



Concordia Courier

Investigate. Inform. Ignite. Involve.

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Concordia University Irvine

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National champions a year in the making

EMILY GESKE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Sat., Dec. 1, Concordia's Women's volleyball team finally avenged last year's second place finish by defeating the #3 Colombia Cougars to win the NAIA National Championship. After winning the first game but losing the second, the Eagles went on to win the match in four games. This is the fifth ever national championship in Concordia history, with three of these being in the past three years.

The championship win marked a school record for the women, who finished with a perfect season of 38-0. Individual honors were bestowed too in addition to the collective victory. For the second year in a row, Head Coach Dan Fisher was named the NAIA Coach of the Year. In a post-game interview, Fisher said of his team, "It was the goal all year, and sometimes you get your goals."

Three Concordia players were picked for the 2012 Tachikara All-Tournament team: Madison Ekis, junior; Jessica Israel, sophomore; and Fei Gao, senior. "From day one, I have been seeing those girls work so hard," said Gao. "Thanks for everyone giving us prayers and all that support."

Gao, Brooke Marino, and Hillary Crone were the three seniors on the team this year. All three made huge contributions both on and off the court in terms of talent and leadership. "We became the team that we've always wanted to be and represent for our university," said an injured Marino, who played a significant role in leading her team from the sideline. "I am so blessed, everything happens for a reason, and I am so glad I had the opportunity to go to this school."

The team and coaching staff returned to campus on Sunday night to a group of congratulatory peers. Each individual has put in so much effort



over the course of the past year in order to make dreams of victory become a reality. Now they can finally rest knowing that they are the best, and as a university, we couldn't be prouder.

Concordia may get a facelift in the future

BRITTANI NAGY
STAFF WRITER

As Concordia continues to grow, the plans for the university's future also expand. This fall, Concordia started to lay the foundation for a new Master Plan to enhance the university with new buildings and make renovations to current ones.

"The strategic planning of growth is to enhance the facilities on campus. We have needs for improving or expanding facilities for worship and performing arts, science classroom and lab spaces, gathering areas for students, and especially parking. All these are intertwined together," said Dr. Mary Scott, University Provost and Executive Vice President. Concordia is partnering with the integrated design firm LPA to dream up the plans for the university. LPA is the intellectual craftsman behind the designing and construction of Grimm Hall. The firm developed an 11-question survey for the Concordia family and received an overwhelming 768 responses from three main groups: students, faculty, and staff. The top priorities overall were to fix the parking situation, create an aquatic center, and improve or add on to the science and healthcare facilities.

"The architects have said that Concordia's 'bones are in the right place,'" said Ron Van Blarcom, '83, General Counsel, Director of Campus Planning. "The reality of the new Master Plan is that it has to be flexible enough because technology is going to change the way schooling is done, and we have to be flexible for donors' desires."

The latest Master Plan was revised in 2005, and the development and construction of Grimm Hall was the product. In the new plan, Concordia stands to have 50-60,000 square feet on which to build that has already been approved by the City of Irvine. "Our first priority is to gain an understanding with the existing approved plans," said Scott.

"Then we have to see if it allows the university to accomplish its objectives."

Campus priorities have evolved since the university first came into being. In the past, the demand for buildings, such as the performing arts center or the aquatic center, was not as dominant. However, as more surrounding junior colleges and high schools are specifying degrees and programs around these disciplines, the necessity for these buildings has emerged. By making new facilities available, Concordia will be able to achieve its goals for enrollment, and students will have one more reason to be drawn to the campus.

"A lot of need is present on campus as we are rapidly growing in the last seven to eight years. We have a lot of things to take into consideration," said Elyssa Sullivan, senior ASCUI President.

"We are a young institution and are at a point that we can look at enhancing the quality of the university," said Scott. "We can now add and make improvements to existing buildings."

When it comes to the execution of the Master Plan, timing is a difficult detail to nail down. "If it all goes according to plan, we could be starting as soon as July or August 2014. The next phase is the planning concepts," said Van Blarcom.

"We want to hear from the users. We want to reflect the values and mission of Concordia, which is to develop the whole person," said Franco Brown, Senior Planner. "One of our main goals is sustainability within the campus." One of the goals of the Master Plan is to make dreams a reality. "Dreaming is the most exciting part for me. We are receiving input from the people to see what their hopes and dream goals are for the university," said Scott.

The puzzle pieces of the new Master Plan are in place. In the near future, workshops and open forums will be accessible to the Concordia community to voice opinions and visualizations for the destiny of the university.

V is for Vieselmeyer

NICOLAS TOWNES
STAFF WRITER

Jan. 1 will officially mark the promotion of Dian Vieselmeyer (Mrs. V) to a newly created position, the Dean of Student Success. She will be responsible for improving the overall academic experience of students and aims to increase Concordia's retention and graduation rates.

"She knows what it means to be a good leader," said Tegan Thacker, Academic Advisor. Mrs. V has been working with students at Concordia since 1986 when it was still known as Christ College, and she has built deep relationships with both faculty members and students. "I have had nothing but positive experiences with Mrs. V," said Zach Moss, transfer senior. "Even with limited time, she organizes our meetings to allow me to rapidly accomplish what I need." These are just a few of the qualities that prompted Concordia's leaders to select her for the position.

"Mrs. V has the appropriate academic background, and she is currently doing her doctoral dissertation research work in the area of student persistence," said Peter Senkbeil, Associate Provost and Professor of Theater. "As the person who has been in charge of academic advising for a long time, she has already been doing many of the [responsibilities of this new position]." The provost's office was responsible for implementing the new position and is the office to which the Dean of Student Success will directly report.

When asked how she felt about the new position, Mrs. V prefaced her excitement with the recognition that it will be a "big challenge" and admitted that the university can do a lot more for students. "In my opinion, we don't ask students [how to improve the university] often enough," she said. "So that is a particular focus or goal of this new program; we want their feedback."

She also will be focusing on collecting data from the diverse population of Concordia. "We need feedback from [freshmen through seniors], athletes, student leaders, commuters, resident hall students, from the Wellness Center to our staff in the Registrar's office, every faculty member, department chair, and dean," said Mrs. V. "Everyone needs to tell us what we need to know to help make the campus and what we provide for students better than it is right now."

However, this included one simple principle: tell the bad and the ugly, but don't forget the good. Mrs. V wanted to make it clear that letting her and the university know what they are doing right can help improve the campus just as much as letting them know what needs to be remedied. Some of the ideas that the university is already considering are increasing the hours for the Student Success Center (SSC), which will allow students greater access to academic advisors and the university's career planner; adopting better plans for students each academic year, which will guide them toward a career more effectively; and to better understand what kinds of students are best for Concordia's campus, so that they can recruit students who best fit the university. With the numerous surveys and focus groups being created, Mrs. V made it clear that "this next semester is an opportunity for everyone's voice to be heard."

The university plans to hire additional academic advisors to fill the vacancy of her old position and will also employ an Assistant Dean of Student Success who will help Mrs. V with her additional responsibilities. Dr. Senkbeil wanted students to know that, while the new role will be less hands-on, Mrs. V will now have the ability to create universal strategies for the entire university to help students succeed and will still be available to hear students.



From British Eyes Only

Colonial Education 101: Part 4, Food and Christmas

LAWRENCE OXBOROUGH
STAFF WRITER

Good evening class, and although it's still more than half a month away, merry Christmas. This week's class is about just that: Christmas. Do not be fooled into thinking this is going to be a boring theological lecture that sounds like, "Let's not forget what Christmas is really about: the baby Jesus, that giving is more meaningful than receiving, and down with the consumerism that Christmas has become." Instead, this is going to be a little different.

Christmas is the same just about everywhere. For many weeks and even months before the 25th of December, shops begin to fill their stores with the likeness of the all too familiar obese hero of modern day Christmas—Santa Claus. For anyone who's vaguely interested, Santa Claus is red because of advertising for Coca-Cola, and Santa's real name is actually St. Nicolas. Now you know.

Anyway, it is my theory that Santa is fat because of all the pies and cookies left out for him when he comes to deliver his presents. It should be advised from now on that Santa should instead be greeted by a nice, fresh salad or a simple glass of water when he comes down the chimney.

The reason I am saying this is simple, yet brilliant. It is important that this Christmas celebrity goes on a diet, because Americans seem to follow the habits and styles of those in the public eye in order to appear trendy and cool. America has a fairly serious obesity problem, and it is my opinion that this is partly due simply to the appalling role-modeling of our favorite holiday bringer-of-presents.

Since Americans already have Thanksgiving as an opportunity to gorge themselves silly on

food, Christmas should instead be a time of eating healthily, because having two holidays in which huge meals are important within a month of each other is just too much. Perhaps a new tradition could be "eat like Jesus," where during the Christmas period every year people go on a diet of figs, olives, and other foods consumed in the time and land of the big JC.

If Santa chose to be a good role model for Americans then he could quite easily lead the country to a healthier New Year. Americans could also choose to opt for health-based New Year's Resolutions, and make a second resolution that states "I will make my resolution last longer than 16 days." I mean seriously, how hard can it be?!

