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## Turkish journalist's apologetic for Islam

*Mustafa Akyol gives on-campus lecture about modern Muslims*

KENDRA SITTON  
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 18, an eclectic group of professors and students gathered to hear a presentation by Mustafa Akyol put on by the Center for Public Policy. Akyol came to Concordia as part of his book tour, where he is advertising his recently released book, "Islam Without Extremes." Akyol visited 18 cities in America in 30 days for this tour.

To introduce his book which helps outsiders understand the culture in the Middle East and also critiques the political practices in some countries, Akyol began with an anecdote about his first visit to the United States. He ate pancakes for the first time at McDonald's and loved the new food. On his next visit, he immediately wanted to return to McDonald's for more pancakes. When his host took him to a different restaurant, he realized that pancakes are not an exclusive McDonald's product and are actually a much wider phenomenon. He used this story to illustrate that a foreign culture can be confusing at first, but one must look deeper to better understand it. He helped the audience get a small glimpse of what Middle Eastern culture is actually like, rather than just what the media portrays.

The purpose of the lecture was to examine the question, "Is Islam incompatible with freedom?" Akyol talked about how most Muslims who are in the news are there for negative reasons. Only 1% of people in Turkey approve of 9/11 but the majority of people that dislike that terrorist act are overshadowed by extremists. While visiting Saudi Arabia, Akyol saw that during prayer times each day, religious police forced people to go to the mosque. Akyol said, "there's something wrong here" when he saw

this happening. People were going to mosque solely to avoid police harassment and not as a legitimate worship of Allah.

Akyol is from Turkey, where there is freedom of religion. However, he critiqued the system there because rather than allowing religious symbols to be in public, they were banned completely. Security guards forced women going to college to take off their head coverings before they entered the gates because the coverings are a religious symbol. Many Turkish women go to America to attend college where this is not banned. Akyol pointed out the difference between freedom of religion and freedom from religion. Though trying to free itself from the strict confines of Islamic law, Turkey's secular government can be just as dogmatic in their

**"Faith cannot be imposed, it can only be proposed."**

regulation of thought.

The lecture intrigued the audience and many had questions at the end. Often though, Akyol replied that a better, more thorough answer was in his book. Akyol concluded by saying, "Faith cannot be imposed, it can only be proposed." Students were exposed to new viewpoints and left the presentation with more understanding of the issues facing the Muslim world.

Akyol examined different political practices regarding Islam. Through his open-minded perspective, he helps the western world understand something that many view as foreign. Akyol said that Islam is going through the worst section in its history, but that there is hope for a better future. In a world that seeks understanding rather than quick judgment, this bright future is possible.



## Lacrosse-ing into their first season

WILLIAM RICHARDSON  
STAFF WRITER

The women's lacrosse team wrapped up their last preseason game on Nov. 9. The last win was their fifth in a row, making their preseason record 6-1. The Eagles will be back in action in the first week of January. This is the first year Concordia has a women's lacrosse team.

This is the first year Concordia has ever had a women's lacrosse team. The team is predominantly composed of young talent, along with a few upperclassmen. Prior to their first preseason game, none of the team members had stepped foot on the same field in an official capacity.

Brittani Nagy, senior, played a major part in establishing the lacrosse team as an official club. Her relentless three year effort to get a lacrosse team finally paid off this year. Because Nagy has dedicated so much time to the team, it is not surprising that the younger players look to her for leadership and support.

"I look up to the upperclassmen on our team Nicole [West] and Brittani. They are like the backbone of the team. They know when to either crack a joke or make the team get serious," said Emily Cabuling, freshman.

The common theme amongst the Eagles seems to be centered on unification and personal growth. "I am really excited to see what is in store for our team. We are a young team and have so much potential," Nagy said. "It's a blessing to be part of a team that is united as one, on and off the field."

Although the team may be new, they are already illustrating confidence in one another. "My experience with the team has been amazing. They have truly been a blessing in my life," said Cabuling. "Being strangers to growing into a family within a short amount of time gave me

new a perspective of how we can become one unit on the field."

The team's success may have been a surprise to some, but the team members were confident they would excel. "I wouldn't say anything surprised me, but I was excited at how well our team came together as a family and played together," Nagy said. The team attributes the majority of their success to the type of bond the girls have built with one another.

Nicole West, senior, joined the team with previous experience on the lacrosse field. She came to Concordia with drive and ambition to continue playing the game. "I hated not playing a sport anymore or being active, so when the opportunity became possible I was extremely excited to join the team," West said.

West and her teammates feel they can rely on each other when it comes to game time. "There is not one person on the team that does not pull their own weight," West said. "I have never been on a team with so much natural talent and I am extremely excited to see how far we can take that."

Through their hard work and success, the Eagles have earned the respect of the teams they play along with their fellow athletes and peers. "I heard that they are doing really well. For a team that was just started this year, that's crazy," said Mitchell Esser, junior fan.

The team is anxious and excited to get back on the field after break. "Our practices start in January and our first game will be Feb. 1. I am most looking forward to playing the sport I love and continuing to see how our team grows," Nagy said.

The lacrosse team will face off against Biola at home, on Feb. 1 at 3 p.m. The team encourages fans to come to the game and show them your support.

## Christmas Eve service for students and faculty

LIANNA JORDAN  
STAFF WRITER

The second annual Concordia Christmas Eve worship service will be held in the CU Center at 7 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 10.

The all-campus worship service took place for the first time last winter and was well received. Dr. Marin Jacobson, Associate Director of Choral Activities, along with other faculty members, valued having an all-campus Christmas worship service. The idea was born and the now-annual Concordia Christmas Eve service was created. "Since we are all scattered at Christmas time, this is an opportunity for all to come together to celebrate Christ's birth," Jacobson said.

Jacobson is in charge of coordinating all musical elements of the service. All three campus choirs, The Concordia Choir, Donne di Canto and the Men's Chorus, will combine for the evening to help lead the congregation in worship. In addition, they will perform the piece "Lo, How a Rose/The Rose," featuring soloist Jaclyn Pennington, sophomore Concordia Choir member. The piece combines a spiritual hymn with a secular love song "to show how the love Christ brings us speaks to how we view love," Jacobson said. Other musical ensembles involved

with leading worship include Spirit Bells, Concordia Sinfonietta, and Concordia Brass.

Katherine Dubke, senior member of the Concordia Choir, will be performing with the choir for her second Concordia Christmas Eve service and enjoys leading the worship of classic carols and hymns. "It's nice to have a piece of that [Christmas spirit] before coming home for Christmas break," Dubke said.

Courtney Thornton, sophomore RES Care Minister for abbey west, is involved in the planning of the service. Even though students will be busy during finals week, attending the service will be "a great way to get spiritual fulfillment we all will need during that hectic week," Thornton said.

