azusa Pacific University.

Now a nationally certified school psychologist, O'Malley has taken her passion for learning and her desire to better the lives of young children with learning disabilities and combined them for the purpose of developing this stimulating new program at Big Springs.

The program's current enrollment is at five students, but it has the capacity for twelve. The class is taught by the director of Big Springs, Leslie Huscher, M.A. Special Education, with the support of O'Malley as well as speech, language and occupational therapists.

According to the school's website, "The goal of the class is to mainstream students back into a traditional general education classroom once they have gained the necessary skills to be successful."

The staff at Big Springs hopes this new program will succeed in catering to those students that are able to keep up or exceed with the educational standards of a mainstream classroom but need extra attention when it comes to sensory and social skills.

For more information on Big Springs visit bigspringcenterandschool.org.

Human questions? Ask them

BY TREVOR WHITE
STAFF WRITER

Over the next few months the professors of Concordia will lead a series of lectures for the students to better understand the "Human Questions." The first set of lectures took place earlier in the semester—the most recent being last night.

Topics covered in the first three lectures have been "being a good person," "worldview" and "human rights and morality."

"Each lecture was interactive. It's been quite interesting to see what questions are asked by both students and professors. Each discussion has been informative as well as engaging," said Hannah Wainio, CUI Bono Cabinet member.

Each discussion has provided an open field for students to become more engaged with professors in a way that creates a more relaxed environment. This way students can feel more comfortable and become more personal with professors and not afraid to ask deeper discussion questions. The goal for the CUI Bono series is to provide students with a discussion that they would not get in class.

There is no outline on what to cover for each of the meetings. The professor lays out the topic for the night and students—and even fellow professors—ask away. Professors are allowed to provide better understanding for the students without more flexibility than when in a classroom setting.

"We are looking forward to hosting a guest speaker for one of the lectures in the spring," Wainio said.

The series has shown mixed reviews but has provided a great deal of information for the students who have taken part in the conversations.

Karen Campos, junior, said, "Each professor is there for us to better understand the topic of the night. They want us to be interested and the more questions the better."

F.Y.E. visits Museum of Tolerance

BY ANNELISE O'DOHERTY
STAFF WRITER

Concordia's Office of First Year Experience took a group of twenty freshmen to visit the Museum of Tolerance on Sunday Dec. 5, 2010.

The Museum of Tolerance began in the late 1980's, when leaders of the Simon Wiesenthal Center—a Jewish human rights organization named in honor of the late Jewish hero, Simon Wiesenthal—began meeting with representatives of top museums around the world to find ways to promote tolerance and understanding. The heroic efforts of Simon Wiesenthal inspired tolerance advocates to keep his words and truth alive by building a museum "to not only remind us of the past, but remind us to act."

The Museum of Tolerance's goal is to provide an experience that challenges and educates visitors of different backgrounds to look honestly at the harsh realities of the social injustices that consume our history books and are still present today. Visitors are asked to truthfully look at any commonly held personal assumptions and bias in hopes that each individual can take responsibility to help promote change.

"If students are unassumingly arriving there, then they will be caught off guard because the museum shows very explicit videos of real historical context. Everything shown will be disheartening and/or stirring because everything there is historically accurate.

Students will be exposed to the deepest historical truth by witnessing human beings at their

worst," said Stirling McKenzie, junior.

"It is extremely important to understand the 'why' of our past so we can prepare students to be advocates of peace and tolerance," said John Hyttsten, First Year Experience Grad Assistant and coordinator of the trip.

Hyttsten also explained that this academic field trip is meant to provide incoming freshmen with a rich learning experience outside of the classroom where they can develop a deeper understanding of the Holocaust and other human rights atrocities. Daniel Deen, Professor of Philosophy, chaperoned the event and provided an introductory speech for the students before the guided tour at the museum began.

For several centuries many groups of human beings remained stagnant by staying trapped in their own ignorance of discrimination and prejudice. The belief that some human beings were more evolved and superior to other human beings in regards to different races, ethnicities, sex, sexual orientation, social status and religion was believed by too many individuals.

As society continues to evolve and educate itself, it will begin to recognize collectively that the intrinsic worth of one's neighbor is equivalent to one's own.

The Museum of Tolerance is providing this type of education by advocating tolerance and peace to a world filled with many different types of beautiful and diverse people.

If you would like to receive more information about the Museum of Tolerance, visit their website at museumoftolerance.com.

Volleyball earns individual and team success

BY ALYSSIA CASTRO
STAFF WRITER

Ranked No. 11 in the NIAA's Top 25 Pre-season Poll, Women's Volleyball shone by making it to the NIAA National Championships in Sioux City, Iowa.

The team's season began ranked No. 2 with a blend of 12 freshmen and nine returners. Wednesday night the team played St. Ambrose in pool play and finished with scores of 25-17, 25-12, 25-22. A pool play is where teams are split up into different groups. All the teams in one group play each other.

The team made only nine hitting errors throughout the match and made nine total blocks. The two teams were familiar with each other having played one another last year in pool play.

"I've been to some of the volleyball games on campus and I have also been keeping up with the updates on the website. I am really impressed with how hard the team works," said Abraham Cer-

vantes, junior.

To add more excitement, two of the players have been named to the All-GSAC team. Amber Riddens, senior, has made this her second year in a row while Brooke Marino, sophomore, has made this her first time honor.

Riddens is second in the NIAA with an average of 5.16 kills per game, and she also leads the team with 41 service aces. Marino is second on the team with 310 kills at 3.16 kills per game. Her 61 blocks and 214 digs both rank third on the team, and she posted seven double-doubles on the year among 20 double-digit kill matches.

