



THE CONCORDIA
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INVESTIGATE. INFORM. IGNITE. INVOLVE.

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Homecoming Weekend 2016

KELSEY VAN HORN
STAFF WRITER

After a month of writing papers, reading long epics for Core and studying for tests, Concordia students had a chance to take a load off at the Homecoming dance, "A Night of Elegance," at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library from 7 to 11 p.m. last Friday, Jan. 29. The library had two designated rooms for dancing: one with thumping music and strobe lights from a popular DJ, and the other with a whimsical live band which led students in swing dancing. If students were not in the mood to dance, or just simply resting their tired feet, there were other activities such as tables filled with card games,

"The Homecoming dance was so much fun. It was great taking a night off and having fun with my friends!"

a photo booth with silly props, and more tables full of delicious food and refreshing drinks. For a limited time, students could also tour the house where Richard Nixon grew up and see mementos from the former president. The Homecoming King and Queen were seniors Malcolm Gamble and Nokukhanya (Noks) Shabalala. The royal couple shared a dance and attended the basketball game together.

According to sophomore Jasmin Alvarez, "The Homecoming dance was so much fun. It was great taking a night off and having fun with my friends. The best part was definitely the photo booth! I had a blast taking silly pictures that I'll always remember!"

Sophomore and LEAD Coordinator Ashlie Rodgers, said "Homecoming was a beautiful and elegant night, and on behalf of the LEAD student activities team, we thought the venue was a great choice! Students were able to enjoy many different parts of the Nixon Library and had a blast



This year's King and Queen, Malcolm Gamble and Nokukhanya (Noks) Shabalala.

with it! We hope all students who attended, enjoyed it just as much as we did! Thank you to all of those attended and volunteered their time to help." Homecoming also kick-started Family Weekend, a tradition here at

Concordia. It provides an opportunity for students to have fun with family and friends and also enjoy activities. There were many events at Concordia including going to the carnival, watching the play Pride and Preju-

dice, and attending the alumni games and homecoming basketball games. Homecoming at Concordia provided students a chance to forget about their worries and have fun. It truly was a Night of Elegance.

Students serve at Second Harvest Food Bank

SARAH JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Concordia Cares is a group of students involved in community outreach and works with one of the largest food banks in Orange County, Second Harvest Food Bank. The members volunteer with the food bank several times a semester and regularly help in the Heritage Garden on campus as well as packaging food to be distributed to families seeking support. The Heritage Garden works hand in hand with Second Harvest Food Bank to provide healthy, sustainably grown produce to those in need.

Founded in 1983 in Orange, Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County partners with communities, charities and food sources. 11.4% of the Orange County population struggles with hunger. Second Harvest Food Bank works to provide nourishment to the struggling families across Southern California.

Sophomore Deborah Shells, a Concordia Cares Coordinator loves the food bank for their ability to recognize the problem of hunger in Orange County. "They are working towards a solution and helping those in need," said Shells. Second Harvest Food Bank provides nearly 200,000 people in Orange County with food each month. Grocery stores, charities and other organizations among the Southern California community band together to give Second Harvest the tools they need to help impoverished locals.

Senior Marissa Boyd has volunteered with the food banks and said that it changed her perception of 'want' and 'need.' "It truly takes stepping out of your comfort zone and reaching out to those that need help and structure in life to realize how big of an impact you, one person, can make," said Boyd.

Shells values the experience of working with Concordia Cares and the food bank. "I love that when you are working in the warehouse, they tell you just how much food that you have packed in pounds. You can really get an understanding of the impact that you helped to make on the community," said Shells.

Story continues on Page 4

ASCUI Corner:

Get to know your ASCUI Candidates

ASCUI President Candidate:

Junior Ariana Sadeghipour currently serves as the Secretary of ASCUI. In this position, she had the opportunity to coordinate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Concordia Christmas and work as a support member for the ASCUI Executive Board. Previously she has served as a LEAD Commuter Outreach coordinator (2014-2015) and a FUSION member (2013-2014). Currently, Sadeghipour is majoring in English and minoring in Christ College. Additionally, she is a part of the secondary education program in hopes of pursuing a career as a LCMS educator. If elected as ASCUI President, Sadeghipour's main goal is to strengthen administration to student communication on campus.



ASCUI Vice President Candidate:

Junior Catherine Foster currently serves as the Vice President ASCUI. In her position, she oversees ASCUI Senate and the functioning of various student committees. Additionally, Foster is a member on the student policy committee and the inclusion, diversity and equity access committee. Foster has also served two consecutive years as an elected ASCUI Senator and hopes to strengthen the productivity of ASCUI Senate. Currently, Foster is studying business with an emphasis in marketing and minoring in graphic design. If reelected Foster hopes to continually improve Senate committees in order to implement amenities that will better campus life.



ASCUI Secretary Candidates:

Sophomore Jessica James currently serves as a senator on campus and loves to make beautiful music with the ladies of Donne di Canto. In her free time she loves to blog, craft and spend time with friends. She is an honors student and currently works at Chick-fil-A. It would be her pleasure to serve the Concordia Campus as ASCUI Secretary.

Junior Lauren Youngsma is majoring in biology with a minor in business. Youngsma has served as a Peer Health Educator for the last 2.5 years and has served on Senate throughout this current school year. Youngsma loves organizing her life, as her roommate would say, and can't wait to put this skill to use for the benefit of the Student Body.