The event is not just for students. Faculty and staff are invited to attend as well. The Christmas story will be read and a special children's message will be delivered as part of the service to the families who attend. Prior to the service, a special Christmas dinner will be hosted in the Student Union. The cafeteria will open earlier than normal at 4:30 p.m. to accommodate the large crowd expected to enjoy the dinner.

"It will be a meaningful worship service," Jacobson said. "It makes people really feel a part of Concordia by coming together to worship as one, and gives us a sense of who we are as a community."



# The Bear Necessities with Bear and Zocks: EUkraine?

## Who cares about Trade: the case for Ukraine

AMANDA OZAKI  
POLITICAL COLUMNIST

As I was reading the homepage of the news source Foreign Policy this week, the same few countries seemed to dominate headlines: North Korea, Syria, Iran, and China. A quick check on Foreign Affairs also showed researchers focusing around new Chinese airspace borders, Iranian nuclear deals, and what the United States should do in the Syrian conflict. The New York Times also covered the same countries, with one exception: Ukraine. While Ukrainian protests are not drawing as much attention as Iran reportedly chasing after a nuclear weapon, the stakes behind Ukrainian stability are extremely high. Since the Cold War, Ukraine has played a significant role in how the West relates to post-Soviet states. Besides natural gas, Ukraine also provides a large portion of Europe's agriculture through limited sources of trade.

For the past few years, the European Union has been chasing after new free trade deals with the Ukraine. New reports coming from the Eu-

ropean Commission show grim outlooks on agriculture markets, especially with employment in the industry falling by 25% because of food shortages. How will Europe be able to feed itself? Ukraine offers a nice solution through trade and farmable land that hasn't been drained of its water like most land in Eastern Europe. However, the European Union is not the only body trying to woo Ukraine. China has already been pursuing a deal to gain 5% of all Ukraine to grow wheat crops. Russia has also been blackmailing Ukraine by threatening to cut off gas supplies and promising to decrease its debt if they shun the European Union.

According to the US Department of Agriculture, Ukraine will become the world's 2nd largest exporter of grain this season, with shipments reaching over 30 million tons. Most of the industrial world will miss out on those exports if a trade deal is not reached. The "Breadbasket of the East" is being shunned by large economies like Germany that are afraid of having to bail out yet another country in the European Union. Unlike Greece and Italy however, Ukraine will easily be able to make itself useful to Germany through providing food security.

Besides what the European Union can get out of a trade deal, the Ukrainian population

also wants to get as far away from Russia as they can. CNN described the political protests as a repeat of the Orange Revolution, a political uprising that took place in Ukraine in 2004 and introduced democratic elections to the country. The Ukrainian people see themselves at a crossroads. A stark choice between Russia and Europe has presented itself as a final junction for the future of Ukraine. Putin desperately needs fast cash from natural gas sales, using Cold War-style threats and blackmail to try and manipulate Ukraine's fragile economy.

Europe has been enticing the country with its market economy and democratic ideals, but its high human rights standards has made it difficult for entry. It seems a bit ridiculous for the European Union to expect a poor, fragile, and underdeveloped country to reform its human rights *before* it actually gets the money to raise the standard of living. Sustainable human rights standards will only be created if Ukraine is able to wean itself off of corrupt governments like Russia. If Europe wants to be able to feed its citizens, it should make the process for Ukrainian entrance as smooth as possible. Likewise, if Ukraine truly wants energy independence from Russia, it should diversify its energy sector and pursue some form of trade cooperation with the EU.

litical gridlock as Western Ukraine supports EU integration while the East supports Russian integration.

We have seen it time and time again, the EU is not great about dealing with it's more sluggish economies and Ukraine definitely fits this bill. "Ukraine faces prospects of economic collapse," stated Timothy Ash, Chief Economist of Emerging Markets at Standard Bank. Looking to the financially-ailing Greece and its relationship with the EU, it is not unreasonable to forecast a similar situation upon Ukraine entry.

An article featured on NewZimbabwe.com from Nov. 28, 2013 indicates that Greece is planning to oppose EU-imposed sanctions against Zimbabwe dating back a decade upon assuming bloc presidency next year. This is just one isolated incident amidst a long chain of tit-for-tat geopolitical ping-pong between the EU and its weaker economies. Ukraine ascension into the bloc complicates an already exceedingly complex socio-political and economic patchwork.

Ukraine currently has internal political divides that hinder a smooth transition into the EU. A Dec. 2, 2013 interview with Mateusz Piskorski, Director of the European Centre of Geopolitical Analysis, featured on RT.com, highlights the political reality. "Ukraine is a divided country, with the West ardently supporting European integration and the East historically more pro-Russian," Piskorski said. Considering the mass protests taking place, perhaps Ukraine is not yet ready to become a member of the EU. A stubborn opposition party with political power can only do harm to the process of EU membership.

Instead of hastily repeating history and mindlessly admitting another cash-strapped country, the EU should reevaluate the manner in which it addresses economic woes within the bloc. If the union is incapable of maintaining relations with the likes of Greece, Italy and Spain, it may want to reconsider adding Ukraine to the list.

## Take time to reflect on Christmas' real meaning

ALICIA HARGER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Everyone is easily caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. There are presents to buy, decorations to put up, and lies about a obese house intruder to perpetuate to children.

For college students, the Christmas season is compounded with the dreaded finals week. Stuck with papers to write and exams to prepare for, it can be hard to find time to sleep, let alone think about the meaning of the season. So I present to you this cheesy Christmas poem as a reminder of what we are really celebrating.

Jesus Christ was born this day  
So many years before  
He came a servant to the lost,  
Though he was Lord of Lords

We celebrate this joyous time,  
Reflecting on His birth  
Not born in a mansion, but a stable  
As if He had no worth

He came so He could identify  
With the human heart of man  
And gave His life as a sacrifice,  
Offering a better plan

A plan that reconciles us back  
To our loving Father God,  
Bringing hope and redemption from  
Sins ruling, iron rod

For this is the only reason that we  
Should celebrate this day,  
To become focused on anything else,  
Would take the meaning away

So let's arise with joy in our hearts  
And share it with everyone  
The meaning of Christmas will always be  
The birth of Jesus – God's son

by M.S. Lowndes



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find links to PDFs of old  
issues and our Dear Abby  
submission site.

## Members only: Ukrainian entrance into the EU

DAVID SAULET  
POLITICAL COLUMNIST

A quick glance at the current political climate concerning Ukraine's aspirations to join the European Union (EU) may indicate that attaining membership would be beneficial for both parties. However, if we look to the larger historical context of the EU's interactions with more economically fragile nations, now is not the time for Ukraine's entrance into the EU. To begin, Ukraine is not economically stable enough to be treated as an equitable member of the bloc, only creating more tensions and dependency. Furthermore, Ukraine's entrance into the EU would only heighten domestic po-

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# Volleyball serves victory in NAIA tournament

PATRICK SONSTENG  
STAFF WRITER

The #2 ranked women's volleyball team is currently competing in the NAIA National Championship Tournament in Sioux City, Iowa. The Lady Eagles, coaches and athletic trainers packed up the morning after Thanksgiving to fly to the Midwest and defend last year's championship title.

