The Nutcracker

Revamped holiday classic comes to the Lincoln Center for the 32nd year in a row

By Hunter Goddard | Page 8

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Carriage rides and hot cocoa complete winter wonderland dating on a dime.
Page 10

Skiing and snowboarding gear that won't break the bank.
Page 7

You Me & Apollo concert comes to the aggie
Page 12
**THE MUST DO**

**What:** Cupcake Cabaret Burlesque Revue  
**When:** Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m.  
**Where:** Avogadro’s Number  
**Cost:** $15

The Cupcake Cabaret is putting on a special performance at Avo’s on Saturday with their featured rendition of the classic Christmas tale, The Nutcracker. It will feature characters and music from the popular ballet. This good, old-fashioned entertainment is sure to bring a heavy turnout and will put a new spin to the celebration of the holiday season.

**FRIDAY**

**What:** FAC Holiday Desserts  
**When:** Friday, Dec. 13, 6-8 p.m.  
**Where:** International House  
**Cost:** Small donations accepted

The International House is featuring a fun theme at their weekly Friday Afternoon Club. This week, they will be featuring holiday desserts and holiday-themed food for everyone to share. Come hang out with international students and learn about different cultures and customs before you start studying for finals! They will also be open over break for weekly soup nights.

**What:** Annual Holiday Gala Concert  
**When:** Saturday, Dec. 14, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Trinity United Methodist Church  
**Cost:** $7 for CSU students, $1 for youth, $12 for adults

This holiday-themed annual concert features various performers including CSU choirs, holiday brass, jazz combos, the university symphony orchestra, and other special guests. It will be a wonderful evening full of holiday music, both traditional and new. Kick off your holiday season the right way with a holiday concert!

**What:** Santa’s Workshop  
**When:** Dec. 12-14, noon – 6 p.m.  
**Where:** Old Town Square  
**Cost:** Free

Holiday activities will be going on in Old Town throughout the whole month of December, but Santa will be coming to visit this weekend. He will be reading stories to children, listening to Christmas present wishes, and taking photographs with everyone in attendance. His workshop will be full of music from a concertina and harmonica that is sure to spread Christmas cheer.

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**THE MUST DO**

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In Fort Collins by the Foothills Mall - 101 East Foothills Parkway 970.223.4411
A right to privacy

At the end of a stress-ful semester and even more stress-ful dead week, CSU gives its students the biggest slap in the face of all: course evaluations. The problem isn’t that we are asked to evaluate our courses, facilities and instruction; no, that’s a good thing. The problem is that we are asked to evaluate the people who stand in between us and our diplomas — and then sign our name letting them know who it is that feels this way about them and their classes.

This is equivalent to asking a lower-level employee to sign his name on a sheet evaluating his boss. Writing about all the horrible things his boss does can only hurt the lower-level employee, because the next time he sees his boss there will be consequences for his words.

So what does this employee do? Whether he believes it to be true or not, he writes “my boss is great” and signs on the line. This is a system where everyone loses — the employee doesn’t get to actually voice his opinion, and the higher-up doesn’t get to learn where things are actually successful and where there is room for growth.

We have all had to fill out course evaluations at the end of the semester. We fill in bubbles asking quantifiable questions about the course and the professor. And then we reach the comments section, where you are asked for constructive and qualitative information. Here, a signature is “highly requested.”

What do you do? Are you brutally honest and sign, knowing that you will/could have this professor again in the future? Or do you pacify the situation by making generic/no remarks?

In a ploy to increase signatures, some teachers tell students that our opinions will be dismissed if we refuse to comply with a system that attaches ourselves to any negative comments we may make about those who have the power to ensure we face negative consequences. This shows just how little value there is for the student voice at CSU.

It means the evaluations are designed to pacify students — it gives us an outlet to rant about that one professor that never gives out rubrics or the class where TAs are not allowed to give any help, without actually valuing why we find these aspects of our education to be truly problematic.

And the professors lose, too. Tenure status is reliant on a student signature being attached to the comments they make. It would be an absolute shame to have amazing comments be made about your abilities as a professor and be forced to throw them out because you cannot use them in your review process simply because that student executed her right to privacy. Not to mention, how will you grow as a leader if those you are leading cannot feel safe expressing honesty about your shortcomings?

There has been endless research concluding people are more likely to be honest in a survey where anonymity is protected. If course evaluations are designed to be an effective system, then they absolutely must become anonymous. My crusade against signed evaluations is about making the system better and helping CSU grow into the absolute best school it can be. It’s about protecting students from lasting repercussions. It’s about ethics.

Do the right thing, CSU. Protect students’ privacy. We’ll all win if you do.

Anna Mitchell knows privacy is pretty much gone in the social networking era, but come on already CSU. Love notes and hate mail can be sent to letters@collegian.com.
Want your voice to be heard? 📝

Blog for Student Media

The Office of the Vice President for Research and The Rocky Mountain Collegian are currently seeking research bloggers and videographers for the spring semester of 2014. We are looking to round up a group of students who are passionate about research/science and want to have their works published on the future Collegian research blog.

This is an exciting new endeavor to create more awareness about research and will be a great way for students to leave a legacy at CSU!