ASCUI Club Commissioner Candidate:

Junior Hayden Kirkman is studying Psychology. Kirkman has been involved in several Student Leadership Positions including PAL, LEAD, abbey west and ASCUI Senate. Kirkman is running for the Club Commissioner position and feels that his previous leadership positions has prepared him for the role. In his free time Kirkman likes to run, hike and hang out with friends.



ASCUI Communications Director Candidate:

Junior Celina Stratton is majoring in Mass Communication with a minor in marketing. This past year and a half Stratton was a LEAD Intramural Coordinator. This semester, Stratton became the new sports editor for the Concordia Courier. In the past two and a half years Stratton has worked with the Athletic Department. When Celina is not doing these things, she is usually doing homework, hanging out with friends or obsessing over huskies on Instagram!



ASCUI Treasurer Candidate:

Freshman Chloe Heiser is involved in ASCUI Senate and in the WINGS program. She enjoys going to the beach and hanging out with her friends.

Come out & Vote in front of the caf on
Feb. 11 and 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.!

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Fundraiser held for Bowman family

CELINA STRATTON
SPORTS EDITOR

Last night, Screaming Eagles sponsored the doubleheader basketball games to raise money and awareness for Track & Field Head Coach, Danny Bowman and his family. Bowman is the father of two sons, Titus, 5, and Ely, 2, who have both been diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called Batten disease.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Batten disease is part of a group of disorders classified as neuronal ceroid lipofuscinoses or NCLs. There are 4 different forms of NCLs, each with varying prognosis. The Bowman boys have Late Infantile NCL. Symptoms of the disease include neurological impairment, seizures, blindness, dementia and loss of walking and talking skills. Through these unfortunate circumstances, Bowman and his wife, Bekah, are receiving much support from family and friends, including this university.

For the last two weeks, Screaming Eagles coordinators and leaders held a booth outside of the cafeteria fundraising on behalf of the Bowmans. They sold \$1 raffle tickets and \$3 yellow bracelets that said "Team 4 Titus & Ely." Several faculty and staff members volunteered to be a part of the fundraiser. The one with the most money raised in their name received the honor of getting pied in the face at the game. All of the proceeds went to the Bowman family to pay for medical bills. At the games, spectators were encouraged to wear yellow to honor Titus' favorite color.

The purpose of the event was not only to raise money for the Bowmans, but also to raise awareness for Batten



disease in general. "I've heard of one other (case) in Southern California," Bowman said.

With the sold raffle tickets, bracelets and the additional cash donations at the gym entrances, over \$1000 was raised for the Bowmans' benefit. Though it was a one night event, Titus and Ely's story has impacted students, faculty and staff.

Kristin Lampe, senior Screaming Eagles Coordinator and the boys'

nanny said, "I knew them before the diagnosis so I've more or less been on the journey with them." Even students who were unfamiliar with the Bowmans' story have been inspired to join the fight in finding a cure for Batten disease.

"This [has been] my favorite event of the year so far," said senior Screaming Eagles Coordinator Jocelyn Nunez. "We talk about how we chose Concordia for the small community

and this [event] proves how we are a family."

After seeing all of the support, not just from the Athletic Department but from the entire Concordia community, Lampe said, "I feel proud of the school I go to." Bowman added, "I just want to thank everyone for supporting our family for the game as well as prayers... We're just normal people trying to live normal lives."

Follow Titus and Ely's story and

"like" their page "Team 4 Titus" on Facebook, follow @Team4Titus on Twitter or read Bekah Bowman's personal blog at youcantstealmymjoy.wordpress.com. If you missed the previous opportunities, the Behavioral Science Club is holding a bake sale next Fri., Feb. 12 with all proceeds going to the Bowmans. You can also visit gofundme.com/team4titus to donate online.

Basketball Teams Shoot for Success

KRISTEN SAULMAN
STAFF WRITER

As the Men and Women's basketball teams make their way to the end of the season, the teams evaluate the highs and lows of this year. This academic year, both teams entered the Pacific West (PacWest) Conference of the NCAA and have faced the challenges that come with entering a new division.

Changing divisions allows the basketball players to compete against new teams that play at a higher skill level. Men's Basketball Head Coach, Ken Ammann, said that his team is "well prepared for the change." One way that the men have insured that they are ready for the change is maintaining the disciplined and consistent schedule that Ammann has used in previous years.

The hard work has paid off and the men have had a successful season thus far, remaining in first place of the PacWest for the last couple of weeks. "This season is going smooth[ly] and we're in a rhythm right now," said senior guard, Martin Thomas. Junior guard JT Roach said, "We're playing really well together, and when we get in that rhythm that Martin mentioned, we're hard to beat."

Ammann added, "Our defensive style is working well," and that aggressive defense is giving the team a competitive advantage. Stephen Ferry, senior guard, observed that an aggressive defense "makes the other team uncomfortable" and therefore creates a good offense.

Playing against teams that have an aggressive defense has made this season more challenging for the women but it is a challenge that they are excited to rise up to. Trisha Stafford-Odom, Women's Basketball Head Coach, said that the team is adjusting to the challenges that the PacWest division brings by "work[ing] on a consistent skill set, and playing offense against pressure defense." Though the team is not doing as well as they hoped, they are not letting the losses defeat them. Through consistent hard work and practice, Stafford-Odom said that the team will be "rewarded with a win."

Both teams are a close-knit group and play hard to see each other succeed. Thomas said, "We've turned into a family and nothing can break that apart. As long as we stay together, we won't have a problem winning league."