The women's final game of the season was against Biola University. The match fell in five sets to the opposing team. The end of the game left Riddens on the court soaking in the memory. This was her last National Championship game of her college career.

Riddens ended the year as the school record-holder with 1,406 kills, including 580 as a senior, while the team ends the year at 24-10.

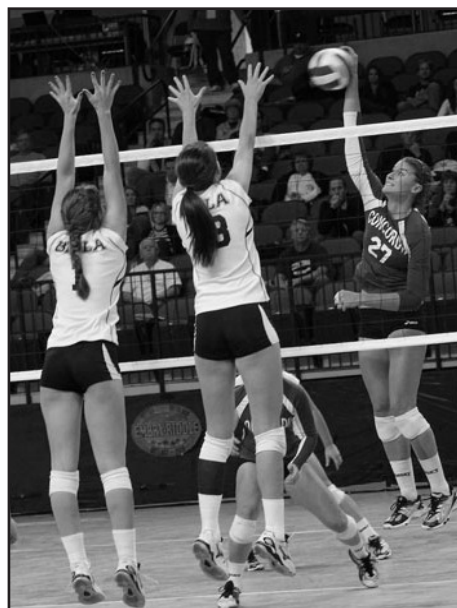


PHOTO BY DON VAN BUREN

New scoreboard scores rave reviews

BY LEESA CANTRELL
STAFF WRITER

After 25 years, Concordia has upgraded the scoreboard in the gym to meet new NIAA regulations. Fair Play, the same company that supplied the original scoreboard in 1986, installed the new and improved one on Nov. 15.

According to new NIAA regulations the backboards are required to have digital red lights. Rather than upgrading that one particular aspect, the athletic department decided to install a new modern scoreboard. The funding for this project came from the Athletic Department, along with donations collected by Amir Law, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach and David Bireline, Athletic Director.

The new features include LED lights, a strip on the backboard and new shot clocks overhead. Another characteristic includes the Eagles' logo underneath similar to the Lakers' logo on the scoreboard at the Staples Center.

"In terms of looks, it's amazing compared to the old scoreboard. It's more durable and more students will get excited because of the logo. It has more of a presence," said Erin Bohn, Administrative Assistant.

The simple technology change was minor and it took student workers one day to adjust. After switching to a wireless controller in 2005, faculty and students were surprised to find out that the controller is compatible with the updated scoreboard. The controller is also compatible for both basketball and soccer games either indoors or outdoors.

The actual scoreboard took exactly two days to install with a crew of two men. The original had to be broken down one piece at a time using scissor lifts. Some of the parts were salvaged and will be donated to other schools. Practices were cancelled on Nov. 15 and Nov. 16 but the scoreboard was ready and lit up Wednesday for Women's Basketball practice which began at 6 a.m.

"As far as holding practice, we knew at least three to four weeks prior that the scoreboard would be installed. So we had ample time to make other accommodations for practice," said Law.

Students and family were able to see the new scoreboard debut at the Nov. 20 home game versus Claremont McKenna. With four minutes and twenty seven seconds to go in the half, the power went out at Concordia and neighboring residences. Contrary to speculation from audience members, the scoreboard had nothing to do with the power outage.

During the week of Nov. 21 the scoreboard was back up and running for two basketball games without a single power outage to disrupt a game.

According to Greg Dinneen, Associate Athletic Director, this is the newest and nicest scoreboard in the GSAC. "Hopefully it will last 25 years like the last one," Dinneen said.

This overhead scoreboard is a unique one for this general area. Other universities that have this particular scoreboard include Chapman University, University of La Verne and the University of California, Irvine. Dinneen has already received several referral calls from local junior colleges that have heard about the scoreboard and would like to come and check it out.

This high-tech scoreboard is not just used for Concordia basketball and volleyball games, but also for intramural championship games, City of Irvine games and girls' and boys' high school summer tournaments.

"The new scoreboard looks very professional. I've never seen anything like it at any other college campus," said Jimmy Smith, senior.

Dance steps back up



PHOTO BY MARGARET LANGDON

BY KAITLYN SOLTESZ
STAFF WRITER

The Concordia Dance Company has returned to campus this year with new dance coach, Tyson Garner. The company consists of 11 dedicated girls who all share a common love for dance. The new company officially started at the beginning of this fall when tryouts were held. The team has a variety of dancers from many different backgrounds and skill levels.

Garner joined the Concordia staff last year as a teacher. He teaches dance classes on campus and meets with the company once a week as well as running his own dance studio. According to members of the company, Garner believes that anyone would make a great dancer as long as they have the dedication and their heart is in the right place.

Some of the members of the team describe their coach as a humble, flexible and patient person. "We couldn't ask for a better coach," said Courtney Meert, freshman.

A lot of work plays into keeping the company together. Christine Bennett, Captain, takes care of the background issues for the company. Scheduling, contacting, planning and team maintenance are just a few of the things that Bennett handles.

The Dance Company falls under supervision of the Theatre Department, and is overseen by Lori Siekmann, Assistant Professor of Theatre and Di-

rector of Theatre Activities.

"Professor Siekmann is so excited and encouraging of us. You can tell she really wants to help build the company into something notable and respectable," said Bennett, senior.

Garner and Siekmann both want to start the company off slow and just show who the Dance Company is and what the girls can do. The Dance Company members have formed a great bond with one another and may even refer to themselves as a "sisterhood." "Everyone works hard, encourages one another, and we are really proud of that," Meert said.

In the past, Concordia has had a Dance Company and different dance clubs on campus but in recent years, the memberships have dissolved.