Other celebrities who should join Santa in his festive diet could include those such as Rosie O'Donnell, Oprah, Cee Lo Green, and Homer Simpson. If America's fat celebrities were to join forces and show the citizens of this nation that healthy is the way forward, then who knows? If the world doesn't end as the very credible Mayan calendar predicts, a clean bill of health could be the best Christmas present Santa could bring us this holiday season.

Remember, since—according to all those sentimental Christmas articles—giving is more important than receiving, give your arteries a break from saturated fats this Christmas. They'll thank you for it. Have a very merry Christmas, and a healthy New Year!

Editorial: Christmas cruelty

DAETONA LAURENCE
SPORTS EDITOR

The holiday season has finally arrived! The stores are full of Christmas decorations, holiday themed food, and a never-ending amount of possible gifts for friends and loved ones. But don't let the veil of holiday cheer fool you, because you may be taken by surprise. As sounds of honking horns and angry rants fill the air, Californians illustrate their lack of patience for anyone in their way, re-

gardless of the holiday season.

Each year, during the infamous day-after-Thanksgiving festivities known as Black Friday, dozens of people are seriously injured, or in some cases killed, for the sake of saving a few bucks. Holiday tunes may have been blaring from the speakers in the department store on Black Friday, but that did not stop determined shoppers from pushing one another out of the way for that last Playstation or big screen television. It seems the holiday season has developed into an occasion when it is appropriate to value material objects over respect for others and common decency.

In a time of the year when we are especially supposed to be showing kindness and love to one another, people show no shame in tailgating someone or flipping them off on the fly. As people venture to see their families for the holidays, more cars fill the freeways and streets and act as an increase in provocation for angry drivers who feel their destination is much more important than anyone else's.

Christmas may be less than a month away, but the celebration of Christ's life will not stop an entitled driver from cutting you off for driving the speed limit or keep a determined shopper from running into you for walking too slowly down an aisle in the store.

Though the holiday season is not the only time of the year we should be considerate of others, it should be a time that brings people together instead of pushing them away. Christ was born and died for us so that we could have eternal life, and we should show our gratitude by treating others with love and respect instead of selfishness and disregard. So, the next time you are on the freeway and someone is driving a little slowly or happens to cut you off, think to yourself about what Jesus would do and let it go.



Faculty Letter: Dr. Daniel van Voorhis

**Well tonight, thank God it's
them instead of you:**

Dissecting the worst thing that has ever happened to Christmas.

To: Dr. van Voorhis

"...the faculty letter, you know, 500-700 words on something about Christmas... just go off on one of your rants or something."

From: Editor-in-Chief, Emily Geske

Me (to my wife): "Do I really complain about Christmas? I love Christmas! I guess a thing or two bothers me... I'm supposed to write some kind of rant."

My Wife (rolling her eyes): "Just stay away from 'Do They Know It's Christmas?'. It's all you complain about. People are sick of hearing you get angry about that dated song that no kid has probably heard."

Me: (nodding in agreement, realizing that this conversation might make its way into an article)

[Editor's note: "Do They Know It's Christmas?" was a single released in the 80's by a slew of then-famous British pop singers. The proceeds went to a charity donating food to Africa. It was a huge hit. Find it on YouTube]

Africa is kind of depressing. Seriously. It bums

me out.... I'm sure it has some rad bits and nice folks. But, in general... you know...

In all seriousness, support the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (really, shoot some of the money you were going to blow on some needless scarf or ironic sweater towards this worthwhile cause. See Mai Vu for details).

But what do we like to do instead... Raise awareness using celebrities! Ben Affleck is against Crohn's disease? Me too! Kristen Stewart is wearing a bracelet to help fight Legionnaires' disease? I totally agree, that disease sucks!

In 1984, the worst crime against Christmas, humanity, music, and Africa was committed. "Band Aid"—a motley group of mostly forgotten recording "artists"—got together to record a song called "Do They Know It's Christmas" for charity. The "they" were Africans. It was a leading question; they probably didn't... nor did they care. But Bono, Sting, and a bunch of British pop stars sang the worst Christmas/charity song of all time. Let's break it down:

"It's Christmas time/There's no need to be afraid. At Christmas time/We let in light and we banish shade."

Really... this time of year makes us especially "afraid", and thus we must find a word that rhymes with that, despite that word not really making any

sense in this context...shade? Banishing shade?

"And in our world of plenty/We can spread a smile of joy. Throw your arms around the world/ At Christmas time!"

Spreading a smile of joy? Give the globe a big hug? Hey, an AIDS riddled village was just healed! It worked!

"And the Christmas bells that ring there/Are the clanging chimes of doom."

But if they *don't* know it's Christmas time, what's up with the bells? And who picks the "doom" setting on their steeple bells? You're setting yourself up for a melancholy season.

"And there won't be snow in Africa this Christmas time."

Well, it's in the southern hemisphere... and it is mostly a desert...and they have some more pressing issues to tend to...like banishing shade.

"The greatest gift they'll get this year is life."

As opposed to my greatest gift this year! A new iPhone! Wait. I think I, too, would pick life over a smart phone.

"Here's to you/Raise your glass for everyone Here's to them/Underneath that burning sun."

Alright, now we're either just being mean... or ironic? I hate the British. If, like me, you splurged on the 3" CD single with bonus remix, you're in for a surprise! Half way through this song about how

tough the African kids have it, we get a roll call of now-forgotten pop stars wishing us a happy Christmas. Bananarama—check. Frankie Goes to Hollywood—check. Paul McCartney—double check! They mix and scratch his voice for comic effect. And then it goes quiet. David Bowie pipes up with a somber voice reminding us that it is 1984, and there are more starving folks on our planet than ever before (was that rhyme intentional? It's always bugged me). What does he ask us to do? Whatever. Give 'em a thought and throw some pence in a bucket. After this quiet strange moment...wait for it... a huge electronic drum fill and synth line backs a joyous bunch singing a terribly catchy pop refrain.

Well kids, fortunately this song has been covered for various charities at least seven times by different groups, one as recently as last year—so go out and get it! Forget the mosquito nets—purchase one of the worst Christmas songs, nay, worst songs, of all time.

I suppose, however, I should wrap up by admitting something. According to my iTunes, I have played this song over 400 times. I really like it. It's like that one Mariah Carey Christmas song—pretend to hate it, but c'mon, you love it.

Something serious and academic will surely return to this space next issue.

THE Concordia Courier

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Forensics “the best team we’ve had”

TAYLOR WELLS
STAFF WRITER

Concordia's Forensics Team has proven to be one of the strongest programs in the country after placing first in three of the five tournaments this semester, taking second and fourth in the other two.

“We have ranked in the top of each tournament we attended while establishing a positive reputation for not only the team but also the school,” said Allison Bowman, senior speech captain. The program is comprised of two different teams: a speech team and a debate team. The teams compete all around the country throughout the school year. Though this year's team is highly debate-heavy in number of competitors with 25 for debate and seven for speech, both teams have enjoyed successes this semester.

Assistant Prof. Konrad Hack, Director of Forensics, described Bowman's success this year as “destroying California” in her speech events. Bowman has competed in nine tournaments this year and placed sixth or higher in 28 events, taking first and second place ten times each. In addition, she qualified for Nationals in four different speech events. Other speech competitors including Rachel Garnett, freshman, and Whitney Gamble and Danielle Raymus, seniors, have also performed remarkably in their respective speech events this semester.

Six of the 12 debate pairs are currently ranked in the nation's top 50. Partners Zachary Moss and David “Bear” Saulet, seniors, have earned themselves a fourth place ranking. Also notable, partners Amanda Ozaki, sophomore, and Maria Harris, senior, make up one of the only two all-female teams in the top 50. George Talavera and team co-captain Stirling Mckenzie, seniors, and Josh Vannoy, freshman, and Keane Anrig, junior, are also

among the 50 best in the nation. Based on this semester's achievements, the debate team is likely to be a strong contender at Nationals, which will be hosted by the University of the Pacific.

With Nationals in sight, teammates are working hard to prepare for the competition, which will feature 510 teams. “All of the work that we have put in and will put in is all in preparation toward having success at Nationals,” said Bowman. Last year, the team took second, fifth, and made the Elite 8 in the three different national competitions last year. As for chances of winning this year, the likelihood looks positive. “We have as good a shot as anybody. We're talented and deep,” said Hack. “This may be the best team we've had.”

The Forensics squad has more to be proud of than its impressive catalog of awards. The program is “possibly the largest and most successful” in the nation, said Jachin Anrig, sophomore. “We are probably the most diverse team [in an] activity that is historically male and white,” said Joseph Laughon, senior team chaplain and co-captain.

Other teammates echo Laughon's thoughts. “We come from different backgrounds, with varying religions, political beliefs, and cultures,” said Bowman. “The team provides a unique opportunity to engage in educational conversation about our differences, which ultimately makes us stronger as a team.”

The Forensic Team strives to be more balanced in numbers between speech and debate in the future, with ideally fifteen competitors on each team. The team also wants to advance in status from being one of the five best programs in the country to the number one program in the nation. “I definitely think with the resources the school has graciously given us, the great coaching staff we have here, and our teammates, that can definitely get the job done,” said Laughon.



The Forensic Team's professional attitude and focus contribute largely to its success.