The team began pool play on Dec. 3 where they defeated Trinity Christian College 3-0 in their first match of the tournament. The Eagles then went on to defeat Park University 3-1 on Dec. 4. There are six pools in the tournament, each containing four teams. The top two teams from each bracket will advance to single elimination on Friday.

During the four days of preparation that the volleyball stars had before competing in their first game, the team practiced and bonded. The team released their inner speed racer at "Joe's Go-Karting" race track to get the trip started. Elizabeth Younglove, senior, showed her expertise extends onto the racetrack with her driving skills. Freshman Ellie Ladensack also put on a good show by defeating Head Coach Trevor Johnson in the race. "Racing was a ton of fun and it was pretty cool beating Trevor," Ladensack said. Despite their aggressive performance on the court, Le Mi, senior, Jessica Israel, junior, and Rachel Flynn, freshman, were timid drivers, pulling over to allow their teammates to pass, which eventually resulted in Flynn's collision with a wall.

Participating in activities like racing allows the team to deepen the bond they already have with one another. "The best part about the last few days was getting to know our team on a completely different level, especially the seniors who are going to be done after this tournament," said Taylor Dennison, freshman.

Once the Eagles arrived in Sioux City, they attended Sunday morning service at a local

church called Sunnybrook Church. "It was great spending time with my team outside of volleyball, even switching up the people in the vans increases our team bond," said Olivia Zolezzi, freshman redshirt.

For the fourth year in a row, the Lady Eagles also spent a day at St. Paul's Lutheran Elementary School where they got to teach volleyball to youngsters. "For some of us seniors, it was slightly emotional because it was our last visit to some of the kids that we first met as freshman," said Mackenzie Gromek, senior. The children ranged from kindergarten to eighth grade and the Eagles loved being able to spend time with them. "It's crazy to think four years have already passed," said Alex Bozoian, senior.

On the eve of the tournament, the team attended a beach-themed banquet hosted by the NAIA where they mingled with members of rival schools. Food was served while teams and players with outstanding characteristics were recognized. Mackenzie Beveridge, senior, received her second "Champions of Character" award. Le Mi, Kaitlyn Platt, Madison Ekis and Kyleen Iverson, seniors, and Jordan Smith, junior, were recognized as Scholar Athletes with exceptionally high grade point averages.

The Eagles have been training all season in preparation for the national tournament. The team is especially motivated to defeat last year's runner up, University of Texas at Brownsville, who gave the Eagles their first loss earlier this season. This loss to Brownsville was the team's first lost since their victory at the 2011 Nationals and the Eagles are determined to redeem themselves.

Johnson informed his team that they are going into this tournament as if they have a clean slate and a record of 0-0. At print time the Eagles were still participating in pool play. Bracket play begins today, Dec. 6 and the championship will be held tomorrow, Dec. 7. Tournament scores, updates and streaming are available through the Eagles athletics website.

# Sneak peek into upcoming men's volleyball season

KRISTINA KRAUS  
STAFF WRITER

The men's volleyball team set the high bar for the upcoming season after defeating #1 ranked Park University in the National Invitational National Championship (NAIA) last spring. With the addition of new players along with many returners, the Eagles are aiming to beat the 25-7 record they ended with last season in order to reclaim the national title.

"The men's team looks like they will repeat this season as National Champions," said Briana Hughes, senior middle blocker on the women's volleyball team. "They have only lost one senior from last year and have gained seven new players this year."

Both the men and women's volleyball teams have been extremely supportive of one another since the men's first season at Concordia last year. The Lady Eagles are looking forward to supporting the men's team again throughout this upcoming season.

Ryan Murphy, freshman libero, displayed enthusiasm towards the upcoming season. "I think that this season will be extremely successful due to our hard work, dedication and love for the sport and each other," Murphy said.

The sense of unity the team preaches is truly

evident in their actions toward one another on and off the court. "I'm really looking forward to competing again with my brothers and winning the whole thing again," said Mark Metrakos, senior.

The players are ready and eager to get back on the court to start the season and get one step closer to that championship. "Our biggest competition will probably be Park University who we played last year in the championship game," Metrakos said.

The players are going above and beyond by putting in extensive work this season and they are practically demanding another title. "Our first game is against UC Irvine and we will be mentally and physically ready because they are one of the strongest teams in the NCAA," said Ryan Redira, senior libero. "Playing against NCAA teams in the preseason helps prepare us against the NAIA schools which is a huge advantage."

The Eagles' drive and discipline for their sport illustrates that they are ready to start their season strong. "We are really excited for the season coming up. We have been preparing for the many challenges that we will face," Redira said.

To see the men in action at their first game of the season, come to the CU Center on Dec. 20 where they will play against UC Irvine at 7 p.m.



Last year's national champion men's volleyball team at their ring receiving ceremony.

# Women's soccer misses NAIA championship goal

MICHELLE MARTIR  
STAFF WRITER

This past Wednesday, the #8 ranked women's soccer team fell to #1 ranked Lindsey Wilson in the quarterfinals of the NAIA Soccer National Championship Tournament in Orange Beach, Alabama. The team played a tough game against Lindsey Wilson, holding them to just one goal in the first half. Although the Eagles stayed composed, their season came to an end with a 2-0 loss, the team's first loss of the year.

The team had an extremely successful season, one of the best in Concordia's history. The women were able to earn themselves their first ever trip to the third round of the national tournament. On Tues. Dec. 3, the women defeated University of Mobile 2-1 in the second round.

The Eagles certainly proved themselves with their winning streak and team unification. Several players and coaches were honored for their talent. Head Coach Chris Gould was awarded the GSAC Coach of the Year award this season and five of the women on the team were named All-GSAC. The All-GSAC players were Jazmin Alvarez, freshman, Carly Mottram and Miranda Canales, sophomores, and Megan Daniels and Lauren Nanez, juniors.

The women started their season strong with consecutive victories and is something to be proud of. Alex Antonescu, senior men's soccer player, shared his expertise on what he considers as the Lady Eagles' main strength. "They have a solid back line which is very important because it provides a foundation for the attackers to do their job with freedom. The offense also has very good chemistry and the players combine well."