Writing Workshop

The Collegian will be hosting a writing workshop to cover basic journalism writing skills, dates are TBD. All majors are welcome, no publishing experience is required.

Positions

BLOGGER:
- 5-10 hours per week will need to be dedicated to this effort.
- Create weekly content about interesting research/science happening on campus or science that is relevant to the CSU community.
- Work with passionate people and become a part of the award-winning online Collegian team.
- News coverage will include researcher profiles, research projects and findings.

VIDEographer:
- 5-10 hours per week will need to be dedicated to this effort.
- Create professional biweekly or monthly news packages to be published on the future research blog.
- Work with passionate people and become a part of the award-winning online Collegian team.
- News coverage will include researcher profiles, research lab tours and comprehensive footage of research.

If interested, email us at blogs@collegian.com

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Top 5 local concerts to attend over break

By McKenna Ferguson
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

Winter Break offers the opportunity to do something many students don’t get to do often during the semester — attend concerts. While in classes, many of us have to make the heartbreaking choice between responsibility and seeing your favorite band live on a Wednesday night. Break offers us the chance to see the people we love guilt-free without worrying about papers and quizzes, projects or tests. This is a time of New Year’s Eve shows and homecomings for many local bands, so we’ve taken the liberty of rating the top five Colorado bands you need to see over Winter Break. Whether you take our suggestions or not, take this time off to go out and listen to the tunes Colorado musicians have to offer.

1. Roniit
   ■ Jan. 11, Bluebird Theatre, Denver
   ■ $10-12
   ■ Doors: 8 p.m.

   Her website describes her as “an independent Dark Electro Pop artist hailing from the mountains of Colorado.” She travelled internationally to work with DJs in both America and the UK. For those wondering about the unique name, according to her, it is Israeli and translates to “girl of the song.” The mix of electronica and Roniit’s soulful voice creates a sound that is beautiful and exciting. This show simply cannot be missed.

2. The Epilogues
   ■ Dec. 20, The Marquis Theatre, Denver
   ■ $10-12
   ■ Doors: 7 p.m.

   One of the best concert experiences is when a band returns for a hometown show. The Epilogues began in Denver in 2006 and have since gained listeners nationwide. Their experimental rock sound can be heard in their most popular song, “Hunting Season,” the music video of which has over 120,000 views on YouTube. This show is a great opportunity to listen to quality music and celebrate the new-found freedom that comes with the end of finals week.

3. The Epilogues
   ■ Dec. 20, The Marquis Theatre, Denver
   ■ $10-12
   ■ Doors: 8 p.m.

4. Aspen Hourglass
   ■ Jan. 4, Aggie, Fort Collins
   ■ 21+: Free, Under 21: $10
   ■ Doors: 8 p.m.

   It’s a free show! Well, free for those of you lucky enough to be over 21. It is still cheap for youngsters who are a bit less legal. Aspen Hourglass has an alternative rock sound. Their website promises live shows that are “intense with energy.”

5. New Year’s Eve with Head for the Hills
   ■ Dec. 31, Aggie, Fort Collins
   ■ $20
   ■ Doors: 8 p.m.

   A great local bluegrass band with a unique indie sound. They were named the “Best in Colorado Bluegrass” by a Westword Showcase Readers Poll. This show should be a fun way to ring in the new year for people who will still be close to campus and like some rockin’ mandolin.

“Ram for a Day” winner gets experience of a lifetime

By Keegan Pope
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

If you’ve ever wondered what it’s like to be a part of the CSU basketball team on game day, just ask Quinn Peterson. The sophomore communications studies major recently won CSU’s “Ram for a Day” promotion and got access to be with the CSU basketball team before Wednesday night’s home game against Denver. While the Rams were unable to pull out the win against one of their biggest in-state rivals, Peterson got an experience he’ll remember for a very long time.

When head coach Larry Eustachy announced the promotion last week, Peterson picked up his student ticket, which in turn functioned as his entry into the raffle put on at Sunday’s game against Southwestern Oklahoma State. As an avid Ram fan who attended almost every home game in his two years, the opportunity to spend a day with his favorite college basketball team was a little hard to believe at first.

“It took a second to sink in because I couldn’t believe that I’d actually won,” Peterson said. “But I was thrilled to have this chance because I love CSU sports.”

After receiving Under Armour CSU basketball gear, the junior from Minnesota got his chance to meet Eustachy, his staff and the rest of the team. From there Peterson got to join players and coaches for their pregame dinner and shootaround, as well as getting the chance to stand next to CSU mascot CAM the Ram during pregame introductions. To top it all off, Peterson received Eustachy’s two courtside tickets behind CSU’s bench to watch the rest of the game.

For someone not associated with the program, it can be a little intimidating meeting and getting to know some of CSU’s most well-known athletes. However, coaches and players alike welcomed Quinn onto the program and gave him a day that he feels very lucky to have had.

“Everyone was really cool and welcomed me in like I was part of the team,” Peterson said. “They were obviously pretty busy because it was a game day but it was awesome to get a look inside what it’s like to be a part of the program for a day.”

While there aren’t any plans for future “Ram for a Day” promotions, this one was charked up as a success. As a longtime basketball player and fan, being a part of a Division I program like CSU’s was only a dream until his name was announced Sunday.