Concordia's own Christmas cheer

HALEY HOLMES
STAFF WRITER

The 5th annual Concordia Christmas will take place Dec. 6 from 6-9 p.m. outside of the CU Center. Come spread Christmas cheer as we celebrate with students, faculty, and surrounding community members.

Associated Students of Concordia University, Irvine (ASCUI), Peer Advising Leaders, Abbeywest, RES life, and LEAD put on this annual Concordia tradition. With a common belief, students are able to join together in thanks and celebration. “Concordia Christmas has been a campus tradition since December of 2007 when Christie Clark and her ASCUI Executive Board decided to host the first Concordia Christmas,” said Breanna Wengel, senior ASCUI Secretary. Since then, the tradition has continued to thrive and is always a favorite among students and faculty.

This night will feature attractions such as a horse drawn carriage, pictures with Santa, a live nativity scene, games, ornament decorating, a gingerbread house building contest, and more. “It's an awesome tradition our school has been doing for years. You'll regret it if you don't attend,” said Ellyssa Sullivan, senior ASCUI President. ASCUI has

been working for months to plan this night of celebration and have a few new surprises for this year. “I've heard a lot about it, and I'm looking forward to the event,” said Jennifer Schlak, freshman.

Concordia Christmas is one of the biggest events that happens on campus every year and is not only open to our students. “It is open to the community because we want to share the Concordia Christmas spirit with everyone,” said Wengel. In past years, many local residents have brought their families to take part in the celebrations and have appreciated the overwhelming kindness from students. This past week, surrounding residents have been informed and invited to this annual celebration, and decorations have been put up all around campus. Once again, our campus hopes to reach out to those beyond our student body.

Concordia Christmas is not only a great way to celebrate with friends and the surrounding community, but it also helps alleviate the stress of finals through spreading Christmas spirit. “It's an opportunity on the Concordia campus for faculty, staff, students, and their families to celebrate what we have in common, which is our Lord and Savior,” said Christie Clark, '08, Director of Community Involvement and Leadership Development.

Come for some holiday cheer Thursday night at Concordia Christmas!

Fung for you and me

COURTNEY ORDAZ
STAFF WRITER

This year, the Athletic Department has brought in a new athletic trainer, Glory Fung. Fung is focused, motivated, and determined to maintain successful athletic training and medical services on campus. Fung's first day of work was July 1. He is beginning his fifth month working with the Athletic Department and has enjoyed every moment of his experience thus far. Fung is responsible for overseeing his staff of seven and providing medical services for over 500 athletes on campus. He has always had a passion for athletic training and wishes to implement some of his goals here on campus. “I want to be a part of building a successful athletic training program on campus to produce students that pursue post grad degrees in the health industry,” said Fung.

Fung has had previous experience in athletic training at Azusa Pacific for the past five years and at Cal Baptist for the two years prior. “I love the small Christian college environment, and working at Concordia has been something that I truly enjoy,” said Fung. “I value the staff, the coaches, administration, and student athletes that I come in contact with on a daily basis.”

He is constantly serving and helping student athletes with anything they may need from injury care to injury prevention and enhancing sports

performance through strength and conditioning. “Glory is always putting athletes first and cares so much about the athletic training program,” said Hanna Sandquist, junior. “He is very intentional when he talks to people and makes sure they are thriving and not getting worn down with everything else they may have going on in life.”

Glory has been a positive, inspiring asset to the Athletic Training Department, and it is evident in his efforts. “It is so nice working with someone who is so motivated and passionate about what they do, and when he works with people he makes them feel like they are the only person that matters,” said Ashlee Harlow, Assistant Athletic Trainer. Fung is striving to bring in his principles to establish a prosperous athletic program here on campus. “In the short time I have known Glory, he has shown a tremendous passion for his position, his profession, and our institution,” said Amir Law, Resident Director, Student Success Initiatives. “His willingness to help others is a constant reminder of why Concordia is a great place to work.”

“This job never feels like work. It gives me the opportunity to share what it means to live a life reflected on Biblical principles and to share God's love on a daily basis one-on-one to people,” said Fung. If you are interested in learning more about Glory Fung or his endeavors, feel free to visit the Athletic Training Clinic on the first floor of the gym.

Revamped Wellness Center

SARINA GRANT
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

The Wellness Center has many initiatives that help students stay physically and mentally healthy, including Student Health 101.

According to the Student Health 101 main web page, the website is a “fully integrated wellness communication system that... seeks to create valuable content for students that is distributed in an active way throughout the school year.” The Wellness Center has provided this resource for students since 2007.

The page focuses on a wide variety of topics, prominently featuring UCookBook and FitnessU. Each month, a different selection of supplemental topics are provided, including body image, friendships, stress and smoking, academic integrity, sleep, and skin care.

“There are a lot of really helpful resources on the website. I'm glad that there is a tool specifically targeted at college students that focuses on living a healthier lifestyle,” said Jessica Rojas, junior.

Contributions are made to the site by doctors and university students from around the country. For those interested in writing for Student Health 101, open applications are available on the website. Information is made available in the form of ar-

ticles, videos, personal stories, and polls.

“I really like the UCookbook section of the website. I'm going to try out some of the recipes over Christmas break,” said Rafael Ramos, junior. “I like that they include videos along with the recipes.”

“College students don't have healthy schedules and eating habits. They may not even realize that their habits are unhealthy. This website can inform some people and will hopefully help them have a healthier lifestyle,” said Emily Wu, freshman.

“Having a website like this is very helpful to guide our eating habits, or even just get ideas on how we can eat healthier,” said Alison Martin, junior. “As students, our lifestyle is just super busy, so we go for the quickest route when it comes to food. That quickest route is usually just fast food.”

In addition to the website, the Wellness Center offers free nursing services and minimal cost mental health services to help keep the campus running at its best. “Having easily accessible mental health services on campus is crucial in ensuring that all students perform to the best of their abilities,” said Mariya Artis, junior.

To visit Student Health 101, go to their website at <http://readsh101.com/cui.html>. For updates, “like” the Concordia Student Health 101 page on Facebook.



Free Massage for Students at the Wellness Center

* The Wellness Center is offering free 15 minute massages to Concordia University Irvine students in appreciation for all your hard work this Fall semester. Students come to the Wellness Center to relax and take a break from studying. Appointments can be made by phone or email.

December 4th & 5th, 2012 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wellness Center

(949) 214-3102
wellness.center@cui.edu
www.cui.edu/wellness



Men's and Women's hoops: Success and trials

BEN DULL
STAFF WRITER

Basketball season is now in full swing for the men's and women's teams. Both teams played two games over the Thanksgiving weekend. The women fell to Davenport and California Baptist and remain winless for the season. The men defeated Redlands and Warner Pacific over break and continued with two more games this past weekend. In a rematch of last year's nation championship, the Eagles fell to Oklahoma Baptist on Sat. Dec. 1 with a score of 81-88.

The defending national champs have found their groove offensively after shooting over 50% from the field against Bethesda on Nov. 16 and against Redlands on Nov. 23. Senior big man Dakota Downs has led the way for the Eagles with his energy and leadership. Downs poured in 21 points against Bethesda along with 11 rebounds. He knows the Eagles cannot afford to overlook any opponent because "everyone is going to have their best game against us." Downs noted it was "humbling to lose two [of our first three] games."

The Eagles will certainly improve greatly as the season progresses. Head Coach Ken Ammann is waiting on several players to return to the team. Senior point guard Nolan Abernathy has been limited by an oblique injury but has still been effective, dishing out seven assists in the team's first meeting with Bethesda. Abernathy, who is nursing an injury of his own, is eagerly awaiting the return of two big men. "Tyler [Hickert] is going to be a big part [of the team] and Chris [Gabriel] will be eligible at semester." Hickert returned to action over Thanksgiving, logging 21 minutes in the Eagles' two victories. Hickert, a sophomore from Australia, has been rehabbing an ankle injury by working with the trainer to gain strength in his ankle.

The men also boast a very strong bench. Already this season, Coach Ammann has used ten or more players on multiple occasions. Sophomore DeLaun Frazier provided a spark, hitting four threes Nov. 16 against Bethesda, and Alex Rudd, senior, scored 18 points off the bench against Redlands one week later. "Any given night, anyone can go off," said Josiah Broadway, junior. Rudd is an important figure in the team's leadership and believes every player is reliable.

Frazier and several other teammates praised the senior frontcourt duo Brandon Hucks and Downs for their outstanding leadership. Peter Smith, senior, and Tim Harris, junior, were also applauded by their teammates for demonstrating strong leadership abilities out of the back court. Harris and Smith combined to score 73 points in the team's two games over Thanksgiving break.

The women's team has struggled a bit from the field to start the season, but there are plenty of signs of encouragement. Eleven players have appeared in all five games to date. Guards Katie Ogdon, freshman, and Ashley Engeln, junior, have led the way offensively, scoring 10.2 and 12.8 points per game, respectively. Starting point guard Nikki Kraus, sophomore, who leads the team in assists, spoke highly of Ogdon. "She has come back [from an ACL injury] putting up points, working hard on defense, and doing all the other little things." Engeln, a transfer from Orange Coast College, also received high praise from her teammate. "Ashley has contributed a lot. She's one of our main scorers," said Carly Bishop, sophomore.