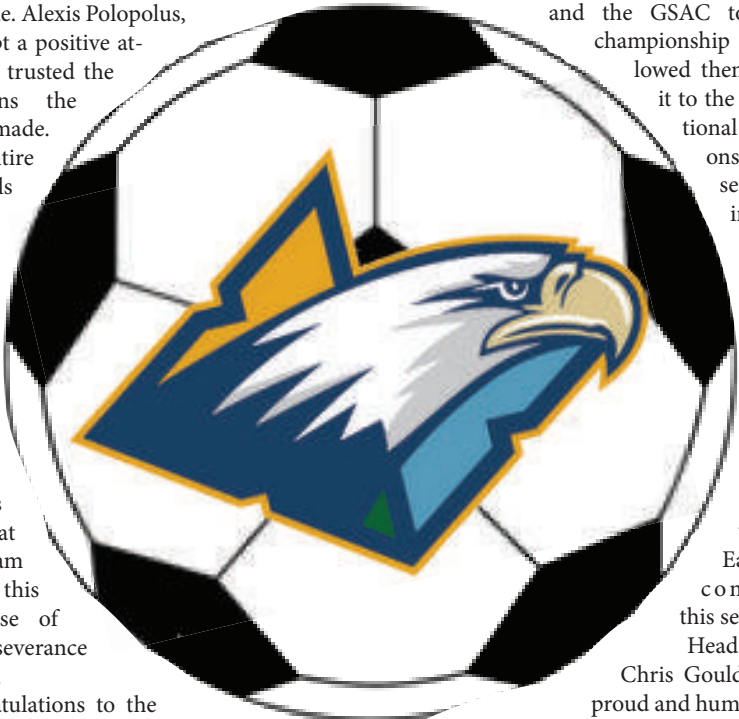
After winning the GSAC Tournament, the team played against Brown University in the

NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship Opening Round, finishing the game with a 2-0 victory. Alyssa Gomez, sophomore, thinks all of the team's success has been possible due to several factors. "We worked really hard. We really bonded with each other. The dedication we had during practice really showed our improvement."

The team's improvement and dedication landed them a spot in AL, competing for a chance to win a national title. Before their game against Mobile, the women were feeling a bit nervous, but they maintained a positive attitude. Alexis Polopolus, junior, kept a positive attitude and trusted the preparations the team had made. The entire team feels focused and motivated to play hard before they go into their games.

Polopolus feels that the team made it this far because of their perseverance and desire.

Congratulations to the Eagles and their coaches on their successful season and for making it so far.



# Men's soccer suffers double overtime defeat

QUINN BEATTIE  
STAFF WRITER

The men's soccer season came to a close this past Monday at the NAIA National Tournament in Montgomery, AL. The Eagles made their way to the second round of the national tournament where they unfortunately fell 2-1 to the Oklahoma Wesleyan Eagles in double overtime.

Although it was a tough loss for the Eagles, they had a very impressive season this year. The men won the GSAC regular season and the GSAC tournament championship which allowed them to make it to the NAIA National Championship for the second year in a row and third time in the program's history. These are just a few of the things that the Eagles accomplished this season.

Head Coach Chris Gould was very proud and humbled by his team this year. Due to the Eagles' hard work, the men were able to overcome their rocky start at the beginning of the season to

become GSAC Champions. "I can't say enough about the character of this group. We watched guys this season meet adversity, take ownership of their situation and blossom," Gould told Concordia Athletics interviewers after the game on Monday. "That is what this is all about. That is what life is all about."

The men's soccer team has continued to show improvement in the last two years. The team earned the way to their first appearances at nationals and won GSAC titles, which were both notable growing points and memories. "The seniors have had two great seasons and it's pretty incredible what they've done for this program," Gould said.

Kayvon Afsarifard, junior defender, was very pleased with the season he had with his teammates. The tough games where the players had to trust each other and leave everything on the field were Afsarifard's favorite memories. "As long as we played for each other, we were successful," Afsarifard said. "I feel blessed to have been a part of such a great group of guys."

Adrian Padilla, senior midfielder, remembers his favorite part of playing for Concordia this year was winning back to back GSAC championships and, of course, playing with his great group of teammates. "I'll miss being able to go out there to train every day," Padilla said.

For six seniors, the unforgettable experience of their collegiate soccer days has come to an end. But for the rest of the team, the 2013 soccer season is only a chapter of Concordia Soccer, leaving room for more growth and improvement in the coming years.

Congratulations to the men's soccer team for all of their achievements this season. It has been a proud year for the team, fans, supporters, and the Concordia community as a whole.



# Business class fundraises for Hope

TAYLOR HANE  
STAFF WRITER

Student projects assigned in one of Concordia's business classes helped students apply course concepts while also giving back to the community. Kenneth George assigned his class a challenging assignment to, in groups, create and sell a product to raise money for a local charity.

One of the groups called themselves Irvine Incorporated and made shirts that had the Concordia Eagles logo on them. The shirts came in both cotton and dry fit and were sold for \$20. They also made wrist-bands that had the Concordia logo on them, sold for \$1 a piece.

There was a whole process involved in making the items. The groups had to make marketing and business plans, order the product and figure out the pricing for shipping and the products in general. They even had to use some of

their own money for the initial start up.

"We were given tasks and treated this project as if it was a real business," said Sam Sedillo, junior. Everyone held a position and they had to work together to figure out all of the logistics before they were able to make and sell their products.

Each member of the group also had a certain task that they were in charge of completing. Some of the positions they held were president, CFO, director of marketing and IT tech. "It was hard getting everyone together outside of class and communicating, but we managed to work together and find a way to make things work smoothly for everyone," said Jesse Staats, junior.

Although this was a project, it was also a way to give back to a good cause. "The most important thing we took away from it was being able to help give back to the community during the holidays," said Chelcie While, junior. "It made us work harder, knowing that our profit and hard work would be helping someone else in the end."

Irvine Incorporated chose to donate their earnings to the Village of Hope, an sub-organization of Orange County Rescue Mission, which has after school programs for kids in the local community. The goal for each group was to donate \$1,000 to their charity. Irvine Incorporated did not quite hit the thousand dollar mark, but they came really close. "We are very proud of what we did as a group, and are proud that the earnings are going to a good cause," Sedillo said.



# Athletics app connects fans

AUSTIN BURKHART  
STAFF WRITER

Concordia Eagles fans can now stay updated with both Concordia men's and women's athletics by downloading the new official Concordia Athletics app designed for the iPhone and iPad released earlier this year.

"SIDHelp, the company that hosts the Concordia Athletics website, offered the app to their clients who purchased their top package," said Brian Gaul, Director of Athletics Communications. "I felt it was a great way to reach student-athletes, fans, parents and supporters."

The all-inclusive mobile app allows the user to get the latest updates from Eagle Athletics in one convenient and mobile location 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students, athletes and Eagles fans can access rosters, schedules, news stories, game recaps, scores, stats, social media, audio, video and much more. The app offers the same content and access as the website, but in a streamlined mobile setting.