“It was such a privilege meeting all the coaches and players,” Peterson said. “I’m very appreciative to the entire athletic department and basketball team for allowing me to be a part of this experience.”

Men’s Basketball Beat Reporter Keegan Pope can be reached at sports@collegian.com or on Twitter @kpopecollegian.

“It took a second to sink in because I couldn’t believe that I’d actually won.”

Quinn Peterson
winner of “Ram for a Day”
Garden of Lights

By Jefferson Geiger
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

If you're wondering what to do on your free holiday evenings now that school is almost out, look no further than the sixth annual Garden of Lights.

Located on 2145 Centre Ave., the botanical gardens on Spring Creek have transformed into an LED forest. Thousands of lights have been molded into the shape of perennial flower beds, vegetable gardens and even a bright blue pond.

The opening ceremony launched the events last Friday and the gardens will be open through Jan. 1 from 5-9 p.m. each night. Special events listed in the schedule will happen from 6-8 p.m. Visiting the Garden of Lights is free, but a $2 donation per person is suggested.

Besides the illuminating spectacle, the Garden of Lights is different from your average outdoor holiday event because it features the Sugar Plum Hairies. These canine fairies are highly trained therapy dogs that will perform all sorts of tricks, along with hosting a story time for the kids.

Local mobile bakery Cupcake Cruiser participated in the event for the past three years. The types of cupcakes will change each day, but be on the lookout for special winter flavors like gingerbread, eggnog, peppermint, hot chocolate and apple cider, said owner Kati Anderson.

A new food provider this year is Stuff-n-Mallows. This unique treat was the brainchild of three CSU business students after they took marshmallows and filled them with different kinds of chocolate chips. They’ll be featuring their seasonal peppermint chocolate chip stuffed marshmallow, according to co-founder James Schrack.

Carolers from all around Fort Collins will be singing their take on classical holiday tunes. This year will mark the Sunny Side Singers' fourth appearance at the Gardens. This troupe of vocalists encourage everyone to sing along to their old-fashioned songs like “White Christmas,” “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” and “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer.”

“It’s designed to be a lot of fun,” said Johnna Bavoso, keyboardist for the group. Collegian Entertainment Reporter Jefferson Geiger can be reached at entertainment@collegian.com.

The best slopes on a budget

By Makaela Bamonti
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

‘Tis that time of year again! For many Coloradans, the minute they see that first snowflake fall to the ground, the only thing on their mind is getting up to ride down those mountain slopes as soon as possible.

Colorado is best known for its ski resorts, but at an expensive price. Just being able to ride is costly, even without the equipment and gear. Thankfully, Fort Collins is home to local discounted places to get your gear.

Christy Sports, located off East Foothills Parkway, is currently offering up to 70 percent off the previous season’s gear.

Sports Authority, located off Mulberry and College, is offering 60-80 percent off skis and snowboards online with their cheapest snowboard pricing at $84.99 and cheapest adult skis just at $275.

Outpost Sunsport located on East Harmony Road offers tons of name-brand lines with men’s Salomon Q-90 Skis at $449, women’s Automatic Supreme Skis at just $399 and women’s a Salomon Wonder Snowboard at $399.

“Outpost Sunsport is your local go-to shop for all your ski and snowboard needs to give you the best mountain ride for your money,” said Dan Hamilton, sales associate at Outpost Sunsport.

Justin Kelly, an officer of CSU’s Snowriders Club and an avid outdoor professional, said that most of his gear was on sale.

“In my opinion, you should never buy outdoor gear at full price. Pro deals are probably the best discounts you can get on gear. Being a part of the outdoor programs at CSU, you get offered pro deals at around 50 percent off,” Kelly said.

Snowriders at CSU are sponsored by many local and Colorado businesses that offer discounts on gear. The Snowriders’ full list of sponsors can be found on focosnowriders.com.

Having the best, yet affordable gear is only a small part of being a rider. Each skier and snowboarder has their favorite mountain.

“Keystone has always been my favorite because it has Area 51, which is their park and it has always been one of the top 10 parks in the world,” Robbie Render said. “It’s where the pros like to train. A couple weeks ago, my buddies and I watched Mark McMorris and Torstien Horgmo go off these huge jumps right in front of us.”

Justin Kelly, however, believes Vail prevails.

“My favorite ski resort is Vail because it is by far one of the biggest resorts that I have been to,” Kelly said. “It’s almost like back-country skiing with a chair lift.”

Collegian Entertainment Reporter Makaela Bamonti can be reached at entertainment@collegian.com.
A pop culture icon, a Northern Colorado tradition

By Hunter Goddard
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

Bailey Ostdieck, a senior dance major, plays the Sugarplum Fairy in “The Nutcracker.” She sat down for a Q&A session on highlights of the upcoming show.