Ammann added that the men are an "unselfish" team that "makes each other better." On the women's side, Stafford-Odom said that the women are "resilient" and an "outstanding group of young ladies."

As the season is winding down, the men's team is closing in on the 20-win mark as the women hope to finish their season with the mindset of "fighting to be a winner," said Stafford-Odom. Both teams are preparing for upcoming games against Fresno Pacific University and the Academy of Art. The women and men's games against Fresno Pacific University can be streamed live online tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. respectively. Scores and statistics are updated on cuieagles.com.

Olympic Gold Medalist Joins Concordia's Swim Program

YVETTE MENDOZA
STAFF WRITER

After living overseas, Olympic gold medalist, Staciana Stitts Winfield returned to California and joined Concordia's swim program this semester. She contacted Swimming and Diving Head Coach, Jeff Boss, last November asking if there were any available positions. Coach Boss was "shocked and thrilled" when he received a call from Winfield. "We knew her and we knew of her accomplishments. We had a part time opportunity, so she is finishing off the season with us," he said.

In the 2000 Sydney Olympics, Winfield won gold in the 4x100 medley. After winning a gold medal at such a young age, Winfield commented that "it was overwhelming and challenging to process." She said that she looks back on those Olympic days and feels "proud that [she] was able to represent [her] country." As glorifying as this moment was, it was not easy getting there. Winfield was spending six to seven hours a day training for the Olympics. "Basically I was eating, sleeping, and swimming," said Winfield.

After her Olympic success, Winfield began coaching at different schools where her major role was recruiting. She served as a recruiter at The University of Southern California from 2006-2008. Winfield hopes to bring her experience to recruit future Eagles for the swim program. "I think that is going to be a big strength, and that is what she likes to do," said Coach Boss. "She likes to build relationships with people."

To surprise his team, Coach Boss



(From left to right: Rian Wise, Jeff Boss, Staciana Winfield)

decided to introduce Winfield to the students in a special way. Boss said, "I had her come give them a motivational speech, and after that I put her in the team picture." Boss only later mentioned to the team that she was going to be one of the new assistant coaches. "The kids were excited about it," said Boss.

Senior Samantha Leanza said, "She has been super helpful. I think she will bring a unique perspective to our team." With the team entering the NCAA, Coach Boss and the Eagles hope that Winfield's past coaching experience will help for future competition in the new conference. "I think she will be a very good asset to have in that transition," said Leanza.

Winfield is very excited to see them in action as the team will be competing in the Pacific Collegiate

Swim and Dive Conference (PCSC) Championships Feb. 12 through 15. "I feel really grateful to be here. I'm looking forward to watching them swim fast," Winfield said enthusiastically.

Along with being an athlete and coach, Winfield is also using her name to bring awareness as she works with the Children's Alopecia Project. Alopecia, which Winfield has had since she was 12, is classified as a disease where a person's immune system mistakenly attacks hair follicles causing hair loss. "I didn't know of anyone that had it, and I wished so much that I did at that age," said Winfield, adding, "I found it was really important to be a role model for them. It's really special to be a part of it." For more information on Alopecia go to childrenalopeciaproject.org.

Bystander Intervention Training



The Green Dot Program is an on-campus, bystander intervention training designed to teach students how to prevent future abuse, neglect and bullying. Too many people avoid conflicts thinking it's none of their business to interfere in other people's lives, which can be harmful for others. This training gives students a taste of how to improve other's safety and well-being without endangering their own lives or being the next victim. This training helps students defend their neighbor's physical, mental, emotional, and social state by making sure we are not just another witness. It is a proactive program all would benefit from

This training will take place tomorrow, Feb. 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the RPC. It also includes free breakfast and lunch. Content provided by PHE Tatiana Smith.

Advice to Future Student Leaders

AMANDA M. DRUCKREY
STAFF WRITER

After applications for the 2016-2017 student leadership programs closed Fri., Jan. 29, seniors offered their advice to future student leaders and to those who are anxiously waiting to hear back after applying.

Inspired to be a PAL her freshman year, Senior Emily Dailey now President of ASCUI said, "The PALS were really cool and I loved hanging out with them." She was drawn to ASCUI and leadership because she likes being around what she loves and trying new things.

Dailey gave one piece of advice, "Whether you get the job or not, God has a plan, stay positive and ice cream always helps." She hopes that the future leadership teams are modeled and built off of the team this year. She believes that a successful student leader is someone who is a "great communicator, outgoing, driven, passionate and gets along with everyone."

LEAD also had some advice to give. Senior Jessica Greenwald, Clubs and Organization Coordinator, believes that, "LEAD is a good opportunity to build a community." Her hope for future LEAD members, is more interaction between LEAD groups. For those who missed the application deadline for student leadership programs, Greenwald would recommend looking into Senate. "Everyone is a leader in their own way," said Greenwald. "Whether it is in a classroom, team or theater arts, everyone can

lead in their own way." Greenwald appreciates and enjoys the sense of community and belonging that LEAD offers her.

Senior Jennifer Schlak works for abbey west as a Witness Coordina-

"Everyone is a leader in their own way," said Greenwald. "Whether it is in a classroom, team or theater arts, everyone can lead in their own way."

tor. To be a successful abbey west team member you must be, "hard working, personable and intelligent," said Schlak. "Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Abbey west is a safe en-

vironment to grow and learn about yourself and how to do ministry," Schlak said. "Also, make an effort to continually check in with other abbey west members and help them out with their events."