The app was released on Oct. 2 and Gaul has been very pleased with how the app has spread and is being used by the Concordia faithful.

"Yes, I love the app," said Madison Ekis, senior women's volleyball player. "It makes following our teams so much easier and there are

many features to it. I highly recommend it."

This app is beneficial for students who cannot always attend Concordia sporting events because they commute, have class or have other extra-curricular activities. It is useful for when Concordia plays on the road, especially during Nationals when Concordia plays out of state. The real-time, on-the-go, access to scores and stats eases the flow of information and allows students and fans to access game information directly.

Although there are students yet to download the app, they recognize the significance of the opportunity. "I would definitely download and use this app," said Brendan McCabe, freshman men's cross country runner. "I find it useful because that way I don't have to ask friends about the scores and such. I could just check the app."

"I may use it if I download it; I haven't downloaded it yet though," said Julien Sperling, senior. "I could see myself using the app because I think it's extremely convenient and I would even recommend it."

If you follow Concordia's teams and would like to receive the latest updates about your Eagles, download the Concordia Athletics app. For those who do not own an iPhone or iPad, do not worry, an Android app will be launched in the coming months.



# Italian heritage food

BROOKE SPRINGER  
STAFF WRITER

The Student Union hosted an Italian Heritage Month Celebration on Dec. 3 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. They served classic Italian foods like skirt steak with porcini mushrooms in a pink cream sauce, crispy eggplant parmesan with fresh mozzarella and basil, Italian chocal trio of pasta with trio of sauces and garlic chicken and Italian meatball sandwiches with marinara and parmesan cheese.

According to about.com, over 5.4 million Italians immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 1992. Currently, there are over 26 million Americans of Italian descent residing in America, some of whom attend Concordia. "Although my dad was originally born in the United States, he was raised and spent most of his early adulthood in Milan. He speaks fluent Italian, cooks amazing Italian food, and has integrated the Italian culture into my upbringing," said Alexa Finzi, senior. Finzi was excited to see Concordia celebrating Italian heritage and enjoyed the traditional foods in the cafeteria.

Italians are known to be a fun, loud group of people who never stray away from their biggest support system, their family. "Family is definitely really important to me," said Sarah Barrick, senior. "Putting family first is absolutely something that is engrained in the Italian culture. Also, we make amazing bread."

Kevin Callahan, Director of Bon Appetit, is also very passionate about his family. "The loyalty and bond I have with my family is strong, even if I am in California and they are in New

York," Callahan said.

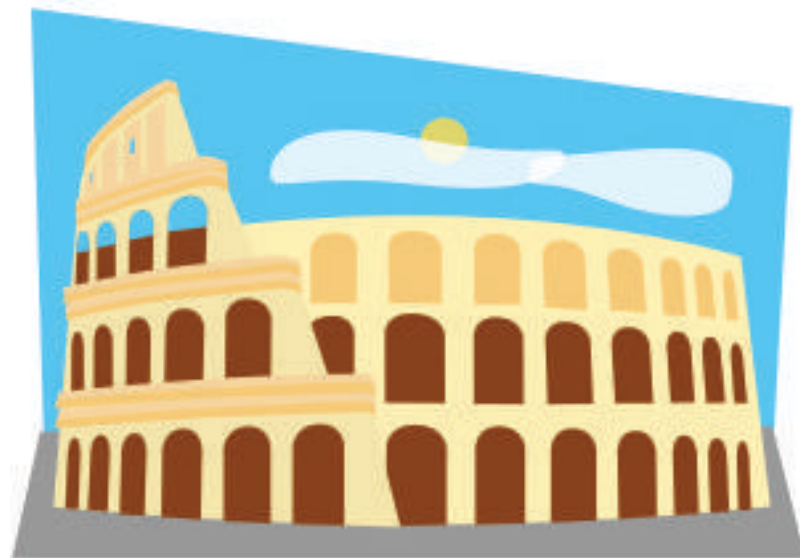
"My favorite part about being Italian is how close all of my family is. I can go years without seeing all my family in Italy, and when I do see them it's like nothing changed," said Ashley Engeln, senior. "Also, the family traditions and family recipes are another one of my favorite things about being Italian."

Italians love to see the world, especially their homeland. Engeln went to Italy over the summer to visit her family and to explore the beauty that the country holds. "My experiences in Italy, like seeing my family and all the different cities, have been amazing. Plus the food is better than the best Italian restaurants in America" Engeln said. "My favorite part about Italy was seeing all of my family. The last time I went I was about five years old, so it was nice seeing my family at 21. I have a lot of family over there so I didn't even see half of them, but I plan to go back and see everyone again soon."

Callahan also visited Italy once after his father passed away. "I went with my mother. It was the greatest experience I could ask for and I got a chance to meet relatives I never knew I had. Even though I was meeting them for the first time, it was like I had known them my entire life. They could have not been more genuine," Callahan said.

"I keep strong to my Italian roots and try to follow in my family's traditions. Church, family and work all play important roles in the Italian culture. Without these 3 components I would have nothing," Callahan said.

Look for more cafeteria celebrations and themes next semester.



# Dear Abby...

Like the famous "Dear Abby" advice column, *Courier* readers can submit anonymous letters to receive advice for all aspects of life. You can submit hard-copy letters at the *Courier* office in the Delta Lounge or digitally using the Survey Monkey link found on *The Courier's* Facebook page.

Dear Abby,

I see a lot of people getting engaged--or even married this year. Do you think getting hitched in undergrad is too young?

Sincerely, Young and In Love

Dear In Love,

The pressure to get married and settle down can be strong, especially at a small Christian school like Concordia. There's a reason "ring by spring" and "M.R.S. degree" are private college tropes. Many young adults do get married right out of college in this type of culture.

Neil Clark Warren, a psychologist and founder of eharmony, warns against getting married too young. According to Warren, getting married before the age of 28 is a warning sign of a marriage that is likely to end in divorce. His reasoning is that young people are likely to make rash decisions regarding marriage and are poorly equipped to face the challenges that married life can bring.

That being said, age can be a poor predictor

of maturity, ability to commit and dedication to a relationship. If a couple is ready for marriage emotionally, spiritually and financially in their undergrad years, there is little reason to stop them from getting married.

Before you start ringing those wedding bells though, there are some considerations any individual should contemplate before selecting a spouse:

1. Have a clear mental image of your ideal mate.
2. Find someone with similar values and role expectations as you.
3. Make sure you are healthy as an individual before you can be part of a healthy relationship.
4. Find a love you feel deeply.
5. Allow your love to mature before you decide to marry. Don't get married on brain chemistry alone.
6. Master the art of emotional intimacy.
7. Learn how to address and resolve conflict in your relationship. Be a peace maker, not a peace keeper.
8. Do not get married unless you are genuinely ready to commit for the rest of your life.
9. Celebrate your marriage with the support and awareness of your family.