The new team this year wanted to stress the fact that they are completely separate than those clubs that came before them. They wish to build a new reputation that consists of skill, modesty and respect.

Throughout the school year, the team meets twice a week to learn and practice routines to prepare for performances. They have recently performed at Concordia basketball games and have just wrapped up their fall concert.

"The Beginning" was the title of their performance which was held this past weekend. The team is looking forward to their next performance which will be held during the spring semester.

MCAA trains coaches for life

BY TYLER HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

Concordia's Master of Arts in Coaching and Athletic Administration (MCAA) has been preparing coaches and athletic administrators by developing strong leadership skills to enhance a successful career in athletics.

The MCAA program has a curriculum that gives members a challenging environment which fully develops their talents. The courses prepare candidates for the schedule of the working professional. The goal of this program is to "develop skills as a leader in athletics, strengthen teaching, coaching, administrative abilities and achieve the highest professional standards in athletics."

Tom White, MCAA Program Director, has 41 years of experience in all aspects of athletics including coaching and teaching. He has also served as an athletic director, school administrator and school district athletic administrator. White helped start the MCAA program at Concordia back in 2005. At its start the program consisted of 12 graduates.

Today, the MCAA program offers 36 units and

requires five core classes and four electives. There are five different regional cohort programs available in Irvine, Long Beach, Glendale/Pasadena, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley. Concordia's MCAA is fully accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

According to Chris Guild, Assistant Coach of Women's Basketball, the University does a great job of getting experienced professors in the field of expertise who are well connected with local coaching administrations.

"The MCAA program also helps us gain an understanding of administration aspects—more so of things that go on off the court such as dealing with parents," Guild said.

The program not only teaches candidates about the important factors of coaching, but also provides a base knowledge of first aid, care and prevention, nutrition, strength and conditioning.

Concordia's MCAA has prepared coaches, teachers and leaders in schools, universities, athletic clubs and professional leagues across the nation.

For more information about the MCAA program or to learn how to enroll, email tom.white@cui.edu.

SportsLine



Jessica Terena

Girls can ride dirt bikes too

Ten years ago my mother introduced me to my love—a dirt bike. I jumped on this bike with a motor and rode it straight into the garage door. I laughed and got right back on it.

It was only a little 50 Honda, but was the perfect size to learn how to work a clutch. I spent hours in the backyard getting the feel of riding until my mother finally took me to the appropriate territory—the desert. We camped and rode at Hungary Valley located in Gorman, California. Ever since then, dirt bikes have been a huge part of my life.

I grew up going to every Supercross, Motocross and X-Game event. For all of those who are not familiar with these events let me explain. Riding is considered an extreme sport. These events occur throughout the year. It is when several professional riders gather together and show off their racing or other skills such as doing flips with their bikes.

Crowds gather in the large stadiums wearing their favorite riding brand. Personally, Fox Racing is my favorite brand. Going to these events has motivated me to become a better rider.

I soon graduated from a 50 bike to a CRF230. Then I was introduced to my 400 Honda ATV, also known as a quad, or four-wheeler. I taught myself how to switch gears and lean with each whip. Before I knew it, I would race the boys up a steep dune called Competition Hill located at Dumont Dunes.

I got really comfortable riding so I began doing more risky things. I would find a jump and try to get as much air as I could with an ATV. They are heavier than bikes, so it is not as easy.

With every risky move came a trip to the hospital. I have had a near-death experience. I was following a professional rider, Joel Brown, on a bike trail down the side of a steep, rocky and uneven mountain. The narrow trail made me lose grip of the clutch, causing the quad to flip. As I tried to bail from the quad its wheels grabbed a hold of my boot pulling me with it.

Everything was in slow motion, but I felt a blanket of protection around me. Each roll the quad missed me by a centimeter. After several tumbles the quad ended up landing on top of me—trapping me at the bottom of this massive mountain.

Joel pushed the 400 pound quad off of me, and I finally came back to consciousness. I was covered in dirt and laid camouflaged with the desert. I was put into the truck and rushed to the hospital. Luckily, I was wearing all of my riding gear. My plastic chest protector saved my life that day. The doctor said I am very lucky to be alive because the handle would have pierced through my heart. I walked away with no injuries.

Despite all of the bruises, sore muscles and broken bones, every injury makes you a better rider.

I have always wanted to compete professionally but have never gotten the opportunity to. Like any other sport, with competing comes practice. As much as I want to ride on a daily basis, I have other priorities. Maybe sometime in the future, when I have more time on my hands, I will get the chance to compete.

As of today, I continue to ride several times throughout the year with my family. Our favorite time to camp is a week for Thanksgiving and a week for New Years. We load up the bikes in the trailer and hop in the motorhome to head for the desert.

There is nothing like it when the mixture of dust and fuel from the bike fill the inside of your helmet while you race off into the endless desert.



Artist Spotlight

Elyssa Sullivan

Poetry in Motion

In the brilliant movie, "Dead Poets Society," (starring Robin Williams and Robert Sean Leonard), the English teacher, John Keating, says the following to his students when introducing poetry: "We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race."

This idea that expression, in any artistic form, is crucial for living a good life is something I agree with.

My name is Elyssa Sullivan. I am a sophomore here at CUI. I am pretty involved on campus (Concordia Wind Orchestra, CUI Bono, P.A.L./P.A.C, CCI). With this spread of time commitments, I rarely am able to do something that I love: write.

I started writing in middle school when my 8th grade English teacher gave us a poetry assignment. I immediately fell in love with expressing my thoughts through the written word. Looking back on my first poem, I can honestly say that my writing was not all that great. But as time progressed, and I learned more about the intricacies of poetry, I began fine tuning my abilities.