Participating in hands-on ministry is what drew in Schlak to join abbey west. She hopes for the future leaders of abbey west, "to be more intentional about inviting non-Christians and other Christians to events." Her advice to those who did not apply for any student leadership positions but want to be involved with abbey west is to volunteer. Schlak said, "We need volunteers and students interested in not only participating in events but also helping out with behind-the-scenes stuff," Schlak said. "More importantly, we need Christians on campus to be proactive in inviting people to chapel, leading Bible Studies, going out and encouraging others to go to the witness and mission events."

Applications are closed and the selection process is underway, but there are still many ways for students who did not apply to be involved as a student leader. Student Leadership Programs are not limited to PALS, LEAD, abbey west and RES. Next semester students can apply for Senate for the 2016-2017 school year. The world needs leaders; go discover what makes you a leader. For more information on student leadership visit www.cui.edu/studentlife/Student-Leadership.

Second Harvest...

Continued from page 1

Second Harvest Food Bank has changed many lives over the course of their service. They accept food donations regularly and distribute them to families through the food bank. The majority of their food is donated from large organizations such as restaurants, grocery stores, manufacturers, growers, the farm on site and corporate food drives. Volunteers gather to sort and organize the food. This past year, Second Harvest Food Bank had more than 18,000 individuals reach out and volunteer.

The food is distributed to community partners by having them pick it up on site or having it ordered and delivered to their location. All of the food banks partners are not for profit and include churches, local pantries and specialty homes.

Around 360,000 Orange County

residents struggle with hunger. Second Harvest uses the power of generosity to provide for this fraction of the community. Through their food distribution center, produce garden, events and outreach, Second Harvest Food Bank offers many areas for volunteer action. Students can extend a helping hand through volunteering with Concordia Cares or directly through the food bank.

Tomorrow at 9 a.m., and every other Saturday at 9 a.m. the Heritage Garden has a garden work-day. Afterwards, this week, there is a volunteer opportunity at the Second Harvest Food Bank at 1 p.m. Sign ups for the Second Harvest Food Bank are in the CSLD. For more information on volunteering in the Heritage Garden visit <http://heritagegarden.blogs.cui.edu> or for the Second Harvest Food Bank visit <http://feedoc.org>.

Mocktail mixers build awareness

ZACK MOGHADDAM
STAFF WRITER

This past Wed. Feb. 3, LEAD Diversity Awareness in collaboration with Peer Health Educators hosted the Mardis Gras Mocktail Mixer in front of the Student Union. The event informed students about the history of Mardis Gras, promoted awareness of driving under the influence and provided a fun environment while keeping safety in mind.

The Mixer demonstrated the history of Mardis Gras through food, non-alcoholic drinks and fun activities. The school cafeteria served Cajun and Creole food as well as an assortment of themed desserts to kick-off the festivities. Students enjoyed activities set up such as a trivia booth, various games and a golf cart parade with each cart donning Mardi Gras themed decorations.

The mixer was not only about eating and socializing it also provided an opportunity for leadership to educate students on how, if they choose to imbibe, to be responsible consumers of alcohol and the dangers of drinking and driving.

Senior Kana Tesfa is a part of LEAD Diversity Awareness. The Diversity Awareness coordinators focus on programming that acknowledges and celebrates the diversity of God's creation. Tesfa was happy with the various activities that students engaged in and with the music that played during the evening. Tesfa said that her team chose an "awesome soundtrack" that played throughout the event.

Sophomore Stephanie Goodrich is a Peer Health Educator on campus and works with the Health Promotion

Program to help students discover strategies to optimize their emotional and physical health during their time at school and beyond. Goodrich enjoyed socializing at the event while promoting education on how to support a safe environment.

Senior Ruby Morales wanted to bring awareness concerning the importance of avoiding driving under the influence. "There are so many ways to avoid driving under the influence," said Morales. "Whether it be a designated driver or an Uber car, there are options available to not drink and drive."

The amount of alcohol in a person's system does not have to be high to cause impairment. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles it is illegal for any person to operate a vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08% or higher if the person is 21 or older and if under 21 with a BAC of .01% or higher.

The devastating consequences of driving under the influence have been well documented. The U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that in 2011 there were 9,875 fatalities in crashes involving a driver with a blood alcohol concentration of .08% or higher. This made up 31% of total traffic fatalities for the year.

The biggest take away from the mixer was made implicitly clear. There is no reason to drink and drive.

For more information on health and wellness while on and off campus stop by the Wellness Center or visit it online at www.cui.edu/studentlife/Wellness-Center.

FOWL LIVING by Kara Der



After the Show...

Maybe Marty's got a mystery fan! A scary one... Come back next issue to find out.

Conquering Core in Cambridge

This semester, four Concordia students are studying abroad at Westfield House in Cambridge as part of Concordia's Core Cambridge program. Under the instruction of CUI professors Dr. James and Dr. Susan Bachman, these students study Core English and History as well as other courses offered by Westfield House of Theological Studies. This week, the students and professors share some of their favorite memories and observations about life in England.

All in a weekend's adventure: novelists, kings and angels

MARISSA BEARSS
STAFF WRITER

For Californians, an ocean view is nothing new, but to see a bay off the English Channel through the crumbling walls of a 1500-year-old castle adds a whole other dimension. Since landing in London a month ago, we have taken several opportunities to travel in England, especially in the areas surrounding Cambridge. We've stood in awe before cathedrals that took hundreds of years to construct and climbed up stories of spiral staircases to see the Ely country-side from 216 feet above the ground.