Following these tips won't guarantee you a perfect marriage. Nor will skipping one or two guarantee a divorce. Just make sure you know what you're getting yourself into if you decide to get married at any age.

Love,  
Abby



# Holiday fun at Irvine Regional Park Stranger in a strange land

BRYCE KELLEY  
STAFF WRITER

Irvine Regional Park, located at 1 Irvine Park Road in Orange, has many great cheap options for fun activities for families and students, especially during the holiday season. From horse stables, to bike and boat rentals, to the classic Holiday Railroad, there is fun all around the park.

One of the most well-known holiday traditions is the Christmas-themed train that runs throughout the park. "Come with family and friends and take this enchanting night ride through historic Irvine Regional Park to meet Santa Claus," says the park's website. "After visiting with Santa, hop back aboard the train and

enjoy the colorful Christmas lights and decorations, as well as the magical 'Tunnel of Lights,' on the ride back to Santa's village." The cost of the Holiday Railroad is \$10, and the train runs from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. most days. However, all tickets must be bought online, so if you're planning on visiting the train, make sure to purchase your tickets before heading over to the park.

"The train is a great family activity to do around the holiday season. Our kids love riding it and walking around the North Pole," said Patti Johnson, Irvine resident. The train takes off from the brightly lit train station and ends at the "North Pole." Once there, visitors can visit Santa, jump in the Santa Claus Bounce House, go to story time with Mrs. Claus, decorate Christmas cookies and play Christmas carnival games.

Irvine Regional Park also has festivities for other holidays as well. They have an Anniversary Celebration in February, Easter Eggstravaganza in April (with a big Easter egg hunt), and a yearly Pumpkin Patch around Halloween. "We come to most of the holiday events, but the Christmas train is a favorite among our family," said Steve Parker, Irvine resident. Also, throughout the year, Irvine Regional Park is one of the most popular places to spend a nice day outside. Paddle boat and bike rentals are usually available, and the on-premises Orange County Zoo is open every day for visitors.

Parking at Irvine Regional Park is free after 5 p.m. For more information about the Irvine Regional Park or to get parking information, visit the park's website: [irvineparkrailroad.com](http://irvineparkrailroad.com).

*CUI Bono talk encourages students to look at America from an outsiders perspective*

WILLIAM DEMURI  
STAFF WRITER

CUI Bono put on a special speaking event titled, "A Stranger in a Strange Land: America Through Foreign Eyes" on Nov. 20. According to the CUI website, CUI Bono is an on-campus organization with a mission "to promote deeper thinking about the ultimate questions that arise from lectures, texts, and conversations in and outside of the classroom. Students of all levels intermix and interact with faculty members from an array of departments." Additionally, CUI Bono has a Living Learning Community in the lower quads on campus that exists to more fully promote the goals and interests of their organization.

"A Stranger in a Strange Land: America Through Foreign Eyes" served as a part of CUI Bono's semester-long lecture series. This lecture was facilitated by Dr. Daniel van Voorhis, Associate Professor of History and Political Thought. The event was held in the Rho Programing Center and included a pizza dinner followed by the lecture by van Voorhis.

In his lecture, van Voorhis provided insight into the lives and ideas of three individuals who came to America and documented their opinions. The individuals that van Voorhis talked about were from three different countries at three different time periods, and published works that contained their ideals and viewpoints in regards to the United States.

"It was an eye-opening view on the standards of America. How over hundreds of years, America had the same issues addressed by different people of different cultures," said Josh Vannoy, sophomore. Some of the recurring themes seen amongst the three different authors were the origins, values and religions held by US citizens, America's role in the world and American involvement in war. Interestingly enough, these are many common themes that we see throughout society today.

Similarly, van Voorhis also discussed some of the modern practices commonly seen in the United States that people from other countries have found unique and specific to being American. Some of these things are patriotism, the frequent usage of GPS systems, free refills, the emphasis of sports at the university level and also how we have become somewhat of a cashless society. "I found the talk to be very interesting and had never thought much about viewing the U.S. as an outsider," said Josh Stark, sophomore.

More information about CUI Bono and how to get involved can be found on the Concordia website at [www.cui.edu/studentlife/first-year-experience](http://www.cui.edu/studentlife/first-year-experience).

The CUI Bono Living Learning Community will also be providing breakfast the week of finals week to help accomodate students with early morning finals.



## Say hello to Oscar Harr

DAVID GARCIA  
STAFF WRITER

Oscar Harr has been working as a security guard for Concordia for over eight years now, following a dream he had after 9/11 to protect and serve people. His passion grew stronger and his dream became real once he got a job at Concordia.

Harr has become one of the main characters at Concordia's campus. For years he has served students, staff and faculty with his whole heart.

Harr is a man of many talents. His background in accounting and education is an example of that. He has taught Advanced Accounting and Spanish at a college level and loves to get involved in managing businesses. Harr is also in the business industry. He is the owner of a convenience store and the administrator of several different properties.

Harr loves talking to the people that drive

through the gatehouse, and he is very well known by the students at Concordia. "He is a nice guy and takes his job very seriously," said Jasmine Naziri, senior. "He sometimes stops us for no reason," said Nestor Nunez, junior. "Its actually pretty funny."

For alumni that are visiting Concordia' Harr is a reminder of their good times in college, "I got so many tickets from Oscar for parking in the wrong place," said Steven Beyer '11.

Melissa Arvizu, sophomore, had the opportunity to work for Campus Safety in in 2011. Harr was a guiding figure through her experience with Campus Safety. "He trained me at the gate," Arvizu said. "He is very outgoing, he is always smiling and he would ask as many questions as necessary in order to know something."

Harr's two sons and daughter are the reason he strives for excellence. He taught them the family values that he learned from his parents, which led them to successful lives. "I am so

proud of them. They went above my expectations," Harr said.

During his free time, Harr enjoys watching sports such as basketball, football and his new addition hockey. He also enjoys traveling to Canada every time he has the chance. A walk to the mall for some yogurt will always be on the top of his list of fun activities.

Harr is that he is very sentimental when it comes to people he cares about. "I even cry when students graduate, because I know I will miss them," Harr said. He loves Concordia deeply and his passion has led him to decide to do this as long as he can.

If you have never talked to Harr, he is often at the gatehouse or walking around the parking lot trying to find a way to "help" students who could not find the right parking spot.

Harr is ablessing to the Concordia community.