Newcomer Carlisha Phillips, junior, has been a reliable option off the bench, averaging just over 8 points in 18 minutes per game. Alana Allensworth, the lone true freshman on the squad, has earned the respect of her teammates and coaches,

stepping in and immediately earning a spot in the starting lineup. Allensworth had a very positive outlook after a rough start to the season, saying the team tries to "look at all the games the same," and "we still have 24 games we can win." Allensworth appreciates the warm welcome she received from all her teammates this season, most notably from Jade Reed and Megan Hansen, sophomores.

The Eagles believe their shooting struggles can be fixed by playing better team basketball. "The team needs to be a little more efficient and patient when running our offenses," said Kraus. "If we do the little things like hit screens and make hard cuts, we should get some more open shots." Hansen also knows her teammates will work hard to "put in extra time to get shots up."

The Eagles are in good hands with Head Coach Jenny Hansen who is currently coaching her fifth season. Kraus noted that Coach Hansen is very understanding and able to relate to her players on and off the court. Allensworth was very appreciative of her coach. "She invests a lot of time in us as individuals on and off the court and is extremely passionate about her job."

The Eagles are eager for transfer Jessica Duarte to become eligible. Bishop believes Duarte, "an offensive threat," will give the team a much needed boost. Bishop and Kraus are both looking forward to matchups with Vanguard on Dec. 22 and Jan. 12 after the Eagles fell to Vanguard last season in overtime.

The women have a trip to Florida at the end of December to look forward to, where they will participate in the Ave Maria Classic. Be sure to come out to the CU Center to support the Eagles tonight at 7 p.m. as they take on Bethesda. The men will face off with University of Victoria in their next home game on Dec. 30 at 5 p.m.

Capping the men's soccer season

VINCENT RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Men's Soccer team's season came to an end on Wed., Nov. 28, in the NAIA Championship Quarterfinals in Mobile, AL. The #3 ranked Eagles were upset by the #11 ranked Mobile University. The team made a great run at the championship title, winning their first two playoff games and finishing in the top eight in the nation.

The Eagles played an elevated style of soccer and created excitement both on and off the field during the game that sent them to Alabama. It was a thrilling home game against Our Lady of the Lake University. A scoreless game deep into the second half, Concordia fans let out a collective sigh as they saw the opponent's go-ahead goal ricochet off the goal post. A sense of anxiousness was evident throughout the stadium until the 84th minute when Joel Palomeres, freshman, tucked home the game winning goal.

The team carried the momentum into the second round of playoffs in Alabama. The Eagles easily beat Ashford University, ranked #14, with a score of 4-0 on Nov. 26 before falling to Mobile University 3-2 just two days later.

Although this playoff loss is disappointing to all involved in the program, the season is not considered a failure by any means. The team earned many noteworthy accomplishments this season. The Eagles finished with an outstanding record of 19-3-1 and won the Golden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) championship.

Eduardo Gutierrez, senior forward, described his team's overall performance this season as outstanding. His confidence in the team's abilities is evident in his attitude toward their talents.

The opportunity of playing in the national tournament is achievement enough for some players. Aaron Kasser, senior midfielder, was satisfied with the team's success. "My expectations were winning the GSAC and going to the national tournament," said Kasser. "We met our expectations."

Aside from team achievements, two members



in the program were recognized for their individual hard work. Christian Ramirez, senior forward, was named GSAC Player of the Year, and William Prado, senior midfielder, leads the school in assists. Head Coach Chris Gould was also selected as GSAC Coach of the Year.

The Men's Soccer team represented Concordia with pride this year and should be proud of their achievements this season. The team has paved the way for future seasons. "I would say that this season is a program changing one," said Kasser.

Track and Field team finds its stride

ASHLEY TOUSIGNANT
STAFF WRITER

The Track and Field team has been training and preparing for their upcoming competitive indoor season, which kicked off on Dec. 1. Jim Brewer, Head Coach of Track and Field, has high hopes and plans to guide the athletes to a successful season. "We are excited about the upcoming season," said Brewer. "The team has some really big goals and we are hoping to make some big improvements from last year."

With significant plans for the upcoming season, Brewer has added a large number of new faces to the team in hopes of achieving a conference championship. Some key transfer athletes joining the team this season are Maya Dickerson, sophomore heptathlon competitor; Jessica Marquardt, sophomore middle distance runner; Chris Moody, junior sprinter; and Thomas Dombrowski, junior pole vaulter.

"We have individuals in each of the event areas that make our program pretty balanced," Brewer said about his veteran athletes. Among the

team's veterans are Caleb McCurry, senior, an All-American and an NAIA National Outdoor Track and Field competitor in the throwing events, and Trey Williams, junior, a GSAC Conference Meet champion in the sprinting events. Among the women's veterans are Julia Townsend, sophomore All-American in the racewalk event, and Emily Ramey, a senior who competed at Nationals in the heptathlon.

The athletes were rigorously training before the start of the season. "I've really been focusing on getting my technique down," McCurry said. "I have also been training harder than ever in the weight room in hopes that I will be able to bust out a personal record in all events this year."

Not only are the team members striving for personal records, but they are hoping to achieve conference titles. "This year, I am training very hard but also very smart," said Williams. "I have the same goal of getting All-American at Nationals and getting a personal record in the 400 meter sprint and 200 meter sprint."

The team is not only focused on the big picture, but the athletes are also spending time perfecting

the little things. "In order to get a personal record, I go to the weight room and spend extra time on all of my events in the heptathlon to perfect all the little issues that I may have," said Ramey.

The veteran team members try to give the new members of the team advice in order to have a successful season. "Be open to learn new things, trust your coaches, and have fun with the sport," McCurry said.

Though the team experienced a great amount of success last season with 16 school records and 11 athletes sent to Nationals, the coaches are not content with stopping there. Brewer and Assistant Coach Mark Sellers hope to be more successful and achieve their ultimate team goal of winning a GSAC Championship.

"The team has grown tremendously, and we are looking very strong," said Williams. "We are very much future contenders for the GSAC Championship with our team more than doubling in size and all the new talent this year."

The Track and Field team will compete in their next meet on Jan. 26 at the Leonard "Blu" Blutreich Invitational.

SportsLine



Kyle Borcharding
Staff Writer

Forward Thinking

As students feel the pressure and busi-ness of finals and papers, sports storylines are heating up as well. This winter will be a busy one for sports, and there is much to follow in December. As the semester draws to a close, it can be difficult to find any time to see what is happening in the wonderful world of sports. Never fear! Sportsline has you covered on the top five stories to follow over the Christmas break.

5. Intramural volleyball playoffs. Okay, maybe this isn't a big sports concern, nor is it happening over Christmas break. But the postseason for Concordia's intramural volleyball league began this week. Twenty teams participated this season in a competitive and fun league, and it will be exciting to see who emerges as champion tomorrow. Whether playing for keeps or Capri Suns, it's been a thrilling season all around.

4. MLB winter meetings. Uncertainty abounds in professional baseball this winter. The Blue Jays and Marlins already pushed through a trade that will shake things up in the AL East Division (sending Mark Buehrle, Jose Reyes, and Josh Johnson to Toronto). What else is coming for MLB teams? Zack Greinke is the best pitcher available. Los Angeles will want to keep him, but Pujols' enormous contract is looming over the budget. Having generally signed contracts with the highest bidding team, Greinke may be bound for another team. Of course, Josh Hamilton will headline all free agency talks. It is still uncertain what Texas will offer him. His production has been incredible, but questions about his attitude and drug and alcohol abuse make the whole situation interesting. What will he get from Texas? Or from another market? We may find out this winter.

3. Christmas Day basketball. Christmas always brings the best matchups to the hardwood in the NBA. This season will be no exception. Oklahoma City travels to Miami in a rematch of the NBA finals last season. Can Durant lead his team to a revenge victory on the road? The afternoon includes the Lakers hosting the surging New York Knicks. Los Angeles, of course, has had its fair share of troubles to begin the season in spite of the sensational lineup it brings to the court. Can they take down the Knicks, a team surprising everyone with the caliber of basketball they are playing to begin the season?

2. NFL playoff hunt. As the regular season winds down, many teams are knocking on the door of the postseason. This season may produce more drama in the closing weeks of the regular season than average. Be on the lookout for the teams that sneak into the playoffs! Recently, these have been the teams making noise in the AFC/NFC Championships and the Super Bowl.

1. NCAA Football Championship. Much to the chagrin of many a West Coast fan, USC was not able to create absolute mayhem by knocking off undefeated Notre Dame. Many think the Irish are untested and that they will not hold up against one of the SEC powerhouses. The SEC championship will likely decide the other team in the National Championship, and Notre Dame will have the opportunity to back up its undefeated record against the next best school in the nation. On a related note, will Notre Dame's Manti Te'o become the first defensive player to win the Heisman Trophy? It's certainly possible.

It'll be a busy month of December in sports this year—don't miss any of it! Relief from the grueling schoolwork is near!