We often walk and spend plenty of time romping around Cambridge itself. We enjoy watching football with the locals at our favorite pub or making the short trek up Castle Mound to see Cambridge through Edward I's eyes.

Out of all the adventures we've had so far, our favorite has been the weekend of our first Westfield Sunday. Road trips sponsored by Westfield House take us overnight to participate in a Sunday service at a partnered congregation and a chance to explore scenic England. On this particular trip, our destination was Fareham, a city about 150 miles southwest of Cambridge.

Dr. Cynthia Lumley, our principal, organizes these trips. She treated us with a few fascinating stops along the way. Early Saturday morning, we shuffled into the car and headed to our first stop—Jane Austen's house in Chawton.

Generally in England, we feel we are stepping into the lives of great people who lived and died hundreds of years ago, so the home of the author of "Pride and Prejudice" was no different. We looked out of Austen's bedroom window, where she found inspiration for incredible literary works. We stood in her drawing room and saw the exact table at which, in the early 1800s, she penned her famous and controversial novels.

Often when we stumble upon a famous novelist or scholar, one of us



will shake her head and say, "What are we doing with our lives?" To that, I would argue, "finding inspiration." Our elation with historical insight continued to our next stop, Portchester Castle. There we stepped further back in time, into the 11th century, a medieval land of kings, queens, prisoners and conquests.

Set into the bay area of the English Channel and built in the aftermath of the Norman Conquest, the castle was a fort of strategic importance for several generations of conquerors and protectors. Kings Richard II, Henry V and Henry VIII are just a few of the famous monarchs who ruled over

this incredible fortress. The four of us took on a bit of the kings' courage as we climbed a very narrow spiral staircase to reach the top of the castle. As we took in the incredible view, we adopted a bit of their majesty as well.

Traveling back to the 21st century by car, we finally arrived at Our Savior Church in Fareham. We were greeted by Reverend Tapani Simojoki and his incredibly kind congregation, not to mention tables piled with savory and sweet English dishes! We gathered around long tables, listening to the young-at-heart members tell stories and ask us questions about life in the States.

Then we were introduced to our host families for the night. Elise and Jami went with a couple named Mike and Averil, while Suzy and I went with a sweet lady named Barbara. Each of us agrees that spending time with the members was the best part of the trip. Each host showed us thoughtful, English hospitality and shared details of their lives in England that we would never get from ordinary tourism. As we left the next morning, our host and friend Diane's eyes brimmed with tears as she said, "I hope you all have a great life."

On our last leg of the trip, we

stopped to attend Evensong at Winchester Cathedral. Though we have visited several cathedrals, each one takes our breath away as we pass through the massive archways. Here we heard our first Evensong, a nightly service that often includes the participation of a Boys' Choir. As we sat waiting in the choir for the service to begin, we heard the faint echoes of the boys' singing "Angels."

Novelists, kings and angels, all in a weekend's adventure. Plus, we arrived back in Cambridge just in time to finish our piles of homework!

Disneyland says goodbye to old pals to welcome new ones

KARINA DIEZ
LOCAL/GLOBAL EDITOR

On Jan. 10, Disneyland bid adieu to Big Thunder Ranch and the sweet pygmy goats that had made the park their home for so many years, to make way for new friends from a galaxy far far away. Big Thunder Ranch has given guests the chance to befriend these domestic goats since 1986. The furry little critters have been adopted by a family in Murieta, California, who have welcomed Disneyland goats to their farm in the past. The owner of the farm, Jenelle, has expressed her absolute adoration for the animals and excitement for them to join the rest of the Disney goats she currently takes care of, according to Disney Parks' official blog post.

The opening date for the 14 acre, "Star Wars" Land, has yet to be released but as always, the standard of which the park has set for

the renovations is as high as can possibly be. At the D23 Expo of 2015, the ultimate convention for Disney fanatics, further details regarding the future addition to the resort were released.

Disney's CEO, Bob Iger, made an appearance to give a sneak preview of what is to come for the Magic Kingdom. The land will be "occupied by many inhabitants; humanoids, aliens and droids... the attractions, the entertainment, everything we create will be part of our storytelling," said Iger. "Nothing will be out of character or stray from the mythology." Guests will be able to interact with the characters from the intergalactic saga in a way that, up until now, fans could only dream about. Iger dropped a few more hints about the land, mentioning an attraction in which guests can navigate the Millennium Falcon and yet another that involves a battle between the First Order and the

Resistance.

Anyone who grew up visiting Disneyland, has that one memory ingrained in their mind that surmises the essence of their Disney experience. For some, it may be the smell of popcorn while walking down Main Street. For others, it is the blur of the Mark Twain Riverboat while speeding by on the Thunder Mountain Railroad. For others still, it might just be the soft furred (and undeniably photogenic) little pygmy goats. Despite the changes that occur throughout the park, the magic that Walt Disney so hoped would be instilled in Disneyland remains strong, calling those very people back for more. As the great Disney said himself many years ago, "Disneyland will never be completed. It will continue to grow as long as there is imagination left in the world."



Concordia Dance Company performs annual concert



KAITLYN MILLER
STAFF WRITER

Tonight at 7:30 p.m., the Dance Company shows Concordia, family and friends what a school year of hard work and rehearsal can do. "These dancers have put so many hours and

dedication into this Concert because they believe that this Dance Company has the ability to be more than just a club," said Alexandria Bauer, Assistant Coach. "Every practice they show me the passion and love they have for dance."