Q: What is “The Nutcracker” about and what is your part in relation to the rest of the plot?
A: “The Nutcracker” is about a little girl named Clara who gets a nutcracker for Christmas from her magician uncle, Drosselmeyer. Later that night, she has a dream where she wakes up to life-size mice walking around her house, ruled by the villain, the Rat King. The Nutcracker comes to life and fights him, but Clara throws his shoe at the Rat King and kills him. In the second act, the Nutcracker takes Clara to the Land of Sweets through the snow, encountering the Snow Queen along the way, and, in the Land of Sweets, they meet my character, the Sugarplum Fairy, Queen of the Sweets. In honor of Clara and the Nutcracker killing the Rat King, I host a celebration for them with Arabian coffee and Russian candy canes.

Q: What can audiences expect to take away from seeing “The Nutcracker”?
A: Overall, in the ballet world, “The Nutcracker” is probably the most famous. It’s a holiday show, very family-oriented, and, for companies, it’s a moneymaker. With some families, it’s a tradition to go, and a lot of people know “The Nutcracker.” I went with my family each year before dancing in it. It gives younger girls an opportunity to dance more soloist roles and that’s nice for families to see.

Q: What about working on this production in particular is different from other projects you have done in the past?
A: For this one, CSU is working with the studios, and dance major Brielle Oaks bought a studio so students could be mentors for the young dancers. We were brought in as leaders, mentoring and coaching the kids in choreography and inspiring the younger girls to find that passion and confidence within themselves.

“The Nutcracker,” a ballet scored in 1890s Russia by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, is an American holiday classic, and a familiar custom to Northern Colorado. For the 32nd winter in a row, Canyon Concert Ballet will perform this dance masterpiece 7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday at the Lincoln Center.

According to Executive Director Kim Lang, CCB is also a school, with 400 students and more than 100 classes per week in ballet and other dance. Lang’s daughter is in the production, making the “magical” growth of students she sees each year personal to her.

“Audiences are going to appreciate the artistry of the movements as well as the technical aspects,” Lang said. “The culture is nice and warm. It’s a family-friendly event that gets people into the Christmas spirit.”

Although the storyline is the same, this year’s interpretation is “fresh” because the project has a new artistic director. He expects unique execution of the choreography in addition to the prop, set and costume design, Lang said.

That artistic director is Richard d’Alton, a graduate from the National Ballet School of Cuba and former teacher of London’s Royal Ballet School.

According to d’Alton, his goals concerning this dance are to make the “boring” first act interesting with a variety of new characters and to create professional dancers out of the group.

“I’ve done ‘The Nutcracker’ before,” d’Alton said, “but not with the talented dancers here in Fort Collins. They’ll be performing alongside some international guests.”

One of those guests is Angel Laza, who plays the Nutcracker Prince. Laza is also a National Ballet School of Cuba alumnus, with an International Ballet Competition bronze medal in Havana to his name. Until 2012, he was a Principal Dancer at Ballet de Monterrey in Mexico.

“I’m very happy to be here in Fort Collins and to work with Richard and a group of dancers who have talent and future,” Laza said. “People will enjoy this show since it’s during the holidays.”

Center section tickets are $32, $26 for students and seniors, and tickets to the sides are $27, $22 for students and seniors. Groups of 10 or more are $20 each person, and children 12 or younger cost $15.

Tickets are available through the Lincoln Center Ticket Office, online, or (970) 221-6730.

Collegian Entertainment Reporter Hunter Goddard can be reached at entertainment@collegian.com.

Grandma’s delicious Christmas cookie recipe

By Rae Ehly
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

Nothing says Christmas like a homemade, warm sugar cookie. There is something about a cookie straight out of the oven that brings about good feelings and the holiday spirit. It crumbles, it practically melts in your mouth and you’re never left unsatisfied. Cookies are perfect to bring to holiday parties, enjoy with family, or keep for yourself when overwhelmed by life’s stresses and demands.

Sugar cookies are simple. They don’t require spices or any other ingredients that you probably don’t already have, and they only cook for 10 minutes. In addition, they always look good no matter what shape you cut them into, and they are even better when smothered with icing. You can drench them in sprinkles, share them with friends and give your kitchen the scent of heaven.

Ingredients
- 1 cup of butter, softened
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 cups of flour
- (Optional) Icing Recipe
  - 1 cup powdered sugar
  - 2 teaspoons milk
  - 2 teaspoons light corn syrup
  - 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract or 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- Mix all icing ingredients together and ice cookies as you prefer.

Cookie Preparation
- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, with an electric hand mixer, combine the butter and sugar until the mixture is light, fluffy and completely combined. Add the teaspoon of vanilla extract and egg to the butter and sugar mixture. Mix until incorporated. Next, combine the baking powder and flour in a separate bowl. Mix together to evenly distribute the baking powder throughout the flour. While mixing, slowly add the flour and baking powder mixture to the butter mixture. If the dough seems a little dry, add a tablespoon or two of milk, half-and-half, or cream. Bake the cookies for 10-12 minutes. Check on the cookies every now and then, because you may end up taking them out earlier than 10 minutes.

Allison Reser and Connor Catron enjoy a cozy date night of making Lembas Bread (elfen bread from Lord of the Rings) with a green-frosting Holiday twist.

Collegian Entertainment Reporter Rae Ehly can be reached at entertainment@collegian.com.
Dress to impress

By Amber Johnson
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

Christmas clothes are back. With the holidays just around the corner, now is the time to bring out your inner fashionista while also keeping warm.