Christmas Concerts are a spectacle Hope for All Nations

TAYLOR BUNDY
STAFF WRITER

Last weekend started the season for Concordia's annual Christmas Concerts. This year's theme is 'Hope for All Nations,' directed by Dr. Marin Jacobson, Associate Director of Choral Activities; Dr. Jeff Held, Performing and Visual Arts Division Chair and Director of Instrumental Music; and Nancy Jessup, Handbells Director. The seven ensemble groups performing are The Concordia Choir, Master Chorale, Concordia Wind Orchestra, Sinfonietta, Concert Handbells, Men's Chorus, and Women's Ensemble.

Jesus is the 'Hope for All Nations,' and the pieces selected by the directors display this message. Jacobson, Held, and Jessup started preparing for the festival in May. "We wanted to make the theme really obvious, more of a current through the whole festival," said Jacobson. "As we looked for music for each of our ensembles, we kept 'Hope for All Nations' in mind." As a result, there are compositions from many different cultures. German, Puerto Rican, Chinese, and French pieces are just a few of the variety that all tie in with the theme.

Jacobson is conducting four groups this year. She has stepped in for Dr. Michael Busch, Director of Choral Activities, during his sabbatical this semester. Jacobson is directing The Concordia Choir and Master Chorale in addition to her usual conducting of Men's Chorus and Women's Ensemble.

Held is on a half-sabbatical this year but has continued conducting Wind Orchestra and Sinfonietta. "Dr. Jacobson is very skilled at picking a theme that is based on Scripture," said Held. "This concert is going to be a little more flow-oriented than they have been in the past."

The concert features trumpeters and handbells playing in the aisles, creating a very intimate performance. Careful planning is obvious because the

pieces flow beautifully. The audience is also asked to hold applause until the end of each half. Held said, "This allows us to do more creative things in how we connect pieces and also allows the audience the opportunity to experience peace." Especially in sacred thematic concerts, "The moment of silence is really powerful and helps to set the scene for what we're trying to convey," said Held.

Jessup, a long-time director of handbell groups, is conducting Concert Handbells in place of Dr. Herb Geisler, Music Department Chairman, this year, who is also on sabbatical. "There are quite a few things that have not been done before, and Dr. Jacobson encouraged that we all think outside the box," said Jessup. "Instead of just going with the tradition, we had the opportunity to be creative."

Because of the scope of this year's Christmas concerts, it is the first time the extended stage has been used. The close proximity of the 130 performers to the audience creates a spectacular experience.

Carmen Aleman, senior, is an experienced performer for the Christmas Concerts. This year, she is in three performing groups: Master Chorale, Concert Handbells, and Wind Orchestra playing clarinet. "Las Campanas de la Navidad" is very significant to Aleman. Her late grandmother sang it to her as a child. "I am so blessed that she will hear me perform it for the very first time now that she is in heaven," said Aleman.

Aleman also loves the theme because it reminds us of the reason behind our celebration. "It's such a beautiful thing that our Savior was born for each of us, and to glorify Him through music is such a blessing," said Aleman.

Ring in the Christmas season by going to one of the last three concerts located in the CU Center: Fri., Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. or Sat., Dec. 8, at 3:00 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$25 depending on location but free for Concordia students.

HOLLY GAMESTER
STAFF WRITER

Concordia's annual "Christmas Eve" worship service will be held on Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at the CU Center. The theme for this year's service, similar to that of the Christmas Concerts, focuses on how Jesus Christ brought a message of hope for all nations including forgiveness, freedom, new life, and joy. In Christ, God graciously invites all people of every time and place to live in relationship with their creator and redeemer.

The service will include performances from various selections of the Concordia Choir, Master Chorale, Men's Chorus, Women's Ensemble, Concert Handbells, Wind Orchestra, and the Sinfonietta. "There are so many things to expect," said Mariya Artis, junior. "[Last year], the Sinfonietta played a few pieces during the service, various professors read passages, and everyone in attendance joined in prayer."

Brooke Springer, junior, said she is really looking forward to this special service. "I go to chapel every Friday afternoon, but I think that the Christmas Eve service is going to be a lot different than the regular, every week services," said Springer. "I'm excited to see what they have planned and what kind of message will be taught."

The Christmas Eve service will indeed have a different style and design than the kind of chapel

services that are held every week. "Along with the inclusion of music (which is a common occurrence at the regular chapel services), the decorations and multitude of speakers really make the Christmas Eve service seem a tad bit more special than the normal services. "It felt like I was attending a fancy event," said Artis.

Grace Chong, a sophomore member of the Sinfonietta, said that she is "eager and excited to be a part of the service this year." Chong and the other 30 students accompanying her will be performing various Christmas songs along with the other musical and vocal groups. They will be performing a mix of music including old favorites. "Two of the songs that Sinfonietta is performing are 'Green-sleeves' and 'Joy to the World,'" said Chong. The musical group will be performing Christmas and Christmas Eve themed songs.

This service is open not only to the students but also to the public. There is no cost for this event, and all are not only welcomed but encouraged to come and experience the word of the Lord during this holiday season. This year, the service will be held by Campus Pastor Rev. Quinton Anderson, '00. For a warm and spiritual journey to lead you through this holiday season, attend this year's Christmas Eve service.

For more information and media requests, contact Lindy Neubauer, Communications Director, at lindy.neubauer@cui.edu.

Artist Spotlight: Devin Ross

About six months ago, I decided to take my GoPro HD Hero camera to the beach to take some pictures of waves. At first, I had no clue what I was doing, and my camera only took three shots every two seconds. After taking about 70 pictures, I went home to see them on my laptop. After going through all of them and deleting all but two, I was hooked.

Over the summer, I went to the beach about five times a week just so I could get as many pictures as possible. With plenty of practice, my pictures became better and better, so I upgraded my camera to a GoPro HD Hero 2. I also began to take pictures in bigger conditions such as 8+ foot waves.

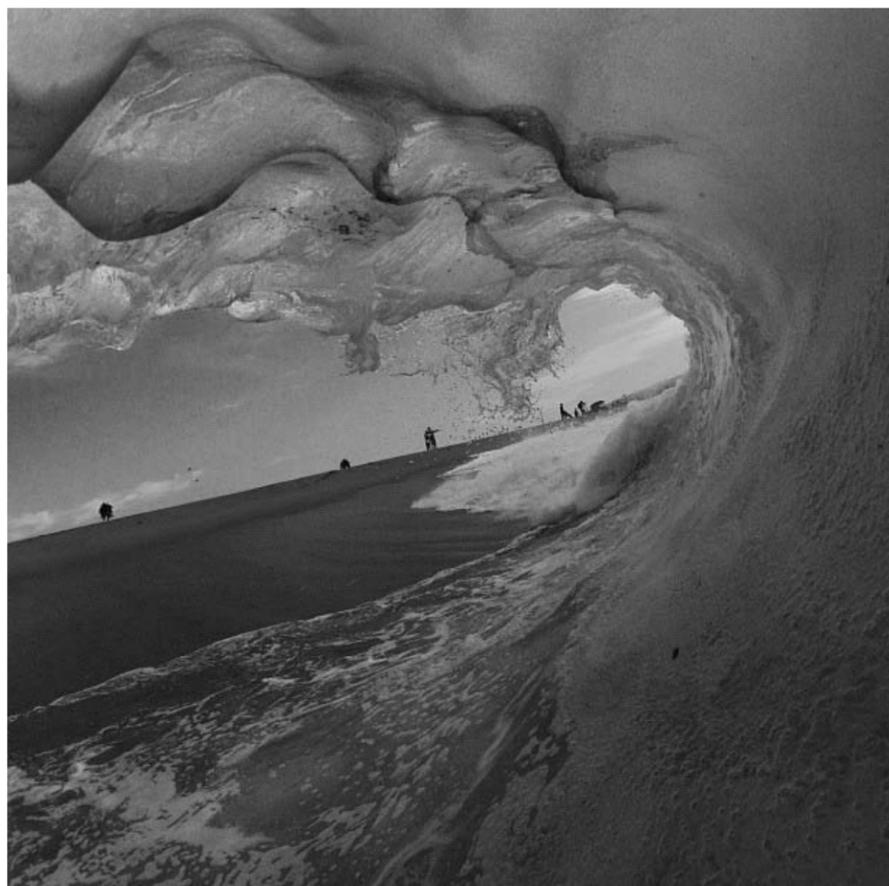
Around the same time, I began putting my pictures on Instagram, and I was starting to receive a lot of positive feedback. Many of my friends and family told me that I should sell my pictures as a way to earn some money; at the time, I wasn't too concerned about it, since I only wanted to do it for fun. Taking their advice anyway, I signed up to get my Instagram gallery featured on a website called Instacanvas, which links to your Instagram

account. Once they link to your account, they can then sell your pictures as prints, canvases, prisms, and iPhone cases.

One day in July, I changed the reason why I was taking pictures after I talked to my oldest niece, Taylor. Taylor is twelve, and she suffers from a disease called Cystic Fibrosis. Cystic Fibrosis is a chronic disease that attacks the lungs and the digestive system, causing many side effects and a shorter life expectancy. She spends around 3-4 hours every day doing breathing treatments, and on top of that she takes a handful of pills to help her digest her food and prevent infections.

She came across some of my earlier pictures and loved them, and from that moment, I decided that I would donate the money that I earn from selling my pictures to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Unfortunately, there is not a cure for Cystic Fibrosis; however, we are closer than ever to finding one. By doing what I love, I am hoping to make a difference in the fight against Cystic Fibrosis.