Attendees can expect a variety of

interesting performances. "This year's show is very well-rounded," said Vanessa Johnson, Head Coach. "There will be something for everyone. Not only will we be showcasing and exploring different styles of dance, but many of the pieces tell a story". The show includes dances arranged by

multiple choreographers as well as guest performances by Crean Lutheran High School students. "It will be a night that makes you want to get up and dance with us," said Johnson.

After weeks of practice, the company is excited that all their efforts are about to pay off. Tickets are free for

all CUI students. It is \$15 for regular admission and \$12 for senior citizens. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m in the theatre. So get tickets, get there early and get a seat. This is a night not to be missed.

NAMM presents instruments as art

KRISTEN SAULMAN
STAFF WRITER

The annual National Association of Music Merchants show was held Jan. 21 through 24 at the Anaheim Convention Center. This year, NAMM welcomed a record number of exhibitors and registered attendees, all who share a passion for music.

Innovative and creative rendering of traditional and nontraditional musical instrumentals were among the most visually intriguing exhibits at the shows. Several instruments drew the

"Innovative and creative rendering of traditional and nontraditional musical instrumentals were among the most visually intriguing exhibits at the shows."

photo bugs simply for their visual appeal. Here is a look at some of the highlights of the event.

The Electric-Power Assisted Bicycle (top left), created by Jose Gonzales, designer for Yamaha Corporation, recharges a removable battery when pedaled. This bicycle charges a battery that can be used to power electric appliances, including Yamaha instruments.

This circular marimba in the



bottom left, named Fujin for the Japanese god of wind, allows for two musicians to play together. One musician sits in the chair and uses mallets to play the marimba, and the other musician stands be-

hind the seated player, and rotates their chair to access all the keys.

In honor of the popular book and television series, "Game of Thrones," Gibson Brands made a throne of Gibson guitars. Sopho-



more Richard Lewis strikes a pose on this eye-catching exhibit in the bottom right.

In the top right, attendees heard a portion of the USC marching band performed outside the

NAMM exhibit hall on Sat. Jan. 23.

NAMM hosts shows and expos worldwide. The next annual con-fab in Anaheim will be held Jan. 19 through 22, 2017.

What's new on Netflix?

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



“Meet the Patels”

KENDRA SITTON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Among January's additions to Netflix, “Meet the Patels,” a documentary following Indian American actor Ravi Patel, was coined as “A Real-Life Romantic Comedy.” Nearly 30 years old and still single, Ravi is frightened by thoughts of his romantic future, and his parents are frightened too (remind anyone else of Ring before Spring?).

When Ravi's sister Geeta films him on a family vacation to India, and he realizes how happy all of the marriages in his family have been, Ravi decides to find a wife his family's way - a series of arranged blind dates. A search for a new Patel Indian American wife is launched. But as his par-

“Unlike the average rom-com, ‘Meet the Patels’ demonstrated the important role a family plays in the choices we make”

ents prepare “biodating” sheets and set him up on dates across America, Ravi struggles to get past a break-up with his secret caucasian girlfriend of two years.

The specific practices may be different, but the intensity of his search from biodating sheets, to weddings, to matrimonial websites to the “Patel Matrimonial Convention,” will re-

mind viewers of the American pastimes of Tinder, Match.com and singles events.

Although it begins slowly, as viewers are introduced to the family and extended family, the hilarity that ensues surpasses the fumbling opening moments of the film and creates a delightful on-screen experience.

To explain his romantic experiment, Ravi said, “You know that girl in Eat, Pray, Love? She goes on the existential journey to India to get over depression, find out what she really wanted in life? I was that girl. Except, my family was with me the entire time.” It is commentary like this that turns what could have been something like the diary of sad, single man, or less depressing, a study of another culture's marital practices, into

the witty comedy that it is.

Ravi, who is known for his role in “Transformers,” and more recently, his part in the Netflix Original “Master or None,” is often embarrassed to share details about life with his sister, so parts of the movie are done through cartoons of past events he didn't share and through illustrations of phone messages he left her. As his sister documents the hundreds of dates he goes on, (and offers often unhelpful comments from behind the camera) the cute caricatures add to Ravi's true-to-life experience

Ravi is the focus of the movie, but in the conversations he has with his sister at his apartment and in the car on the way to meeting Patels for dates, her own lackluster love life is briefly explored. Already passed

the 30 year mark, Geeta seems less hopeful than her younger brother and appears to doubt her ability to find an Indian man to marry, much to their parent's chagrin. As the story concludes, no further mention is made of Geeta, despite her integral role throughout the film. The lack of resolution in her story left me wishing for further follow-up about her own struggles with finding romance.

Unlike the average rom-com, “Meet the Patels” demonstrated the important role a family plays in the choices we make, instead of focusing on two unlikely-in-love characters. This amusing movie full of laughs over both Ravi's struggles and successes should be added to your list this month.

Students weigh in on debt discussion

EMMA B. DEEHAN
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 12, 2016, President Obama gave his last State of the Union Address. He discussed the economy and the importance of students and their education.

Student debt is a major issue. On MarketWatch.com, there is a student loan debt clock and it is increasing by about \$2,726.27 every second. In 2015, Americans reached \$1.2 trillion in student loan debt, according to both USA Today and MarketWatch.com.

“We have to make college affordable for every American,” said Obama.

Kortney Jones, sophomore, believes that there are many things a student can do to “make [college] available to them.” She listed a few resources such as community college and loans that help people

with limited funds better their education.