According to senior apparel merchandising major Callie Morgan, appearance matters when making an impression.

“[The fashion world] has taught me that appearance does matter and your first impression sticks with someone,” Morgan said. “The best way to make a first impression is fashion.”

First impressions do matter because they set up how people think of you. So here is some advice on how to dress well and keep warm this winter.

Infinity scarves, long circular scarves that people loop around their necks, are very in right now, according to Morgan. Kalyn Bessert, sophomore fashion and apparel merchandising major, said it is important to choose the right color scarf.

“You should look for something that has a unique print, but also a color that complements your complexion,” Bessert said.

Bessert explained that warmer colors compliment darker complexions, while slightly cooler colors accentuate the lighting on lighter complexions.

Morgan said she would recommend Kansas City Kitty, located in Old Town Fort Collins, for scarves under $20.

The ever-popular leather boots are big this winter season but, according to Morgan, riding boots and motorcycle boots are the way to go this winter. For good cheap boots, Morgan would recommend Target.

“DSW probably if you want quality leather boots,” Morgan said.

Layering is a popular way for both men and women to keep warm and look good.

“Layering with guys is big, like a button-up flannel under a sweater with a jean jacket over that,” said Andrea Walker, senior apparel merchandising major.

Hanging lights is one way to feel less stressed and make your space feel like home.

“Simply with decorating, it’s going with your own style and what means a personal space for you,” Beck said.

Josiah Savig, junior communication studies major, is a resident assistant in Parmalee Hall. Savig said he does not put up a lot of decorations on his hall, but that the residents decorate their doors and rooms.

“I think that they are especially excited to put up some of their own decorations,” Savig said.

According to Savig, the residents will put decorations on their doors and a lot will put up personal decorations in their dorm rooms.

“It reminds them of their home and special breaks they’ve had with their family,” Savig said.

For many people, decorating for the holidays helps them feel closer to home.

“It makes things feel more happy and in the holiday spirit,” Weisner said.

With finals so close, decorating is one way to feel less stressed and closer to home.

“It’s the simple things,” Beck said. “You don’t have to have a lot for the place to feel special enough for you to feel like the holidays.”

Annual holiday gala concert

By Katie Salka
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

The holiday season is in full swing, which can only mean it’s time for the Annual Holiday Concert. The concert will take place this Saturday at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Denver.

Having already filled the Lincoln Center to the brim with holiday cheer Wednesday, the concert is moving on to Denver so that the many CSU alumni living there can easily share in the joy.

The concert kicks off with a few songs from the faculty brass, like “O Come All Ye Faithful,” then moves into performances by a combination of choirs, orchestras and jazz combos.

The choirs and orchestra prepared three songs from the classic Christmas movie, “Home Alone,” as well as a version of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” that takes the audience on a trip through musical history.

“The first ‘Home Alone’ film with Macauley Culkin is an iconic Christmas movie and the arrangements for the songs are very big and splashy, especially with the choirs,” Orchestra Director Wes Kenney said.

Kenney also explained why some of the songs represented in the “Musical Journey Through the Twelve Days of Christmas” were chosen.

“Many of the songs kind of match up with their day, so seven swans is ‘The Swan’ from Carnival of the Animals’ and nine ladies dancing is a Strauss Waltz,” Kenney said. “The piece is very cleverly done and put together.

The plentiful genre shifts in this clever piece make it a bit of a challenge and one of choir member Sidney Dungan’s favorites to perform.

“All the style changes were fun and I also really liked working with the orchestra and hearing Wes Kenney’s feedback,” Dungan said.

Jazz students help add variety to the show by putting a fresh twist on some old classics. Dancers are also included with a performance of “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies” from Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker.

Kelly Fetchenhier, anthropology major, attended Wednesday’s concert to support her roommate, who is in the choir.

“The show incorporated a really wide variety of performances,” Fetchenhier said. “You’ve got your brass, your jazz, your choir and orchestra, and it was all Christmas. So, it was really very festive and fun.”

Tickets are $7 for CSU students, $10 for CSU alumni, $1 for youth under 18 and $2 for the general public.

Collegian Entertainment Reporter Katie Salka can be reached at entertainment@collegian.com.
Cupcakes with a kick: Fort Collins’ burlesque scene

By Peyton Garcia
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

‘Tis the season for all things sweet... that is until you see the Cupcake Cabaret perform, where these ladies spice things up in a whole new way.

The Cupcake Cabaret is a burlesque dance troupe local to Fort Collins, and the Cupcakes, as the dancers are known, are the epitome of sexy, cool and confident. Jennifer Diverdi, also referred to as “Lola Begonia,” was one of the original founders of the Cabaret.

“Jenn, the first time I saw burlesque I thought to myself, ‘Holy crap, what is this and where has it been all my life?’” Diverdi said. “It was so glamorous and fun.”

Diverdi and two of her fellow dancers established Fort Collins’ very own burlesque troupe in February of 2009. Diverdi has since turned burlesque into a way of life.

“In some ways, it’s made my life the life I’ve always wanted,” Diverdi said. “I don’t have to have a day job or answer to anybody, I just get to do this.”

From their gossiped up lips to their glittery heels, a burlesque dancer owns her stage.