# Tis the season to be jolly

DAETONA LAURENCE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Christmas season has finally arrived. Whether we want it to or not, Christmas decorations have already taken over the stores, holiday music is blasting through the speakers and everyone is counting down the days until Santa Claus stops by. But it's not just the holiday season, it's also finals week. So, of course, we're all ready to start procrastinating from studying. Well, if you're looking for a few things to do while procrastinating, here are a few Christmas themed crafts and recipes to consider making.

Since you're currently living in sunny California, I know you're desperate for a delicious hot chocolate recipe to warm up. Well, this recipe is a zinger! Get out your hot cocoa packs, add a crushed up candy cane and a few marshmallows and you're on your way to a merry Christmas extravaganza. Also, if you have leftover marshmallows, you can make marshmallow snowmen with Reese's Peanut Butter Cups as hats and pretzels as arms.

But, maybe hot cocoa isn't your thing. Well in that case, it's time for an Apple Sparkler. Mix two-thirds of a cup of a raspberry juice blend with one 750 ml. bottle of sparkling apple cider. Add a wedge of lime or orange and you can im-

press everyone with your refreshing Christmas drink.

Now, I know everyone loves walking by those dorm rooms with wrapping paper doors, but if you just don't have time to make your front door look like a perfect rectangular shaped gift, I've got the idea for you. This may be one of the least artistic ideas imaginable, but it's cute nonetheless. All you need are green, red and yellow post-its and you're ready to craft! Line up the green post-its in the shape of a Christmas tree, put a yellow star on top, scatter some red ornament shapes throughout and voila!

If you have construction paper left over from Thanksgiving crafts, you can also make paper snowflakes and hang them around your room. But, the last craft I will leave you with is the typical paper bag Rudolph. All you need to do is cut out reindeer ears from brown construction paper, a red nose from red paper, and eyes from black and white paper and you've got an adorable red-nosed reindeer.

So, pop on that Michael Buble Christmas station on Pandora, put that Santa hat on your head and start decorating your room with homemade crafts. But hey, I understand if you want to Grinch it up this season and focus on your studies. Good luck on finals and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.



# Nightmare before Christmas

“Carrie”  
remake fails  
to impress

SARINA GRANT  
ON & OFF CAMPUS EDITOR

If you're looking to spread a little holiday cheer and fill yourself with the Christmas spirit, your first thought should obviously be...to go out and see a scary movie, or at least mine was. First on my list was the drama/horror film "Carrie" which was released this October. The movie is a remake of the 1976 film with the same name, originally based on a novel by Stephen King.

The supposed "new and improved" movie got a 5.3 rating on Rotten Tomatoes, falling far short from the 8.2 rating that the original movie received. The film focuses around Carrie White, an outcast high school senior, with a mother so deeply religious she borders insanity, who realizes that she has telekinetic powers.

Now, I must warn you, this is my first review and it may or may not contain spoiler alerts. So, SPOILER ALERT.

The movie begins with a class period of P.E., where it becomes immediately evident that Carrie is not part of the in-crowd. The film takes a quick turn towards awkward with a weird scene in the girl's locker room where Carrie faces some harsh verbal bullying from the popular, and overall unlikable, Chris Hargensen and her posse of friends, including Sue Snell, the girlfriend of football superstar Billy Nolan.

After school, Carrie explains the situation to her crazy mother, who determines that her inci-

dent was punishment for sinning, and banishes her daughter to a small closet to pray. Freaky religious, semi-disturbing scenes are abundant in this less than entertaining film, let me tell you.

The following day, Carrie first discovers her telekinetic powers after she shatters a mirror in the school bathroom. She proceeds to research her abnormal skills in the library, checking out books and watching videos on YouTube. She quickly, and might I say unrealistically, learns to control her powers completely by levitating heavy books and other large items, like her bed.

At this point in the movie, everything seemed pretty generic, slow and minimally scary. It wasn't until the last quarter of the movie that the film began to take on the horror aspects that its genre promised.

Remorseful Sue convinces her boyfriend Billy to take Carrie to the prom in order to make amends for the bullying. This is when Carrie's already miserable life takes a turn for the worse. Chris, the big bad bully of the movie, begins a plot to ruin prom night for Carrie. And ruin it she does. Now I won't tell you exactly what happens, but if you do end up seeing the film, save yourself some time and just skip to the last 35 minutes because that's when the real crazy, scary Carrie comes out to play.

Would I watch "Carrie" again? Probably not. Would I recommend you see "Carrie?" Probably not, especially if you're looking for a holiday movie. My idea to mix things up and have a scary Christmas failed miserably...maybe next year.

Overall, the film was not at all what I was expecting from a horror movie, especially one originally based on a Stephen King novel. But hey, if you're looking for a kind-of, sort-of scary movie with minimal gore and just a dash of creepy, maybe you should give "Carrie" a try.

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# Christmas concerts to send chills down your spine

DAVID MAITHYA  
STAFF WRITER

Over the next two weekends, Concordia's Music Department is proud to present "In the Bleak Midwinter," a series of Christmas concerts featuring The Concordia Choir, Concordia Master Chorale, Men's Chorus, Concordia's Donne di Canto, Concert Handbells, Concordia Sinfonietta and Concordia Wind Orchestra.

"The title of the concert is also the title of one of the songs being sung and played, and it suggests a framework for some of the musical selections. The musical pieces build around the theme of Jesus coming at an unexpected time," said Herbert Geisler, Director of Musical Activities and Professor of Music. Some of the five concerts have already been sold out. Attendance for each is expected to be at its maximum.

"The preparation begins early in advance. We begin preparing in the summer months. For a musician, Christmas begins early. It takes several weeks to choose the music in order to come up with just the right mix to make a delightful Christmas concert," said Dr. Michael Busch, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities. "One highlight is the festive arrangement of the '12 Days of Christmas.' I love the spirit of Christmas joy that the concert helps spread," Busch said.

The mix of joyous songs chosen certainly promises to be stunning. "Near the end of the first half of each concert, all female voices will be singing 'I Saw Three Ships,' which is fast, fun and rhythmic," said Marin Jacobson, Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Choral Activities. "Then, at the beginning of the second half, the Concordia Choir women and Donne di Canto will perform 'How Far Is It to Bethle-

hem?' antiphonally. This means that one group will be at one end of the sanctuary while the other on the other end," Jacobson said.

Jeff Held, Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Instrumental Activities and Performing and Visual Arts Division Chair, said that incorporating the pipe organ will augment the music. "There will be a performance of a Russian Christmas carol, which is an understated orthodox chant, and fits the theme of a 'bleak

midwinter,'" Held said. "We will also perform a piece by Mozart's father, Leopold Mozart. The music is not hard. The trick is to make it sound right with all the extra effects. Adjusting how the sleigh bells sound and incorporating certain sounds at certain points within the performance is part of the intricacies that matter. There is a difference between hearing music and hearing music that will be memorable," Held said.