Junior Jamie Whittington-Studer, gave a different viewpoint on the subject. Whittington strongly agrees with President Obama and said, “A bachelor's degree is the new high school de-

“We have to make college affordable for every American.”

gree in terms of what is required to make a living in our country.” She believes education is a necessity and other countries have better and more affordable programs that we should be modeling our system after. On the issue of student debt, Whittington said she thinks “student debt is a serious problem” and it deters people from getting an education. She said, “We are getting to the point where you have to be in debt to the government in order to live comfortably, which is not only counterintuitive, [but] incredibly detrimental to our economy.”

Whittington-Studer says debt affects the way she feels about post-grad life because now instead of being free once she graduates, students are given about a year to find a job and then they begin the payments for the debt

“We are getting to the point where you have to be in debt to the government in order to live comfortably, which is not only counterintuitive [but] incredibly detrimental to our economy.”

they acquired. As she put it, “it forces people to settle with a job that they wouldn't want after

graduation.” She would support someone who feels that “college should be affordable for every American,” once Obama's term is up and a new president is inaugurated.

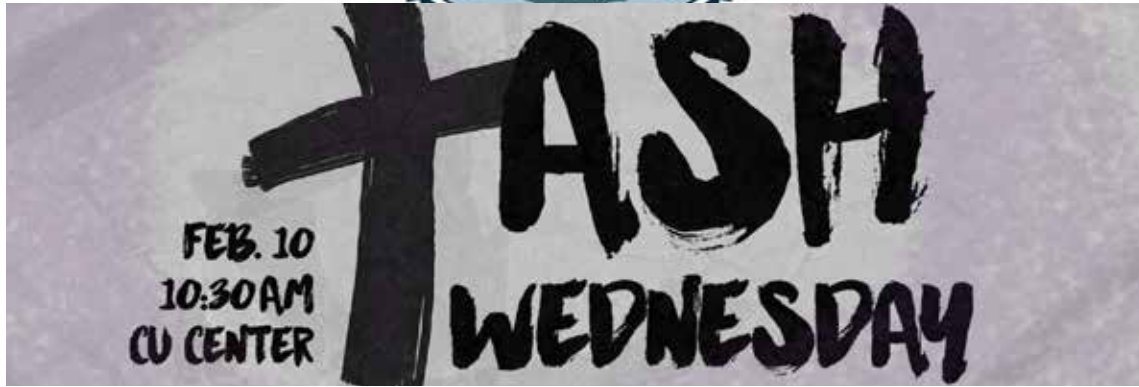
Matthew Scott, senior, felt that President Obama made a good point and that, “he is looking out for everyone.” The topic of student debt was not foreign to Scott; he automatically responded with, “everyone has it.” Scott does not feel too worried about post-grad life because he said he knows, “I'm going to do what I need to do, at the end of the day, to make the money that I need to, to pay off my debt and be successful in life.” But, it is still in the back of his mind. He also mentioned that he feels comforted by what Obama said, “for our future.”

Daily Lenten
Devotions
beginning
Feb. 10



Daily
Devotions
can be found
on Twitter,
Facebook,
abbeywest.org,
and YouVersion

abbey west



Love is in the air

KRISTEN SAULMAN
STAFF WRITER

Feb. 14, better known as Valentine's Day, is a day of celebrating love. Whether you are celebrating the holiday as a couple, or hanging out with family and friends, there are various things to do on Valentine's Day. However, the pressure of picking the perfect restaurant or date activity can be overwhelming to even the most romantic of people as the date approaches. Students around campus have shared their Valentine's Day date ideas.

Couple Anne Towles, junior, and Alex Lange, alumni '13, suggested spending the entire day outdoors. Nature walks and scenic hikes are a beautiful and inexpensive way to have quality time with the one you love, plus it is great exercise. Towles and Lange said that their ideal Valentine's date would be to "complete the Malibu Hot Springs hike and then enjoy a sunset from the roof of the car" which would remind them of "all that [they] have been given in [their] relationship by God." Simply sitting and talking to celebrate being together is

often the best kind of date.

Senior Jesse Garriepy said that if you are struggling to find a romantic place for your date, "find one that has some meaning to both of you." Whether you plan a date at the location where you first met, or the restaurant from your first date, choosing somewhere meaningful is a thoughtful, romantic gesture. Garriepy remarked that he might take his girlfriend to the beach, where he could play guitar and she could sing along, because it would be a reminder of the date they shared their first kiss. Choosing one main activity for Valentine's Day allows couples to enjoy their time together more.

Senior Brendan Hill said that there is no specific activity that he would do for Valentine's Day. The pressure to impress a date for Valentine's Day is always high, but it is important to remember that all dates "are pretty romantic," said Hill. For people looking at facing their first date on Valentine's Day, you can't go wrong with the classic date of dinner and a movie. Hill suggested going to the Cinopolis movie theater for the beginning of the date, and ending the

date at the Cheesecake Factory, a romantic finale.

As an alternative to going out on a romantic date, Elsa Stryko, freshman, said that she would rather arrange a game night with friends. "Board games are a lot more fun than people think," Stryko said. So grab some pals and get together for a day of good-spirited competition and making memories. As an extra bonus, have all of your friends bring snacks to share so that you can enjoy good company and good food. As coined by Amy Poehler in "Parks and Rec," Galentine's Day can remind people that the love of friends is just as special as romantic love.