“It’s so brazen too, seeing women who are so willing to be sexy and revealing,” Diverdi said.

Diverdi believes every woman deserves the chance to feel powerful and sexy.

“I’ve seen girls who come to my classes and start out in big baggy t-shirts and hiding in the back, then after a couple classes they’re in the front row wearing a little sparkly bra top, and feeling so comfortable and happy with themselves,” Diverdi said.

Diverdi offers a variety of classes that not only include burlesque, but belly-dancing, yoga, strip-tease and more.

However, this life of glam and glitter didn’t just introduce Diverdi to her passion, it also introduced her to a new co-pilot and husband.

“I think that when we get along it goes so well and it’s so incredible to get to share those moments with your partner,” Diverdi said. “I can’t imagine doing it without him.”

For $14, you and your date can enjoy a small cupcake show that we produce every single one.

This weekend, the Cupcakes will be putting on an extra special show at Avo’s. Saturday, Dec. 14 at 8 p.m., the Cupcakes are showing off their rendition of the classic Christmas tale, The Nutcracker, featuring characters and music from the ballet.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.avogadros.com or by calling Avo’s at (970) 493-555. More information about the Cupcake Cabaret and classes offered can be found at www.cupcakecabaret.net.

Collegian Senior Entertainment Reporter Peyton Garcia can be reached at entertainment@collegian.com.

Seven winter wonderland date night ideas under $25

By Rae Ehly
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride
Price: $25 for a couple, $40 for double date
Nothing says romantic like a cozy carriage ride through Old Town. With the Christmas lights up and the air crisp, your comfiest mittens and favorite person are all you need for this date. After a nice dinner, grab a warm drink and enjoy a ride through Fort Collins with your sweetheart. Freshman human development and family studies major Morgan Jones shares that the carriage ride would be “intimate and romantic.” Additionally, the Christmas lights make the ride all the more inspiring!

Contact Colorado Carriage and Wagon at (970) 490-1598.

Hot Cocoa at Chocolate Café
Price: Small hot cocoa is $4, large is $8
Chocolate Café, located on the corner of Oliver Street and College Avenue, is heaven for the dessert lover. Any date can be completed with a nice and satisfying dessert. Chocolate Café offers a hot chocolate that will radically surpass your typical homemade packaged hot chocolate. According to engineering major, Keaton Laden, “Hot chocolate brings a good cheer during the winter days and a hot chocolate date brings a good social aspect to a relationship.” Bring your date to Chocolate Café to enjoy conversation, a homey environment and a drink that will satiate your chocolate cravings.

Date Night at Social
Price: Drinks average anywhere from $6 - $11 each
Social offers a swanky and romantic environment for a couple looking to experience a night of creatively prepared cocktails and intimate alone time. Locally owned and underground, this bar is the perfect spot for a couple interested in having a smooth drink and small appetizer together. Located in Old Town Square, Social is a great after or before dinner scene, but could also be your one stop for the night. Catering to all of your Friday night needs, Social offers you and your date a fancy night dedicated to laughter and each other.

Starry Night Coffee Date
Price: Chai lattes cost $3.55 - $4.25 per cup
There is no better way to get to know someone than over a latte or cup of coffee. Starry Night, located on College Avenue is an inviting coffee shop that encourages conversation and positive energy where the more reason to consider Starry Night for a lighthearted date. Whether in the morning or evening, Starry Night will satisfy your chai latte addiction and provide you and your date with an environment that will encourage you to get to know one another better.

Lyric Cinema Café Movie Night
Price: $8
If you are looking for a comfortable movie date night, Lyric Café is a quaint spot to enjoy a new smaller movie (that will never come to the bigger theaters), [sitting] on a couch, [drinking] a glass of wine or beer, [and enjoying] some good finger foods [while relaxing]. For $14, you and your date together can enjoy a small movie atmosphere. Watching a movie together is always a great excuse to cozy up. Whether it’s a study break this week, or a Saturday night post-dinner event, the Lyric invites you to a comfy and relaxed night spent together.

Garden of Lights (2145 Centre Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80526)
Garden of Lights, offered every evening from 5 -9 p.m. through Jan. 1, is an outdoor event that invites you and your sweetheart to enjoy a walk through the gardens that are lit by thousands of LED lights. You can enjoy the beauty of the gardens and spirit of the holiday lights all in one. Walking together through a garden glowing with Christmas lights is a festive way to spend a chilly evening. Grab a warm drink and get into the Christmas spirit by enjoying the brilliantly lit gardens in Fort Collins.

Watching the CSU Football Game and Baking Cookies
Football and cookies: The two are a mean combination. If you enjoy baking, and your special someone enjoys watching CSU win, then you may want to consider a football and cookie dedicated afternoon. With CSU playing in the New Mexico Bowl on Dec. 21, and cookie recipes being overloading Pinterest, there is no reason to not combine the two. As Winter Break kicks into gear and the Rams kick off, you and your date can enjoy preparing a warm batch of cookies together while watching the game.

Business major Chris Solka says, “Cuddling and watching a football game is a great way to spend time together.” In addition, baking together builds connections and can only result in laughter and enjoying a game that will go down in Ram history is a great way to spend a winter afternoon.