My poems range from being based off of specific Scriptures to angst filled stanzas centering on frustrating relationships to social commentaries. I try not to let one aspect of life to be the focus of all my work.

However, about a year and a half ago, my best friend suggested that I write a devotional in which I would incorporate my scripturally based poetry. After much prayer, I decided that this is something that I want to do and something that would please God. My original goal was to have written more poetry last year and start the devotional over the summer.

Unfortunately, I only wrote two poems last year. This is most definitely not a significant enough contribution to begin writing the devotional. So now my prayer is that as this year continues, I will be able to find more time to write, and in turn, possibly complete a full devotional book.

If not, I will still write. That in and of itself brings me a joy I cannot express otherwise.

"Truth"

All look to be secure.
All strive for similar reality.
When all the while we ignore the cure,
And live in an anti-reality.

We wear masks of deceit;
We wear masks of hate.
Against our loved ones we cheat
While our hearts the face of sin ate.

We choose not to care
For all whom we once called a friend.
Forcing others into a dare
To join in playing pretend.

We continue to lie to the people around us.
We continue to lie to ourselves.
We say aloud, "Our lies won't affect us,"
For our emotions we hide on the highest of shelves.

To please ourselves is an almost untamable lust.
But finding a way to tame it, we must.
We can't always hide the truth, making everything just.
Because if we lie to ourselves, whom can we trust?

Theatre Students Honored with an Irene Ryan Audition Nomination:

The House of Blue Leaves:

Brock Powell
Liz Marsh
Melissa Straus

Hamlet:

Jeremy Schlitt
Shaylin Hoye
Aimee Burdette

A Year with Frog and Toad:

Justin Jorgensen
Naomi Rogers
Matt Chong

These students will be going to the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival in LA this February to compete in an acting competition. They were nominated by faculty from other colleges' theatre departments.

Hark! Christmas concerts continue

BY MANY KING
STAFF WRITER



PHOTO BY MANDY KING

Spreading Christmas joy to family and friends of Concordia, the Music Department is hosting their annual Concordia Christmas concert, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." The concert will held in the CU Center this weekend on Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11. The concert takes the audience through the joys of the Christmas spirit recreated vocally and instrumentally.

"I am very excited for our Christmas concert. The CU Center already fits the part with its beautiful decor. I am mostly excited that we will be celebrating Christ's birth rather than singing secular Christmas music. I never had the opportunity to sing about that in high school holiday concerts," said Lauren Linnemann, freshmen.

The different musical groups including the Concordia Choir, Concert Handbells and the brass and wind orchestras have been working hard throughout the semester. The Wind Orchestra has been preparing for the Christmas concert for the past two months day in and day out.

"I'm excited to see our hard work pay off and have my last Concordia Christmas concert go out with a bang," said Jordan Lakin, senior.

The different choir ensembles paint a beautiful picture for the holiday season as the music walks through the story of Christ.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' was an amazing Christmas concert. It was one of the best that I have seen in a long time. My mom and I thoroughly enjoyed the concert. She came all the way from Arizona just to see it and was very impressed," said Sarah Montgomery, senior.

Tickets are available online at cui.edu or from the Music Box Office.

Santa Claus vs. Martians?... Not your average Christmas theatre

BY KEVIN BLACK
STAFF WRITER

The Maverick Theater in downtown Fullerton is currently performing their rendition of "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians" from Dec. 3-23. This will be the fifth year that the Maverick will be showing this play.

The play, directed by Brian Newell, involves the Denizens, who are citizens of the planet Mars. The story begins with Momar (Mom Martian) and Kimar (King Martian), who are worried that their children, Girmar (Girl Martian) and Bomar (Boy Martian), are watching too much Earth television, including watching an interview with Santa Claus in his workshop at the North Pole.

When they consult the ancient 800 year-old Martian and sage, Chochem (a Yiddish word meaning "genius"), they are advised that the children of Mars are growing distracted due to the society's overly rigid structure.

Chochem states that the only way to help the children is to allow them to have freedom and to be allowed to have fun. To do this, they need a Santa Claus figure like on Earth. Leaving the sage's dwelling, the Martian leaders decide to kidnap Santa Claus from Earth and bring him to Mars to make toys for the children of their planet.

One warmongering martian, Voldar, is in constant disagreement with this idea and repeatedly tries to kill Santa Claus, as well as two kidnapped Earth children, as he believes that Santa is corrupting the children of Mars and turning them away from the race's original glory.



According to the Maverick Theater, "The show is performed with a light hearted 'Saturday Night Live' style that is suitable for children and even cranky adults." For more information and to purchase tickets, visit their website at mavericktheater.com.

California artists overtake OCMA

BY HEATHER LANSFORD
STAFF WRITER

The California Biennial exhibit at the Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach opened on Oct. 24 with an array of mind blowing, risqué and thought-provoking art.

From traditional canvas paintings to upside down trash cans with spinning wheels, this exhibit definitely is unique. The artists featured are from all over California, and their pieces speak to certain issues. If there is a theme it would be that of artists responding to the sociopolitical happenings around California. The goal of the curator, Sarah Bancroft, was to show "the compelling range of artists and art practices happening across the state today."

David Adey's piece titled "Pump," is one of the first you see when you walk into the museum. It is amazingly interesting—a football-object covered in nails—and is connected to a machine that inflates and deflates the object. "The idea of creating something new through an object's destruction and restoration is where many of my ideas begin," said Adey.