[You can view more pictures or purchase Ross's work at instacanvas.as/dero1221.]



A beautiful sample of Ross's work.



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every one!

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Decorating Disneyland

JASMINE NAZIRI
STAFF WRITER

Disneyland attracts people around the world to see its Christmas events, happening Nov. 12 through Jan. 6 for the Holiday Season.

From Disneyland to California Adventure and Downtown Disney, Christmas ornaments, lights, and wreaths are on every building with light posts on every corner. Many locals flock to experience everything that the Disneyland parks have to offer during this time of year. "I love the music, the lights, the smells. They pipe in gingerbread and peppermint smells that are just wonderful," said Monique Hrouda, Orange County resident.

National and international guests, as well as locals, enjoy the holiday activities. "Everything is really pretty with a Christmas mood. It's nice sharing it with family. It's worth seeing," said Nichole Taylor, London resident visiting with her family.

In addition to decorations, lights and live music, Downtown Disney also has an ice skating rink inspired by the character Tinker Bell from the Disney film Peter Pan. Surrounding the rink is a holiday village where holiday beverages, food, and merchandise are sold.

Each theme park has its own events and productions. Disneyland events includes "Believe in Holiday Magic Firework Spectacular," which is dedicated to the holidays and displays fireworks in holiday colors while playing Christmas music. A large fireworks finale takes place, ending with a fake snowfall. "I love the plethora of activities they have that I am able to share with my grandkids. The snow that falls at night after the fireworks is always a special moment for my family and me," said Bill Renad, a Florida resident.

"Holiday Time at Disneyland" features a guided tour on a train that takes you through all the festive events and shows that occur. "This is the busiest time of the year for us. It's nice seeing people come from all over the world to celebrate at the Happiest Place on Earth," said Ramneh Kharrat, Main Street employee.

"A Christmas Fantasy" Parade is another popular Disneyland holiday event. The parade includes nutcrackers, fairies, dancing snowflakes and gingerbread men, snowmen, and many Disney characters in decorative holiday outfits and floats.

"Jingle Jangle Jamboree," which is located in Frontier Land, has many stations for games, arts and crafts, and decorating cookies. There is also a petting zoo with goats, lambs, donkeys, and horses. According to Jasmine Lewis, a Small World ride operator, "It's a Small World Holiday" is decorated with 300,000 lights for the Holidays, featuring "Jingle Bells" sung in multiple languages.

California Adventure recently had an enormous transformation with the addition of Cars Land, but some felt as if the holiday decorations fell short. "California Adventure should have more decorations. There is not as much as I was expecting," said Molly Conant, a Los Angeles resident.

The Holiday entertainment provided by the park is the "Buena Vista Street Holiday Tree Lighting," which showcases the tree and decorations at the park.

Despite the holiday cheer, some individuals are not as inclined to visit the Disney parks this season. "As lovely as it is here, I just can't stand the crowds. It takes forever to get on a ride or get food," said Robert Steiner, a resident from Berkley, CA.

Check out these Holiday festivities before the Christmas season ends Jan. 6.



Main Street gets even brighter than usual with a tree and Christmas lights.

Let's get fiscal

SARAH HOSTETLER
STAFF WRITER

On Thurs., Nov. 15, Concordia hosted the 2012 Orange County Annual Report at the Irvine Marriott Hotel to inform citizens and city leaders about Orange County's financial status. John M.W. Moorlach, of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, presented the Annual Report. In a 60-minute power point presentation, Moorlach covered where the county currently is both financially and fiscally, and where it is headed in the near future. Beginning on a serious note, he explained how Orange County holds the second largest municipal bankruptcy case. Moorlach went on to take a deeper look at the reorganization reform for retirees, contributions plans, and the general purpose revenue.

"Supervisor Moorlach gave us a sobering look at the county's fiscal condition," said Keith Curry, Concordia's Director for the Center for Public Policy. "The cities are depending on the county to successfully implement the state realignment plan to manage our prisoner population. Both the cities and the county are partners in managing with scarce resources to deliver essential services." With an overall look at California's fiscal status, Moorlach presented an overarching theme of concern for the state, specifically Orange County, because of the significant debt level.

"It was sobering to see that the county's fiscal issues still really need to be addressed and remedied in order to put us on a more solid financial ground," said Ann M. Ashmon, Director of Communications at Concordia. "The statistics presented by Chairman Moorlach on the state of Orange County's fiscal health were a shock to me." She was not alone in her thinking; as she went on to explain, "I think we, the residents of Orange County,

often take the general affluence of our county for granted."

However, Ashmon is among those who convey a hope for California's overall status and have confidence in its leaders and the direction they are headed. "I am encouraged...this kind of bi-partisan gathering is exactly what Orange County needs to get the different voices gathered in one place for a civil and respectful exchange of ideas," said Ashmon.

Concordia junior Keane Anrig shared his views on the report, specifically regarding pension plans. "Pensions need to be reformed because of the amount of costs associated with them," said Anrig. "There needs to be a change in how future pensions are given and a reduction in the benefits promised to current employees." He believes that Orange County is going to be affected because the state may use resources from cities and counties in efforts to balance the budget.

As a result of passing Proposition 30, Anrig feels that the economic growth of the county and the state will be stagnated. Because of this, Orange County will be forced to cope with the effects of new tax on both local consumers and business owners. Moorlach addressed this very issue during his presentation when he said, "Don't go to the taxpayers if you mess up managing your money. This is Orange County; we're different than the state." This concise statement neatly summarizes Moorlach's concern for the county's financial state, a view that seems to be shared by many.

Concordia's Center for Public Policy has concluded its events for the calendar year but will take part in more community events in the following semester. For more information regarding the Center for Public Policy, visit their information page on Concordia's website.

Long Beach Ballet does a crack job

SAMANTHA STROM
STAFF WRITER

The Long Beach Ballet (LBB) will be performing its 30th anniversary of "The Nutcracker" at the Long Beach Terrace Theater from Dec. 15-23. This popular classic performance will include a full symphony, a flying sleigh, live horses, an enormous stage, and over 200 performers.

"This was a very enjoyable production with surprises that I hadn't seen before," said one audience member of the 2010 production, who posted her review on the ballet's website. The alluring stage scenery was originally created by former Disney Designer, Elliot Hessayon, and Scott Schaffer over 20 years ago when they were brought onto the team by Artistic Director David Wilcox, who successfully recreated and produced Long Beach Ballet's "The Nutcracker" in 1984.

Wilcox has made this Ballet one of Southern California's most popular holiday productions. He is known for playing a major part in the growth of The Long Beach Ballet and keeping the tradition of outstanding achievement in ballet technique alive and known. Over the past 24 years, his students have successfully competed in international competitions, received scholarships to schools throughout the U.S., and joined major companies.

His original production of "The Nutcracker"

caused the LBB to grow, and in 1994, the ballet sold 40,000 tickets for the production, making it known as the prime and most popular show to see in the area. Over the past 28 years, over half a million people in numerous theaters have seen this show.

"We always look forward to this wonderful annual event at the Terrace Theater," said Dan Spellens, Director of Theaters & Entertainment for the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center. "Long Beach Ballet's 'The Nutcracker' is a wonderful way for the entire family to celebrate the Holiday Season," he concluded.

"This is a wonderful event for those who enjoy the art of ballet and orchestras," said an audience member from last year's performance who gave her opinion online.

"My friend went last year and said that it was the best form of 'The Nutcracker' she has seen. I'm looking forward to seeing it for the first time this Christmas," said Ariel Thorne, junior at Cal. State Long Beach.

"The Nutcracker" opens at the Terrace Theater at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center starting on Sat., Dec. 15. Show times are at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., as well as the following weekend at the same times. Tickets can be purchased online through TicketMaster or at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center Box Office. For more information, visit the ballet's website at www.longbeachballet.com.



The Long Beach ballet gives a beautiful performance.

Adventures in classical music

MAGGIE DARBY
ARTS EDITOR

On the afternoon of Nov. 14, I trudged down the hill to lower quads and threw my choir folder on my bed with a nap in mind. Ben Bolognini, senior, had a different idea for what we were doing that evening. This semester, Bolognini was enrolled in an online "Experiences in Music" class taught by Dr. Held, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Instrumental Activities.

One of the requirements of being in the online section of this class was to attend the Philharmonia Orchestra concert at the Segerstrom Concert Hall, and the best part? You were able to bring a friend for free.

Somewhat begrudgingly, I straightened my hair and changed out of yoga pants for the concert that evening. Not knowing exactly what to expect besides 2+ hours of classical music, we made our way up to CU 105. This is where we met with members of Concordia's orchestra, conducting, and music history classes who were also required to attend the event. Dr. Held gave a half hour lecture on the orchestra we were to see that evening. The Philharmonia Orchestra hails from London, England, and is conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen. The orchestra was to play Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 and Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique.

A bus was parked up at Grimm hall ready to cart the 30+ students to Costa Mesa for this performance. Upon arriving, our tickets were handed out and amazingly, the venue had managed to get us all first row seats. The theater was beautiful and perfectly constructed to achieve the best acoustics possible.