Collegian Entertainment Reporter Rae Ehly can be reached at entertainment@collegian.com.
Courses available at: summer.colostate.edu

Planning your summer over the holidays?
Thinking of credits you can earn next summer?
Trying to decide between a 4-week or 8-week term?

First 4-week term: May 19 – June 13
Second 4-week term: June 16 – July 11
Third 4-week term: July 14 – August 8
8-week term: June 16 – August 8
12-week term: May 19 – August 8

Courses updated weekly.
Check for additional online courses.

Catch up! Stay on Track! Get Ahead!
The god of light shines on FoCo

By Hunter Goddard
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

Apollo is the Olympian god of the sun and music, and the indie rock band bearing his namesake, You Me and Apollo, is a musical celebration that are sure to brighten your Friday night.

Doors open Friday at 8 p.m. for their 9 p.m. Aggie Theatre performance. Tickets cost $10 in person and $14 online.

According to guitarist and vocalist Brent Michael Cowles, the band began as a solo act for his guitar and started singing approximately six years ago. The others banded together with him about four years into his passion project, which is when he met his drummer and general manager, Tyler J. Kellogg.

“Our goal is to stay as real as possible and to make music that’s meaningful to us,” Cowles said. “We hope to keep it fun.”

Kellogg said he has played in many Fort Collins bands, but he has never heard anything locally that he likes as much as Cowles’s voice. Cowles’s talent is on the same level as bigger acts, according to Kellogg, and the group’s diversity lends to their spirit of pure love for music.

“The bandmates all come from different musical tastes, including hip hop,” Kellogg said. “Brent enjoys folk, R&B and contemporary indie rock, and our bass player, Dave, likes jazz. It’s an eclectic mix when we’re listening to music on our tours.”

You Me and Apollo will start to record their 2014 full-length album in February, having already recorded two tracks as a successful trial run in October 2013 with Jeff Powell and Ardent Recording Studios, Kellogg said.

Kellogg said his experiences with You Me and Apollo have helped him to grow levels above where he used to be as a musician, especially following shows in front of crowds of up to 3,000, when professional entertainment is demanded of them.

Guitar player Morgan Travis said he got involved with You Me and Apollo because he and Kellogg know one another from past bands and he once collaborated with bassist Dave Cole in high school jazz.

“We’re known to bring a new, dynamic sound to the table,” Travis said. “We range in everything from old, recognizable covers to songs we never played before. It’s always different and new.”

According to Travis, a tour of the northwest is going to take place in January. Travis said that seeing his favorite guitarist in Alabama earlier this year, Mike Campbell of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, inspired him to stay alongside You Me and Apollo for a long time because age improves band cohesion.

“Ike Apollo, the Greek god of the sun, You Me and Apollo are rising over the horizon, and their future is bright.”

Collegian Entertainment Reporter Hunter Goddard can be reached at entertainment@collegian.com.
Exploring the galaxy in the Starbound BETA

By Diego Carrera
The Rocky Mountain Collegian

Price: $15
Platform: PC, Mac, Linux

Starbound is the one of those unique games out there that the less you know about it, the more fun you'll have discovering its vast universe – quite literally!

In an effort to preserve the magic of the game, I'll try to keep this preview as spoiler-free as possible. The most important thing to note here is that Starbound is in BETA, meaning the game is not fully finished yet, so there are many bugs and features that are missing. The game has been made available to those who have pre-ordered the game and would like to test it out and provide feedback to the developers.

Calling Starbound a 2D side-scrolling action adventure sandbox game does not do the game proper justice. The premise of Starbound is that you are forced to flee your home planet in a spaceship for some reason specific to your race. Currently, there are six races you can play as.

There are fish-like, plant-like, bird-like, robots, humans and apes -- all of which are humanoid in their figure. I rolled a lobot character and was forced to flee my home planet because my robot had achieved self-awareness.

Your spaceship ran out of fuel and you were fortunate enough to land on a planet far away from your home world. From there, you're free to roam the surface of the planet, mining away for resources to craft new technologies. Once you've either slaughtered or befriended the local population and advanced far enough to get a new star-map for your spaceship, you can travel through a slip-space rupture to a more "dangerous" sector of the universe. This has more difficult monsters and rare resources, which allow you to keep building new technologies.

The real magic of the game is not what you can craft, but what you discover on your journey throughout the universe. Some planets will have sprawling cities or castles while others will have dungeons or abandoned archaeological sites.

You might get jumped by bandits, heretics and who-knows-what on your travels. That's some items in the game that are absolutely hysterical to use, like musical instruments which can play any of the millions upon millions of MIDI song files (which then need to be converted to .abc by means of a free converter software). The game goes so far as to create a "band" in the game that synchronizes the play of each instrument with the selected song.

A common happening is that a friend will jump around in a circle playing Lady Gaga's "Poker Face" on a harmonica while you battle a flaming bone dragon.

Starbound is a game best played with friends. In my game play experience, I was often doing something benign, stumbling upon some ore or mining for more, when I'd hear an excited scream over Skype "Holy cow! Look what I just found!" or "Dude you have to come see this!"