From a casual night at home, to an elaborate dinner date, there are a variety of activities to celebrate the holiday. The expected weather forecast for Valentine's weekend is sunny skies with a high of 64 degrees, which should allow for both indoor and outdoor activities. Just remember to take a deep breath and relax, what matters most is that you are spending time with the ones you love.

Keeping the beaches clean

SARAH JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

According to the Ocean Conservancy, in coastal Southern California alone, 20,000 pounds of plastic particles – bags, bottles, and straws – make their way into the Pacific Ocean every day. Newport Beach, just down the road from Concordia's campus, has first hand experience with the treacherous effects of excess waste. Take a walk down the sand, and in between two lifeguard towers, one will most likely find enough trash to fill up multiple bags. This issue has been ongoing since the introduction of plastic to the world. Every single piece of plastic that has come into circulation still exists on this planet. Looking at all of these issues, here are some ways we can help as a community.

Weekly beach cleanups in Newport, Laguna, and Huntington Beach are very accessible to students. Senior Brooke Roy, from the North shore of Oahu, is passionate about protecting the Earth's environment and organizing local cleanups.

"I want to raise awareness of the pollution problem by setting an example. Protecting our environment should be a normal routine," Roy said. She currently runs "Beach Cleanup," an organized group on Facebook and hopes to increase members. Margaret Dix, class of 2015, knows that, "the ocean is in bad shape. We need to encourage people to reduce, reuse, recycle, and most importantly, throw their waste in proper bins. It all ends up in the ocean eventually if it's not properly thrown

away." Responsible disposal of waste is essential to protecting the planet.

Cleaning up the beach doesn't have to be a chore. "The ocean is an amazing place. It deeply saddens me to know that, as a society, we do not do our part to keep it clean. Something has to change," said senior Hayden Killeen. He is eager to raise awareness of the waste pollution problem in Orange County and finds it important to clean up the shores of local beaches. According to a few experienced participants, it can actually be enjoyable and rewarding. Take a walk at sunset, meanwhile, bring a bucket with you and gather the trash you see on your stroll. Voila! You've made an impact. No impact is unworthy, regardless of how big or small you may think it is. Senior Nate Miles does what he can to turn beach clean ups into exercise. "I make it a point to go for a beach run down to the Newport jetty so that I can clean up any trash on the sand on my jog back," said Miles.

There are endless benefits to protecting Orange County beaches. Without trash infested shores, people are able to experience nature in its most raw, beautiful state. Future generations will be able to live on a planet that is clean, wholesome and nourished. Concordia's surrounding areas are in need of attention and the student body is encouraged to extend a helping hand. Earth has given to us, and is now in need of some giving back.

Climate Change: CUI Can Make a Difference

JASON RYAN
STAFF WRITER

Climate change has had an effect on our local and national environment. According to statistics and scientific research, there is no direct relationship between climate change and any single natural event that has occurred recently. "Attributing any one event to climate change is difficult," said Biology professor Dr. Sean Bignami. Climate change in our local region, can be seen through increased occurrences of bad weather and a severe drought. Southern California will be dealing with instances of intense weather that are consistent with an increase in climate change. For example, El Niño is occurs naturally, but the severity of El Niño could be attributed to it. Because of climate change, expect the storms to happen more often. Potential consequences are that we may see shifts in species composition and biodiversity.

There are some simple ways for students on campus to help out the environment. "It's import-

ant to manage the environmental stresses, such as climate change," said Bignami. One of the ways is to limit the usage of power. For example, heaters should be used

"It's important to manage the environmental stresses, such as climate change"

conservatively. Another way to save energy is for everybody to turn off their lights when they are not using them. One suggestion, made by Bignami, is to use LED lights as an alternative to our standard lights. They have a less harmful impact on our environment. Carpooling whenever

possible is also an efficient way to limit the amount of carbon damage being done to the environment. Using fewer pesticides and herbicides in our gardens, such as the natural fertilizer used on campus by our own Heritage Garden club, is also resourceful. The best thing to do "in our environment, [is to] conserve water as much as possible," said Bignami. "What seems small scale reduces the stresses of climate change."

An opportunity for students to personally get involved in helping our local environment can be found in the Heritage Garden Club. "One of the garden club's big philosophies is ecosystem gardening," said junior Steven McCarthy, president of the Heritage Garden Club. "We don't just try to help humans. We try and create healthy habitats for lizards, insects and birds. Our goal is to help all living creatures in the area." Their initiative is to not just plant vegetables, but to grow a lot of fruits, particularly plants native to the Southern California region, using their own natural fertilizers. In regards to Concordia students,

McCarthy said he hopes that the Heritage Garden Club "helps make Concordia a greener, more sustainable campus."

"We don't just try to help humans. We try and create healthy habitats for lizards, insects, and birds. Our goal is to help all living creatures in the area."

Recycling is one of the best ways for people everywhere to contribute to limiting environ-

mental damage. "There are a couple of places on campus that take recycled bottles and cans," said McCarthy. While there are currently a couple of places to recycle on campus, there has been a longtime initiative to get even more recycling opportunities. "We want recycling bins for paper, bottles and organic bins," said Bignami. "There should not only be paper [recycling] and compost, but a really reduced impact to landfill usage." The less people use landfills, the less greenhouse gases will be admitted into the atmosphere.

Some advice for students looking to make an impact on climate change and the local environment: do some research and look up any local organizations that are actively involved in habitat restoration. For students looking to get involved on campus, consider volunteering in the garden.

For more information on climate change, visit the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at <http://www.ipcc.ch/>.