The next piece of artwork that catches attention is from artist, Rebecca Goldfarb, with her piece titled, "Traveling Through Darkness: Some Sen Of When the World Turned On When Flaneur and Collector Meet For The Second Time." The exhibit displays many different flashlights with various-shaped handles—some looking more phallic—and shows these in a way that relates flashlights to our everyday life. "My collection practice creates a context to consider the life of an object, our experience of it and our relationship to it," said Goldfarb.

In another room of the museum, is a life-sized cheetah, a television connected to a light bulb with some string and some mismatched socks. The entire exhibit as a whole is in a U shape. There is a giant yellow, plastic tent-type object that looked like a giant Pac-Man. Across from it are some upside-down trash cans with wheels on top of them standing up on a lot of sticks. The exhibit will be open until March 13.

The Orange County Museum of Art has many more noteworthy displays during the California Biennial. For more information on the artists being displayed or for ticket prices, visit their website at ocma.net.

Irvine Fine Arts features recyclables

BY CHELSEA CASTILLO
STAFF WRITER

Bill Jaros is the current artist featured at the Irvine Fine Arts Center from Nov. 19-Jan. 22.

Jaros' work is well-known for being created out of recycled goods. "Bill Jaros approaches concepts about the universal influence of geographical environments by creating pieces from recycled cardboard, plaster, wood and steel which evoke places that can be visually and mentally stimulating," said the OC Art Blog.

The Bill Jaros exhibit features many unconventional art pieces. The artwork is classified as more contemporary and modern, rather than classically beautiful art.

Jaros lived in North Africa for some time, and his artwork was inspired and named after his experiences there. For example, a piece of his work is named after Tunisia, which is on the edge of the Sahara Desert.

"My favorite piece would have to be Jaros' 'Gafsa.' Its colors are so strong and vibrant," said Mike Watt, a college-age exhibit attendee. The meaning Jaros wanted to create with "Gafsa" is a window into the spiritual world.

In a biography written for the exhibit, Jaros states that he feels sometimes the technique is not as important as the idea and message that is brought forth through the artwork.

The Art Center also offers classes for adults and children at low cost fees, including photography, printmaking, drawing, painting ceramics, jewelry making and even culinary arts classes.

The center is open everyday except for Sunday, and is located on Yale Street. Upcoming exhibits and any information about past and current exhibitions are posted on their website. To find out more information on the Jaros Exhibit and the Irvine Fine Art Center, visit their website at cityofirvine.org/cityhall/cs/finearts/exhibitions.

'Navy Seals for Christ'

BY ASHLEY GARNER
STAFF WRITER

The Cross-Cultural Ministry Center (CMC) at Concordia offers a graduate program that is designed for men who want to earn a master's degree in theology and certification of ordination into the pastoral ministry in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS).

The CMC program consists of 106 units of graduate coursework including both classroom and "in-the-field" courses. This program is typically completed within four years. The fieldwork involved requires students to launch a mission ministry with an LCMS church. For their main research project, students select a culture different from their own for the purpose of conducting their work in the field.

Dr. Gregory Seltz, CMC Program Director, commented on the selectiveness of the program in regard to what it entails. "Most importantly, a person has to demonstrate mission leadership in the field which means they have to be serving a congregation before they are admitted to our training.

"We call this 'Navy Seals for Christ' training where the student continues to try and find a way

to accomplish the mission no matter what the obstacle," Seltz said.

Mark Siegert, CMC Program Coordinator, explained what it takes for a student to become involved with the CMC. "Since it is a graduate program, applicants must have a B.A. from a regionally accredited university. This semester we have 24 students taking classes, which is typical because the program has a specialized curriculum and will not have more than about 30 students."

All current students are members of the LCMS, but this is not always the case. Others who are interested in preparing for the pastoral ministry in other church bodies are welcome to apply.

What makes this program unique is its cross-cultural aspect. Dr. Eshetu Abate, Professor of Theology, shared the main benefit of being a part of this program. "It encourages Christian ministry among different ethnic groups. It's not limited as

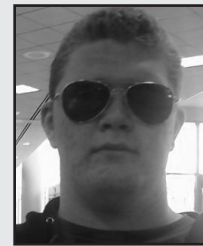
long as the candidates are willing to reach out to ethnic communities," Abate said.

"One of the most rewarding things for me is to understand the word of God. Helping people see the vision of the church and teaching them how the word of God applies to them is the best part for me," said Rev. Michael Hayes, Assistant Pastor at St. John's Lutheran, Orange.

"When I was there, most of the students in the program were trilingual. I believe 22 languages were represented. To me that's really powerful because I was able to see stories about God through the eyes of other cultures," said Hayes.

Classes for the CMC program are offered during the fall, spring and summer semesters. For the fall and spring semesters, classes are available on-line or on campus.

For more information about this program, please visit cui.edu/cmc.



Around
the World
Update

Aaron Bird

Arabian Sea Service

One place that I never thought I would get the chance to visit was the Arabian Sea. For some reason, the idea of going there had never occurred to me. It seemed much more likely that I would find myself in the sparkling reefs of the Caribbean.

That was before I joined the Around the World team this semester. Opening my eyes to new possibilities, this trip has broadened my scope of adventure, service and even beauty. On the beaches of the Arabian Sea in Mumbai, India, the Around the World team found all of this and more.

Though the city of Mumbai is an uncomfortable place, we found comfort in the care of our Indian hosts. Along with their tireless service of us, I had hoped that we would actually have a chance to serve them. Serving had been our goal on this trip, after all. Even at Vacation Bible School in Mumbai, we spent more time signing autographs for the kids than serving as teachers.

While I was pondering about this on our trip to the beach, I was excited about the opportunity to serve the women on our team as well. Throughout our journey, the men and women had tried to surprise each other with small gifts of service to show love and appreciation.