Starbound shows a huge amount of potential and it will be interesting to see if the game stays on course and delivers a complete experience in the future.

Collegian Reporter Diego Carrera can be reached at entertainment@collegian.com.
**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**

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<td>68 Old vitamin bottle no.</td>
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**Daily Horoscope**

_Nancy Black_

**TODAY’S BIRTHDAY** (12/13/13). Friends, family and partnerships are the key to growth this year. Teamwork amplifies efforts and forwards dreams. Acknowledge them over the holidays, and then get ready for a spring flurry of profitable and romantic creativity. Develop your most brilliant ideas to share with the world come August, when reception peaks. To get the advantage, check the day’s rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) — 7— This Friday the 13th holds special luck. Use your imagination to break through old barriers. Making new profits is easier than you thought. Circumstances dictate the next move. Happy news arrives from far away or pertaining to travel.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) — 7— You’re even more powerful than usual for the next two days. You can sell an idea now. Shop carefully. Share your abundance with possible partners. This Friday the 13th is especially good for romantic commitments. Don’t worry, you’ll think of something. Get support from others and turn it into a bonding experience. Share what’s true for you. Subtle art elements inspire.


**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) — 6— Work out the kinks. Make a major improvement with minor expense. Goal planning and study save time. You can get whatever you need. Don’t fall for the first offer. Imagine a fantastic opportunity into reality.

**leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — 6— Major obstacles are past, so you can go. Take along a companion, whose imaginative ideas broaden your view. Others help you get further than you would have on your own. A child is a wise teacher. Find sensual delights.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — 6— Work out the kinks. Make a major improvement with minor expense. Goal planning and study save time. You can get whatever you need. Don’t fall for the first offer. Imagine a fantastic opportunity into reality.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — 5— Enjoy this lucky Friday the 13th. It’s especially good for romantic commitments. Don’t worry, you’ll think of something. Get support from others and turn it into a bonding experience. Share what’s true for you. Subtle art elements inspire.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — 7— Make plans to achieve a fantasy. Everything seems possible. You see solutions. Gather information. Make a commitment that moves you a level closer to realizing your dream.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — 7— Use hidden resources for shared fun. Secrets are unveiled. Discover something valuable. Get clear on costs resources for shared fun. Secrets are unveiled. Discover something valuable. Get clear on costs before spending. Let yourself be persuaded to adopt a new view, which could increase profits.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — 6— Friends share a good idea. Allow yourself to be convinced. Continue your own research. Let an associate manage a mess and clean up later. Make a mess and clean up later. Make practical plans to fulfill long-term dreams and share with possible partners. This Friday the 13th brings a beneficial development. Stash extra loot. Spend time on artistic or creative pursuits.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) — 5— An uncomfortable situation invites you to lie low. Make practical plans to fulfill long-term dreams and share with possible partners. This Friday the 13th brings a beneficial development. Stash extra loot. Spend time on artistic or creative pursuits.
UNDERGRADUATE JADE

Okay I’ve set all my alarms for my finals. Now to get some sleep...

Hopefully I don’t sleep through them. Leah... I’m not missing all my finals. Leah. Failing... Leah. Thanks Box.

G’night Leah.

Meh Comex Rochelle Peeler

Sigh. Between finals, relatives coming over for the holidays, and an unhealthy amount of online shopping...

This week has really worn me out.

Honestly the best thing for me...

Is two solid months of sleep...

Brewster Rockit Tim Rickard

It is a rocket sent to rescue us! I hope they can see us!

Don’t worry, I’ve built a signal fire!

It should be any second now.

Sudoku

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Yesterday’s solution:

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7 4 3 6 9 8 2 5 1
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Ram Talk

Compiled by Hayden Fitzpatrick

13 of my friends are engaged and I’m over here like ‘a guy held the door open for me today’...

On the 2nd week of Xmas my teachers gave me; 5 all-nighters, 4 hours of crying, 3 mental breakdowns, 2 thoughts of dropout, & 1 month of anxiety.

Thank you iClickers for saving my grade in almost every class this semester.

A week away from graduating and already writing potential emails to my teachers begging for points so that I pass. Dear Prof so-and-so...

Text your rants to 970-430-5547.

Submit Ram Talk entries to ramtalk@collegian.com. Libelous or obscene submissions will not be printed. While your comment will be published anonymously, you must leave your name and phone number for verification.

Happy Hour

11am-7pm Everyday

$1.50 PBR Drafts All Day. All The Time

Mondays: Happy Hour All Day & All Night
Tuesdays: 2 for 1 Burgers (7pm-11pm) & $2 Select Micro Pints (7pm-Close)
Wednesdays: Geeks Who Drink @ 8pm & $2.50 New Belgium Pints (7pm-Close)
Thursdays: $2.50 Odell’s Pints (7pm-Close)
Saturdays: $1 PBR Drafts (7pm-10pm)
Fort Collins Most Experienced Studio
Piercings that look amazing, heal well and last longer

Thank you for voting us the best!

Mention this ad for

20% OFF Jewelry
(Piercing not included)

$10 OFF Any Tattoo
($50 or more)

Largest selection of body jewelry
in Northern Colorado

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970.221.9712
www.TribalRitesTattoo.com