Though we had great seats, I did not have the best attitude about being dragged to what I thought would be a boring concert. Boy, was I mistaken. I remember growing up, my dad used to make my brother, sister, and I listen to classical music while going to bed. He used to tell us it was "imagination music" and that we should just let our imagi-

nations run wild while listening to it. This concert did just that for me.

As the orchestra began with Beethoven, the amazing string and wind musicians blew me away. I could not understand how every note each musician played was so perfectly tuned, timed, and how well they played off of each other. The harp in the Berlioz piece also stood out to me. Each musician was of the highest caliber with their instruments. Never was there a moment when I thought the trumpets were overpowering the clarinets or the 20 violinists were so loud you couldn't hear the flutes. I literally had no critiques for the entire performance.

The director, Salonen, was extremely enthusiastic with his conducting style. His gestures were huge, dramatic, and effective. He was able to pull the best possible sound out of each and every instrument. It was mesmerizing just watching his arms move as the pieces progressed. Later, I found out that he is one of the most renowned conductors in the world and one of Dr. Held's personal favorites.

The Philharmonia Orchestra received an immediate standing ovation at the end of the Fantastique, jolting me from the half-asleep half-hypnotized state I was in. After the first encore, he introduced the second piece; this was one of Salonen's mother's favorite lullabies, and I found it overwhelmingly precious that he chose to finish the concert with that piece. Finally, after almost two and a half hours of beautiful music and three standing ovations, the concert came to an end. On the bus ride back, I heard two of the orchestra men raving about how well the concert went and how it brought them to tears. I won't say names (Ben Hunter, senior, and Michael Miller, junior) but I found it very touching.

If you ever get the chance to see the Philharmonia Orchestra perform, I highly recommend it. It was one of the best concerts I've been to, and I would love to go again someday. For other concerts, visit scfta.org to view their event calendar.

BANTER WITH CANTER

Josh Canter, junior, asked his newspaper column predecessor, Dakota Anderson, a few questions about his life this past rainy weekend.

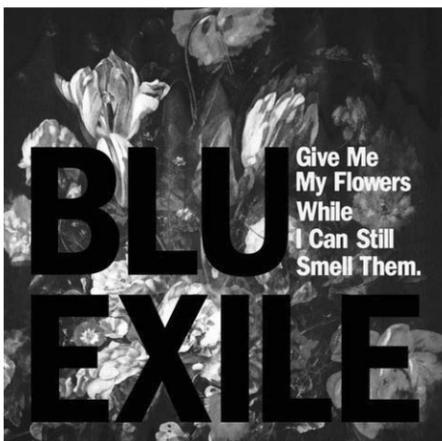
- Born in San Bernardino, CA, but raised in San Diego, CA
 - Loved building forts and playing with rubber band guns outside
 - Is a huge pranker, his most famous scare being when he hid under his friend's bed and grabbed her leg when she sat down
 - This prank was accompanied with a mask for added intimidation
 - Went to four different high schools because his family moved homes
 - Found out about Concordia from friends in Temecula, CA
 - Fell in love with the dorms and campus immediately
 - Swam his first two years and did leadership his last two years
 - Had many jobs on campus including web designer for the marketing department and part of the infamous Screaming Eagles coordinator team
 - Favorite worship service was SHOUT
 - Is friends with both Kevin and Cecilia
 - Lived on campus all four years, including summers
 - Graduated this past May with a degree in Marketing
 - Participated in the summer China trip for 6 ½ weeks where he taught kids English
 - Cultural differences were highly evident in the food, which has lots of bones, veggies, and rice
 - First year as an Admissions Counselor, and he loves it
 - Gets to know students through Admissions and continues relationships throughout their time here
 - Wants to visit Hawaii and Costa Rica next year sometime, as well as maybe China again
 - Wants to be sucked into a black hole in the distant future
- Question of the Year: If you could be any type of fruit, what would you be and why?
Papaya, because it is sweet, exotic, and awkwardly shaped just like Dakota



Tuck's Tune:

Give Me My Flowers While I Can Still Smell Them

TUCKER THORSON
STAFF WRITER



This week's album is a new rap album by the group Blu & Exile. *Give Me My Flowers While I Can Still Smell Them* is a great rap album for those hip-hop fans who want more than just an album about money, guns, and sex. Personally, I think those are the topics that artists write about when they've run dry and don't have any more depth in their music. While a few songs on this album cover those topics, there is so much more than just that limited content. The beats are quite unique for a rap album; they mostly sound as though they're samples from 50's and 60's style music. My personal favorite track on the album is "Good Morning Neighbor", which lyrically is a generic rap song about a girl, but I enjoy the overall sound of it put together. The sample in the beat is actually from Mr. Roger's Neighborhood; it gives the song almost a quirky sound that I enjoyed. While I wouldn't go out and tell every person I know about this album, if I had a friend who was into hip hop but was tired of stuff that sounds like what always gets played on the radio, I would definitely drop Blu & Exile's name.

Concordia prepares for a swarm of wasps, I mean WASC

BRITTANY FLIER
STAFF WRITER

Concordia is currently preparing for the WASC (Western Association of Schools & Colleges) Accreditation submission due in February of 2013. WASC handles regional accreditation for all public and private schools in this region, as well as different commissions for elementary schools, junior colleges, and four-year colleges and universities.

WASC verifies that Concordia's bachelor's and master's degree is equal to other universities throughout the United States. "It's like the 'Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval' of higher education in our region," said Dr. Peter Senkbeil, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Provost. "It's what allows your future employer to be assured that your college degree is a real degree."

"Regional accreditation involves maintaining educational standards and assuring educational quality for all schools in the region in order to demonstrate that the degrees issued by these schools are legitimate academic degrees that meet the standards for college education in the US," said Senkbeil. The accreditation is what confirms that these degrees "count."

In other countries, the federal government takes on these responsibilities. In the United States however, through a comprehensive peer review process, the six regional accrediting figures voluntarily handle these tasks by working together to set quality standards, as well as hold each other accountable to those standards. President Krueger votes on the university's behalf to elect the governing board for WASC.

"Institutions receive initial accreditation and have that accreditation renewed every 7 to 10 years by participating in a multi-stage, multi-year review process," said Senkbeil. Much of the work of accreditation is done by volunteers who serve on panels from the member universities. These committees conduct site visits of institutions and review reports in order to seek accreditation.

WASC is posting all of its current college-evaluation reports and action letters publicly on its website. "In the last few years, US higher education

has come under increased scrutiny by the federal government, state governments, and the media," said Senkbeil. "These days, hardly a week goes by without some sort of article about the high cost of college, or whether students are getting what they pay for in a college education. WASC is responding to this by making more information about the accrediting procedure public than ever displayed before."

A publication on the WASC website notes that "now more than ever, the members of the Accrediting Commission are committed to ensuring that students graduate from college with a high-quality degree that meets clear standards of performance so they can start their careers well-prepared and ready to succeed," said Ralph Wolff, President of the Senior College Commission of WASC.

"I feel that having a degree is something everyone needs in order to get a great steady job," said Alexandria Bauer, senior. "Those are the first things that employers look at when hiring."

There are some stages of WASC sanctions for institutions that do not receive positive reviews in the accreditation process. On the institutional directory page of the WASC website, there is a list of institutions that have a "warning" or "probation" status. The problems stated in the institutions' team reports are able to be fixed during a set amount of time. "Typically, if they do so quickly, and once WASC is satisfied that the problems have been addressed, the schools receive full accreditation once again," said Senkbeil. "In a few cases, WASC has revoked an institution's accreditation, or the institution has voluntarily withdrawn from WASC accreditation."

Senkbeil feels that Concordia's relationship with WASC is very good right now. "While we still have quite a bit of work to do on our upcoming Institutional Report, I'm confident that we'll go through this process successfully," said Senkbeil.

If you would like to see more information on the accreditation reviews of our university as well as additional institutions in the region, please visit the WASC Accreditation website: <http://www.wascenior.org/>.

Need a last minute Christmas gift for your younger siblings?

Forgot to get a present for your niece or nephew?

Donate \$10 to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative on behalf of your little cousin Suzie and receive a picture book to give to her for Christmas! Donate online at www.lutheranmalaria.org or write a check to Lutheran Malaria Initiative. Email lutheranmalariaCUI@eagles.cui.edu to get your book.



We promise this book is a lot of fun!

80s movie “Dawns” again

EMILY GESKE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As a general rule, I firmly believe that movie remakes are inferior to the originals. Allow me to present examples such as “Footloose”, “The Karate Kid”, and most offensive to me, “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory”.

So naturally, I was skeptical when I went to go see the remake of the 1984 classic (at least, it’s a classic to me) “Red Dawn”. I grew up with the original, and though I can admit that the special effects and death scenes are not terribly convincing, the movie had a special kind of charm that comes with being the first rather than a reproduction.

Immediately, the new movie pulls you in with actual footage of politicians intermingled with data that foreshadows the attack of the North Koreans. There is more background than in the original, and the real life commentary makes the premise seem even more plausible. The mystery surrounding North Korea today pretty well mirrors the distrust and wariness felt at the end of the Cold War when this storyline was originally put out. Side note: the “bad guys” were originally supposed to be from China, but since the producers wanted the film to be released in that country, they needed to shift the blame to another target.