Preparing for our SHOUT!, I wondered when the men would make our announcement. We had decided to wash the feet of the girls just as Jesus had washed the feet of his disciples. Just when I thought we were going to reveal our surprise, I found myself surprised.

The girls had decided, incidentally, to do the same thing for the guys—on the same night. Without the knowledge of either side, both sides had made the exact same plans.

On the adventurous Arabian beach, the Around the World team washed feet. Although we were foiled in our surprise attack of feet washing, the guys as well as the girls were touched and overwhelmed by the love that we shared that evening.

All the while, we continued to worship and sing praises to the One who showed original service and love. We all knew that our feet would not stay clean—we were on a beach. But we all knew that the gift was not in the end, but in the means of the act.

As I knelt before my sisters in Christ, I prayed that God would continue to bless them and keep them as the women of God that He had made them to be.

As I stood there in the sand staring into the Arabian Sea, I knew that I had found what I had been looking for.

Going to the Arabian Sea in itself was an act of adventure, but the washing of feet for those that I loved fulfilled the rest of my hopes. I did serve. I served those whom I loved. They were not far. They were just within arm's reach. It was in this service that I saw beauty.

Although service is always a beautiful act, this particular night was different.

I had come to India and been served. In response, I wanted to leave the people of India with something.

That night we did. We did not serve them in a traditional manner, but instead left them a lesson.

We left the impression of humility. We acted as Christ. We humbled ourselves and showed a different service—a service not in pride but in love.

On this November night, we brought ourselves low and left our hosts in tears at the love and humility that they had overlooked in their own lives.

An international perspective on Christmas

BY TJ ARIYATANYAROJ
STAFF WRITER

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year for many people around the world. Some people celebrate on Christmas Eve while some people prefer to celebrate on Christmas day. Christians in each country may celebrate Christmas differently depending on their cultures and beliefs.

In South Korea (The Republic of Korea), where the majority is Buddhist, Christians celebrate Christmas by attending church on Christmas Eve. They start the service around 9 p.m. and it continues until midnight.

"It depends on each family's tradition," said Lonnie Lee, International Student Advisor. "Young couples would celebrate with friends by going to the restaurant, walking on the street, or exchanging gifts," said Lee. Christmas is not so important for non-Christians because they prefer to have special meals and events on New Year's instead.

In Italy, people decorate their houses with Christmas cribs starting on Dec. 8 every year, but the figure of the baby Jesus will not be put into the crib until Christmas Eve. A special thing about Neapolitan cribs is that they have always been displayed with not only characters and figures from the Christmas story. They also include other objects used in everyday life such as food, animals and figures of famous people.

"We also get together with all relatives and have traditional Italian meals for dinner such as pasta, lamb and lasagna," said Stefano Tecce, junior.

Italian children believe that the old lady, called Befana, would bring them the presents on Epiphany night so they put their socks up by the fireplace for Befana to fill.

"Although most people celebrate Christmas a lot like we do, there are a few differences that might make my family unique," said Kelley Kennedy, senior, who is half Italian and half Irish.

For her, Christmas dinner looks somewhat like an American Thanksgiving meal because they have dinner with the whole family. "We usually gather about 50 of our closest family members and hang out until late hours at night," said Kennedy. Since her father's side is Irish, they would prefer having simple breakfast on Christmas day with about seven to 10 people. "We just have breakfast together and open up the presents, nothing too fancy," Kennedy said.

"During Christmas, people in Ecuador love to decorate their houses with flowers, lights, and figures," said Chelsea Castillo, junior. "On Christmas Eve everyone needs to wear their best clothes, and they go to a Midnight Mass called 'Misa de Gallo.' After that we have a Christmas meal together."

In Ecuador, there are also fiestas, street parties and parades including dance festivals on Christmas day. Then on Boxing Day, people open up the gifts they have received from family and friends.

No matter which part of the world you are living in, celebrating Christmas always brings joy and happiness. Celebrating Christmas is not only for Christians, non-Christian people are also influenced by traditions of family gathering, gift exchanging and house decorating.

Cholera outbreak persists



BY BRANDI AGUILAR
STAFF WRITER

Since October, 1,600 people have died from a Cholera outbreak in Haiti, thought to be caused by a sewage spill and other environmental conditions. An additional 29,800 people have been hospitalized with the disease.

Cholera is a disease caused by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*, which releases a toxin that increases water release in the intestines, which then produces severe amounts of diarrhea. Cholera is commonly found in poor countries such as those in Africa and Asia as well as in parts of Latin America. Cholera is commonly caused by dirty water and food.

A sewage spill from a Nepali peacekeeping base, suspected to be the source of the outbreak, is being studied by a United Nations team. The DNA and fingerprint tests of Haitian patients have shown samples of Cholera. Some experts disagree as to whether or not the Cholera outbreak came from a sewage spill, believing the outbreak was caused by environmental and weather-related conditions. The living conditions of the people in Haiti after the earthquake in January may have also caused bacteria in the environment to multiply.

Cholera has been confirmed in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. "On Nov. 16, it was confirmed

that the disease had spread throughout the whole country," said Gregory Hartl, World Health Organization (WHO) Spokesperson. With more people being diagnosed with the disease, there is less room in hospitals due to overcrowding.

"The government needs to pay attention and build more hospitals. Why isn't this being done? Maybe they need more volunteers," said Jayd Banuelos, sophomore.

In regards to reports of the disease being under control, the WHO says that this is not true.