Preparation has included twice-a-week re-

hearsals since October. "In the rehearsals we work on refining vowel sounds and singing in tune rhythmically and expressively," Jacobson said.

The concert will take place at the CU Center on Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 8 at 3 p.m., Dec. 10 at 7 p.m., Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For more information on this concert series, visit [www.cui.edu](http://www.cui.edu) and look under "Featured Events."



# Spring theater full of laughs with "Drowsy Chaperone"

BRITTNEY GARNER  
STAFF WRITER

The Theatre Department is preparing for the first show of the spring semester, "The Drowsy Chaperone," on Jan. 30, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre. This show is being described as a "musical within a play," said Professor Lori Siekmann, Theatre Department Chair and director of the show. The play includes music, dancing and a hilarious narrator known as the "Man in Chair." The show begins with a man who is feeling down and decides to play his favorite record, a recording of the

1920s-style musical "The Drowsy Chaperone," which then comes to life in his apartment.

The narrator, who is the only one who speaks directly to the audience, begins to tell the story of the characters and makes hilarious jokes throughout the show. "This musical is unique because the audience is seeing it through the eyes of the Man in Chair, who continues to pause the record to tell you funny or interesting things," said Alexandra Dominguez, junior cast member.

The musical is a success on Broadway and has won the Tony Award for Best Book and Best Score. A big-budget movie version star-

ring Geoffrey Rush is currently being planned as well.

This show will be sure to bring laughter to Concordia as they get settled in for the spring semester. "There really isn't any other show out there like it. The lyrics are hilarious and the acting is so over-the-top to match the insane characters," Dominguez said. The play is short and sweet, only lasting for approximately 90 minutes instead of the usual 2-3 hours. "It's meant to be one of the few shows that is an escape to just come, laugh, and be entertained. It is also one of the few Concordia plays that include tap dancing," Siekmann said.

Cast members are all looking forward to this fun and unique play. "I love that the show includes a lot of great songs and hilarious characters," said Elisabeth Mullins, freshman cast member. "It's a very fun, upbeat show with a jazzy score and a hilarious script. It is sure to be a crowd pleaser," said Steven Pepper, sophomore cast member.

The Theatre Department is looking forward to seeing everyone there. Tickets can be purchased through the CSLD and CUI students get in for free. For more information or updates, go to [www.cui.edu](http://www.cui.edu) and check out the Student Events Calendar.





# Fowl Living

ERIK DER



## Intramural Volleyball Champions

KATHY ABERG  
STAFF WRITER

Wednesday night, The Rhino Slammers won the intramural volleyball championship in an exciting and close game. Led by captian Matthia Duryea, The Rhino Slammers emerged victorious 2-1 over the previously undefeated freshman team, Vicious and Delicious. The playoff tournament was held in the gym on Dec. 2 and 3 with the final championship game on Dec. 4, where the top two teams Vicious and Delicious and Practice Safe Sets competed for the victory.

Eight out of the 20 teams qualified to be in the playoff games on Monday and the top four teams made it to the semi-finals on Tuesday. In these playoff games, the teams competed in final elimination games and were able to move onto the next round if they won.

Vicious and Delicious has taken everyone by surprise. Alec Mathews, Mark Hughes, and Khristian Tietjen, freshmen, were some of the guys who started the team. "We created this team to just have some fun, but it turns out we all played very well together," Mathews said. Most of the players on Vicious and Delicious have never played before, but they credit their success to their coach Joey Pillion, freshman player on the Concordia men's volleyball team.

The intramural volleyball games were also

fun for other students who came out to support their friends. "It's cool to watch the games because it has gotten pretty intense this year and some of the fans bring signs that they made to support their favorite teams," said Amanda Harris, junior LEAD Coordinator.

The volleyball games also served as a good stress reliever in the midst of a busy semester. "I enjoy intramural volleyball because it is a great way to procrastinate and recharge. I love getting all hyped up and blocking at the net," said Andrew Parish, sophomore player on team Serves You Right.

Dedicated players like to get into the competition by warming up before the games by practicing and running drills. Nathan Stevens, junior member of team Hungry Hungry Hippos, took every game very seriously. "Playing volleyball is one of my favorite times of the week," Stevens said. "I usually get to the games early to practice my sets and pepper the ball with my teammates."

The next intramural sport will be basketball, which will begin next semester. Students can sign up to participate on IMLeagues.com starting in January. The intramural basketball teams will not be co-ed. Please feel free to contact LEAD coordinators Dakota Voas and Josh Stockton or stop by the CSLD with any further questions.



## Santa's "naughty and nice" list

TAYLOR HANE, MICHELLE MARTIR  
& WILLIAM RICHARDSON  
STAFF WRITERS

Christmas time is here again and we all know what that means... time to get out your wallet and buy some gifts for your friends and loved ones. For many people, Christmas shopping can be a difficult chore so we decided to survey students and professors here at Concordia to give students and faculty an idea of what to get, and what NOT to get, for both men and women.

We often hear men complaining that women are too complicated to shop for because they want so much, while women complain that men don't ever say what they really want. So after surveying 60 males and 60 females, here are the results:

The top three things that Concordia women want for Christmas are:

1. Perfume
2. Handbags/purses
3. Jewelry/clothing

The top three things that Concordia women do NOT want for Christmas are:

1. Socks
2. Appliances
3. Gift Cards/books

The top three things that Concordia men want for Christmas are:

1. Video games
2. Watches
3. Cologne

The top three things that Concordia men do NOT want for Christmas are:

1. Coal
2. Clothes
3. Socks

Black Friday has just passed, which means if you start shopping now you will still find great deals to get for the people you are shopping for. Many people prefer the convenience of online shopping, many stores have huge online sales and discounts for the holiday season. If you hurry now and think ahead, you will be able to get all of your shopping out of the

way while saving some extra cash.

If you decide to take the nice and simple route and buy cologne for the man in your life, be it boyfriend, dad or even friend, Acqua Di Gio by Giorgio Armani, Chrome by Loris Az-zaro, Cool Water by Davidoff or I Am King by Sean John are all scents that will have your man smelling fresh and clean. Another option is to buy popular video games that are out right now, including Call of Duty: Ghosts, and Grand Theft Auto 5. You can purchase these games at the nearest Best Buy, or other electronics or gaming store.

Popular perfumes for women include Chanel number 5, Viva la Juicy, and Marc Jacobs Lola. You can purchase these perfumes at the nearest Macy's, Target or Nordstrom. If you are looking for something cute and affordable, there are different stores such as H&M, Forever 21 or Victoria's Secret where you will still find great gifts that won't break the bank.

Don't procrastinate this year on buying Christmas presents. Make this holiday season much more enjoyable and affordable by getting your Christmas shopping out of the way early and getting great deals while doing so. Happy Holidays. Be sure this Christmas is one to remember.