Chris Hemsworth pulls off the stoic main character of Jed, first played by Patrick Swayze in his younger years. The rest of the cast does a decent job, but I wouldn’t say anyone gave the performance of a lifetime. I was looking forward to the girls in the group being slightly less annoying than Jennifer Grey and friend, but this wish was sadly unfulfilled. The three “recently unretired” marines who emerge in the middle of the film portray convincing stereotypical soldiers and supply the main content behind the movie’s language rating. Overall, there was more character development and more obvious romantic subplots this time around,

which made for some interesting drama when people weren’t getting blown up. The dialogue, however, was nothing too special. But seriously, riveting dialogue is not the reason to go see a movie like “Red Dawn”.

If you haven’t seen the original, the ending of this movie may not be what you were anticipating. Even if you have seen it—like me—some parts may still jolt you. Though the basic plot stays pretty true to the 1984 version, some different people are killed and others are picked off at different parts of the film than as before. The end may leave you feeling just a little bit sad, but another emotion will be more prevalent.

As the movie came to a close and the credits started rolling, it was all I could do to keep myself

from jumping up and shouting, “WOLVERINES!” in the nearly empty theater (Don’t get the reference? Watch the movie). I don’t know if it was the explosions, the couple of pep talks, or the fact that the main characters have the same emergency plan in case of attack as my family does, but I felt inspired to fight back if ever any North Koreans (or Chinese) should happen to parachute into my backyard. This is the kind of flick that makes you want to declare with the utmost elegance, “Merica!”

This movie should not win any fancy awards, nor should it be held up as a great piece of American cinema. Instead, it should be enjoyed for what it’s supposed to be: a kick-ass film about a bunch of regular Americans being able to take on the world.



Splash zone!

JASMINE NAZIRI
STAFF WRITER

Over Thanksgiving break, I went to see Point Break Live at the Dragon Fly Theater in West Hollywood. This is a theatrical comedy performance based on the film that featured Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze. When I first walked in the door, I was given a “survival package” which included a poncho, napkins, and mini blow horns. Originally assuming this was a formal theater performance, I was extremely confused and slightly nervous when I was given the poncho. I had no idea what to expect. The seats were comfortable, and the stage was fairly small. It was a very informal setting; everyone in the audience was talking, drinking, and standing. No one was sitting in the seats, and I wanted to tell them all to shut up and sit down! Once the show started after the lights had dimmed, the narrator said, “I need five men to come up on the stage who want to play the leading man tonight, Johnny Utah.” The narrator was cursing left and right and was very loud. I immediately thought this was going to be some horrible, dinky production.

I couldn’t imagine how a show would even work with a random audience member, let alone that person playing the main character. A small girl with cue cards swung in on stage and directed this horrible actor, giving him his lines on the cards. The audience member was such a bad actor that it transformed the entire show into a comedy.

Throughout the show, one of the actors came out of nowhere and splashed buckets of water all over the audience during a beach scene. It was hilarious and unexpected. This occurred multiple times during the two-hour performance. I found myself constantly laughing during the play. The other actors were so talented and had a decent resume from what I saw on the program.

The scene where the villain was finally killed was gross but fun to experience. Fake blood gushed all over the place. This was definitely not your typical theatrical performance, but it was worth seeing. I had so much fun waiting to see what kind of tricks the actors had up their sleeves and the strong comedy they would provide. Some of the comedy was intended but some was not, including the horrible acting job by the volunteer and the tiny girl who followed him around.

Getting tickets is easy; you just purchase them online through the website www.pointbreaklive.com. There are only two shows left in December, one of which is already sold out. Dec. 15 at the Dragonfly in West Hollywood is the only date available before the production is over! I highly recommend it for all who are looking to sit back, have a good laugh, and possibly become soaked!

Unique burger doesn’t disappoint

JOSHUA YOUNG
STAFF WRITER

I was admittedly nervous to try Umami Burger given the sea of polarized reviews scattered across Yelp. It seemed as if everyone either thought that the burgers were God’s gift to taste buds or they would leave you feeling nauseous. That being said, the creations are all unique to Umami and cannot be found anywhere else, so it was worth a shot at least once.

Umami is a Japanese word that roughly translates to ‘savory’, and all of the creations in the restaurant are designed to inspire the thought of that quality in their own unique way. Despite mixed reviews on Yelp, the burgers are not without notable praise. GQ magazine’s Alan Richman names Umami’s signature ‘Umami Burger’ the Burger of the Year for Los Angeles. He even went so far as to make the claim that Adam Fleischman’s (founder / burger creator) “face belongs on the Mount Rushmore of the burger world.”

The ‘Umami burger’ is definitely a unique visual and gustatory experience. With shiitake mushrooms, perfectly caramelized onions, roasted tomato, parmesan crisp, and their own home-made umami ketchup, the burger is not traditional but it is delicious. The onions, parmesan, and tomato come together to give a hint of sweet, a hint of salty, and a hint of tang. Add in the ketchup, and the whole thing comes together rather nicely.

Another fan favorite and the restaurant’s sec-

ond most popular item is the ‘manly burger.’ How manly is the manly burger, you might ask? Well, let’s just say that people don’t need to be told what it’s called to know that it’s retrofitted with everything that men love; beer cheddar cheese, smoked, salted, and fried onion strings, and bacon lardon (the best and manliest kind of bacon). This burger should make the top 5 list for most notable burgers around. It tastes fantastic, it’s presented well, and it’s just all around fun to eat.

No burger meal is complete without a side dish, and Umami delivers in this category. The two most popular selections are the tempura-battered, salted onion rings and the deep-fried mashed potatoes. This seems as good a place as any to let any readers know that this is not an especially cholesterol friendly establishment, but the experience is definitely worth the calories.

I walked into the restaurant with the (misguided) misconception that all onion rings are more or less the same... and I’ll be the first to admit that I was wrong! They are a-freakin-mazing, and I’m pretty sure that I’ll go back just to get them as a snack.

All in all, Umami Burger is a lot of fun and the food is really good. This establishment gets 4 stars out of 5 because, while the burgers are really good, for \$12 I need a burger to change my world; it needs to do a little better than ‘really good.’ That being said, the food, the display, the atmosphere, and the music all make this a must try location. It really is a fun and entertaining experience!



Ooh mommy! This umami burger is sure to thrill.

ATW II: Remembrance

CURRENTLY A GROUP OF CONCORDIA STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS ARE TRAVELING AS PART OF CUT’S SEMESTER AROUND THE WORLD. THESE ARE THEIR STORIES.

JOSHUA GEISINGER
ATW GRAD ASSISTANT
STAFF WRITER

A time comes in every young person’s life where he realizes that he is no longer so young. It sounds strange, being called ancient at 23, but to these sophomores and juniors, I am a living relic of Concordia history. I tell legends from five years ago, and they become mystified with the tales of pranks, professors, and pumas. But with old age comes forgetfulness, our greatest enemy.

But Josh, you say, my greatest enemies are parking tickets, homework, and food allergies! You are right to fear them, but I think that forgetting things is an even worse adversary than that 15-page paper that you have yet to write. You see, when we forget an experience, we lose it. We lose the lessons learned, the growth gained, and the dragons once defeated.

I have already begun to forget my days as a student and the knowledge given to me by friends and mentors. Traveling the world has compounded this loss. So many faces, landscapes, and stories flow through my past, and some have already been lost. That first Bible study in India? Gone. All of the Swahili I learned for Kenya? Gone. The names of all of my Mongolian students? Gone.

I know that these journeys happened, that these people were in my life, and that I learned many things. When I forget them though, I lose them. This is a frightening thought, that we can go through life, experience the world, have the greatest mentors, love both friends and strangers, and still gain nothing.

On the Around-the-World Semester, we are constantly at risk of losing this battle. We have moved through five continents in four months. That time has been filled with new friends, epic adventures, academic advancements, and many lessons from God. They are fading fast though.

I am not saying that these journeys in life are not valuable on their own, but I am saying that we need to fight to remember why these things have happened, how we have changed, and what God has done.

In Deuteronomy 6, the Lord speaks through Moses, telling the people of God not to forget what He has done for them: “Take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (v.12). *Don’t forget, He says. Remember all that has been done for you. Remember who I am through the love I have shown.* But so often, we forget.

We forget to live as changed men and women, as adopted children of the Living God. We forget the love that He shows us in small and large ways. We forget the times that we turn away, and so we never question ourselves when we fall into the same traps over and over.

This is a great challenge for me. I rarely live as a man who remembers—daily—what God has done for me. I collect the manna but forget the Provider. I enjoy the salvation but forget the Savior.

We need to build altars of remembrance like Noah, Joshua, and David did. We need to write down what God has done for us, to show ourselves that He is here now because He was there then. He never changes, but we still forget.

What does this look like for you to actively seek to remember what God has done for you? Maybe it’s writing in your journal about those people you hug every day at Emendaré, or taking pictures of a sunrise over Ha Long Bay, or tattooing “Living Sacrifice” on your left shoulder.

Whatever it is, I encourage you to find a way to remember what God has done in your life so that you can see what He is continuing to do.

Remind yourself of those gifts He has given, those blessings He has taken, and those victories He won for you. Don’t lose them.