"Some people have been reporting that we have gotten in front of it and are in control of the spread of cholera. Actually WHO doesn't believe that. There's such a severe underreporting of cases that they're not sure of all the hot spots," said Laura Dills, Director of programming for Catholic Relief Services in Haiti.

"The epidemic is not contained and has not yet reached its peak, so Haitian authorities should be prepared for a worst-case scenario," said Claire-Lise Chaignat, WHO's Cholera Chief.

The United Nations issued a \$160 million appeal for the fight against the disease and denied that the Nepali contingent was the cause of the disease outbreak.

For more information on the Cholera outbreak in Haiti and how you can help by donating food, necessities and medicine, please visit unicefusa.org.

The Gospel in a shoebox

BY TREVOR BANGMA
STAFF WRITER

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is an organization that gives people the opportunity to put gifts inside of a shoebox to be sent off to less fortunate kids in countries all across the world. It was created in 1993 by Samaritan's Purse. OCC has now spread across the country and has become very well known.

Concordia is working with OCC this year on campus. Misker Abate, Global Missions Coordinator, explained that it is easy to get involved and a great way to help kids out around the world. "It's a simple way of helping, and it makes a huge impact on so many kid's lives."

OCC is a great way of helping those overseas without having to take time off to travel or having to pay for expensive plane tickets.

"OCC gave 8 million shoeboxes to kids last year, and since 1993, 130 different countries have received shoeboxes," Abate said.

This past week, Concordia had an event that

allowed students to come and put their shoeboxes together with friends and fellow students. Students showed up with gifts and decorated a shoebox in whichever way they pleased. After fixing up the shoebox, students had the choice to include a note inside the box with an address so the kids could have the opportunity to write back.

"They will write back, and they will really appreciate the time you put into the shoebox," Abate said.

"I think it's a good and easy way to give this holiday season, and my church also runs this event" said Jennifer Pham, senior.

"It's an opportunity to put faith in action, fulfill a call of service as Christians and kick off a season of giving," said Sami Wall, junior.

Those who missed the event can still drop off a shoebox today in the CSLD. Putting something together is a simple way to make a huge impact on a child this Christmas.

For additional information on OCC, contact Global Missions Coordinator Misker Abate at (949) 836-1541.



featuring...

Coollest Crib Winners

ALEX LANGE & KEVIN CARROLL



PHOTOS BY TAYLOR BEARDEN

Dangerously Distracting Websites

theonion.com
[America's finest news source]

failblog.org
[epic fail funny videos and pictures]

peopleofwalmart.com
[funny pictures at WalMart]

theotmeal.com
[comics, quizzes and stories]

stuffwhitepeoplelike.com
[the blog devoted to stuff that white people like]

Career Tip

The Importance of Self-Assessment

By Victoria Jaffe

Director of Career Development Services

Critical to the career exploration and planning process is understanding yourself. The more you know about your career related interests, values, skills, personality type and preferences, the better equipped you will be to identify a major and career fields that are compatible with your personal attributes. Decisions based on those personal attributes will help you in finding a meaningful and enjoyable career.

Take a few minutes to take a self-assessment test to enlighten you in deciding on a major or a career path.

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone." 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

Resource: Self-assessment test FOCUS2 - available at the Career Center (SSC #101)

HP 7.1 'The best yet'

BY SPENCER BLAIR
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 19 throngs of costumed wizards, witches and other members of the magical community gathered at midnight for the long awaited first half of the final installment of the Harry Potter series. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" premiered to rave reviews from both critics and fans alike and has been crushing the box office ever since.

In this episode, Harry and his friends decide that rather than returning to Hogwarts for their final year, they have to go out and finish the task Dumbledore left when he died: finding and destroying the mystical items holding the remnants of Voldemort's shattered soul called horcruxes.

On the journey they find that a fairy tale about three of the most powerful objects in wizarding history, the Deathly Hallows, might be real, and that Voldemort will use them to gain ultimate power. Using ancient lore and cryptic messages left from Dumbledore, they have to race to find both the horcruxes and Deathly Hallows before Voldemort.

It's no secret that the series has become increasingly dark as it has progressed, but this one takes us further than we've ever been before including murder, betrayal and treason. The movie takes

us into an Orwellian society where free speech is restricted, government is corrupted and outsiders and half-bloods are ostracized due simply to their family histories. In this world, fear has complete control over every aspect of the lives of witches and wizards.

Despite the atmosphere of doom pervading the film, there is still light and joy in some parts of the movie. The movie opens with a large wizarding wedding before which Harry and Ginny, Ron's younger sister, share a very meaningful kiss. Harry promises to return for her.

Hermione and Ron are also dating, and the relationship injects humor into the movie at every awkward meeting of their hands and eyes or mention of their feelings. But Ron's insecurities lead him to see a pseudo-relationship between Harry and Hermione emerge, throwing a monkey wrench into the trio's dynamics.

Coupling the script, acting and cinematography of "Deathly Hallows," the movie is actually very high grade. Definitely the best of the Harry Potter movies so far, this film gets two wands way up. So grab your broomsticks and fly over to your nearest theater for this great film.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" is playing at AMC Tustin 14 at the District. Rated PG-13 for some sequences of intense action violence, frightening images and brief sensuality.



BY LINDSAY GERNER
STAFF WRITER

Driving to a new place is not always smooth sailing, but if you're driving to a new restaurant and the food is just the right kind of delicious then it's totally worth it.

After a few treacherous U-turns, my roommate, Kaila, and I finally made it to the Inka Grill—a little Peruvian restaurant in Costa Mesa. On the outside it wasn't much—just a small entranceway with some decorative plants and a luminous yellow "Inka Grill" sign. On the inside, it was a much different story.

The walls were painted a bold, corn husk yellow accompanied by several different paintings of Incan men and women. There were also small shelves filled with pottery. The place was completely vacant except for some gentlemen eating in the corner. The tables were made of dark, polished wood, and the booths had floral printing on them.

Kaila and I were seated at a booth decorated with different steel masks and were served some bread and butter before ordering. There was a bottle of green sauce on the table. It seemed harmless, so I squeezed some onto my plate and dipped my bread into it. I quickly learned it was spicier than I thought it was going to be, and it remained in the corner the rest of the evening.

Staring at the menu, I was overwhelmed by all of the different choices all with names I had never heard of before. Kaila decided on the Empanadas—a dish I had never tried before. When our kind waitress returned to take our orders, I buckled under the pressure and also ordered the Empanadas—whatever they were.

Our dishes were served to us instantly in small gray pans. Inside were four tiny hot pockets each with a dif-

ferent filling: spinach, cheese, beef and chicken. The first one I popped into my mouth was the spinach. One bite and I fell instantly in love with this delicacy called the Empanada. My plate was licked clean in a matter of seconds. I was wondering if it was possible to just get a giant basket of those delicious hot pockets.

Both of us still hungry for more, we asked for the dessert menu. Looking through them, there were yummy treats such as the Apple Turnover and Lacuma Ice Cream, which is a flavored fruit native to the highlands of South America.

What really caught my eye was the Juanita Crepes, which is a crepe filled with plantains and the Manjarblanco, an extremely delicious caramel sauce served with vanilla ice cream. If there is a word that means fantastic, delicious, amazing, stupendous, scrumptious, mouth-watering and descended from the heaven all in one, that word is describes this dessert.

Kaila and I left the Inka Grill with satisfied stomachs, and we knew we would definitely be returning.

Visit the Inka Grill at 260 Bristol Street in Costa Mesa.



PHOTOS COURTESY KAILA WEISS

Charlotte's Web wraps Laguna Playhouse

BY SHANNON SAINÉ
STAFF WRITER

The youth members of the Laguna Playhouse closed the month of November with a true family favorite, "Charlotte's Web."

The cast ranged from elementary school students to adults who did a truly remarkable job of bringing this story to life in a musical. Not only was the majority of the cast children but so was the audience. The Sunday afternoon show was nearly sold out with fewer adults than expected in the audience. However, children and grown-ups alike all seemed to enjoy the show.

From costumes to vocals, the entire show was nothing less than professional. A must see for all. Charlotte was as graceful as ever, and the sheep and lamb duo exuded humor throughout the entirety of the show. Young actor, Max Eunice, impressively made his debut at the Playhouse as Baby Wilbur, and Dominic De Los Santos caught every bit of Templeton's need for tact. The vocal talent of these young actors was also extraordinary. The Playhouse staff has an exceptionally sharp ear for talent and displays so in its productions.

According to the Playhouse website, this historical theater began in a living room in 1920, and continued with play readings and performances in homes and storefronts. The Laguna Beach Community was devoted to making this community theater come to life and in 1924, the Playhouse on Ocean Avenue was purchased for just \$5,000.

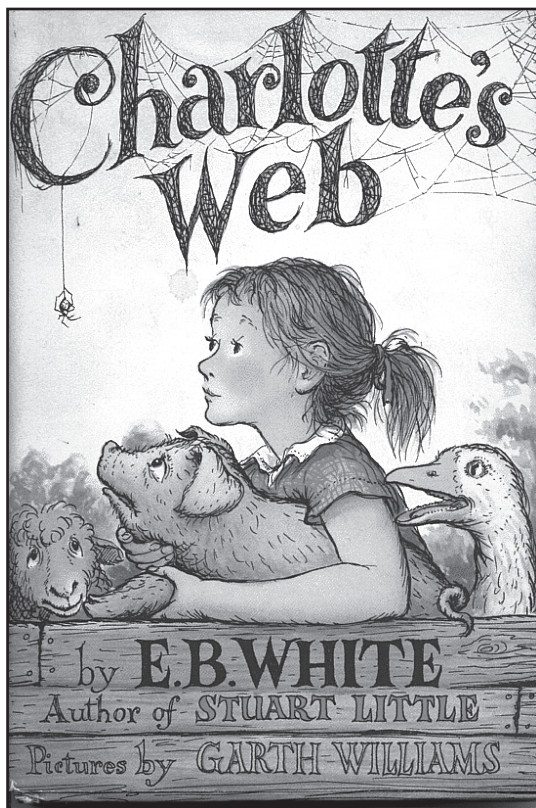
Through the years of the Great Depression and World War II, the Playhouse had its ups and downs, but the community stood behind this gem and ensured its liveliness. In 1969, with the need for a larger venue, the still standing Moulton Theater was built on Laguna Canyon Road. The theater was renovated in 1985 into what it is today.

Many greatly renowned actors, directors and playwrights have come through the Playhouse and have contributed to this asset of the Laguna Beach Community. The

Playhouse is highly noted for its youth theater and education programs. The need for a sense of culture in today's youth is certainly satisfied with the experiences this theater and its programs offer for the youth community of Orange County.

Whether it's plays, musicals or live art that interests you, it can be found at the Laguna Playhouse. Next on stage is "Daddy Long Legs," a musical by Tony and Olivier Award winner, John Caird. Treat your roommate to a weekend "play date."

All proceeds from ticket, merchandise and refreshment sales go back into the theater and its programs. For more information about the Laguna Beach Playhouse or to see a schedule of other upcoming events, please visit their website at lagunaplayhouse.com.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!



FROM THE
COURIER FAMILY