

## Vespers celebrates birth, death of Christ

LEE MILLER

This year's Christmas Vespers will tell of God's greatest gift, the incarnation of His Son, who was born to save the world.

The Vespers program will be performed Saturday in Rodeheaver Auditorium at 7 and 8:30 p.m. It will feature performances from a host of university talent including choirs and instrumental groups.

There will be several different settings during the program. Dr. Ryan Meers, chairman of the Division of Communication, will be reading an excerpt about shepherds from the book Ben-Hur in a family room setting with his own family on stage with him.

Dr. Meers said the Vespers this year is more intimate than many in the past.

"It's more of the personal connection



See VESPERS p. 8 >>

Dr. Ed Dunbar plays the organ during rehearsal for Christmas Vespers. Photo: Jon Baker



Wednesday's Student Body program will feature the White Witch and other characters from Narnia. Photo: Amy Roukes

## Student Body program to bring Narnia to BJU

DANIELLE NIFENECKER

The final student body program of the semester will add fun elements of life at BJU to the story of The Chronicles of Narnia. The program will take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

Students always look forward to the funny Student Body program, and the student body presidents believe this semester's theme is just as fun as previous years' programs.

"We really wanted to give students the opportunity to relax after a busy, long and stressful semester," Luke Hess, the university's men's student body president, said.

"After a crazy week of finals, we wanted to give the students something fun so they can be ready to go home and

have a good time with family," Luke said.

"The program starts as a bedtime story," said Carrie Bird, the women's student body president.

Other college students have come from outside the University, and their visit to campus represents the journey to Narnia in this version of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

According to Luke, these students visit as outsiders, and the members of the Student Leadership Council represent many of the major characters in Narnia, with Carrie playing the part of the White Witch.

Carrie commented that one particularly fun part of the Student Body program will be a surprise visit from one character who never appears in Narnia but whom all the university students will

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## COLUMN



JORDAN WELLIN

There's a scene in *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (one of the greatest films ever made, in this writer's opinion) where Charlie Brown and Linus go searching for the perfect Christmas tree.

When they arrive at the tree farm, they find themselves surrounded by scores of fake, aluminum trees of all colors and sizes; Linus even knocks on one and is startled to hear a dull, hollow echo. Ultimately, they end up choosing the only real tree on the lot (which is really less of a tree and more of a combination of twigs with some green pine needles shooting out here and there).

When they bring the decrepit bough back to their friends, everyone is appalled. "You've been dumb before, Charlie Brown, but this time you really did it!" Lucy yells.

But in spite of his unpopular choice, Chuck did make the right decision on one count—he chose a real Christmas tree over a fake one.

For whatever reason, the majority of Americans have forgone having a

See COLUMN p. 8 >>



## Tim Tebow right not to back down but be bold with his faith

The Collegian Editorial

NFL player Tim Tebow has caused incredibly split opinions in the American public in the past few weeks.

Tebow recently became the starting quarterback for the Denver Broncos. Since then, the Broncos have won six of their seven games with Tebow as their quarterback, but he still receives much criticism for several reasons.

Some people attack him simply because he does not throw the ball as well as other quarterbacks. But for many, the real problem with Tebow goes deeper.

Tim Tebow is an outspoken Christian and has unashamedly said so in public on multiple occasions. He also frequently kneels to pray on the field after making big plays. The many references to his faith have drawn fire from critics, but Tebow recently made a statement about his relationship with Jesus, ensuring everyone knows he will not back down.

"My relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important thing in my life, so anytime I get an opportunity to tell Him I love Him or [am] given an opportunity to shout Him out on national TV, I'm gonna take that opportunity," he said.

Interestingly, Tebow's newest critic, Kurt Warner, is both a Christian and former NFL quarterback. Warner has surprisingly advised Tebow to be less vocal.

"Put down the boldness in regards to the words, and keep living the way you're living," he said. Warner also warned that the public may put up a guard if Tebow uses faith clichés.

While Warner has good intentions, he is wrong on this issue. Yes, Tebow needs to maintain a great testimony for the glory of God, especially if he wants his professions of faith to hold any value. But the world currently has few Christian public figures who aren't afraid to be bold in their faith. A godly man who frequently references his faith could show people that Christians are excited about their relationship with Christ and don't want to keep it to themselves.

The world needs to see a Christian who stands in his faith despite the ridicule of others while maintaining an incredible testimony. In the past, many athletes have claimed to be Christians only to shame the name of Christ. Tebow stands as one of the very few non-hypocritical Christians in the public spotlight.

Some people might get annoyed with his mentioning Jesus a lot, but the world will always find ways to hate Christ. Tim Tebow does not need to cut down on his references to Christ. He needs to continue being outspoken about his love for God and not back down no matter who disagrees with him.

## talk back



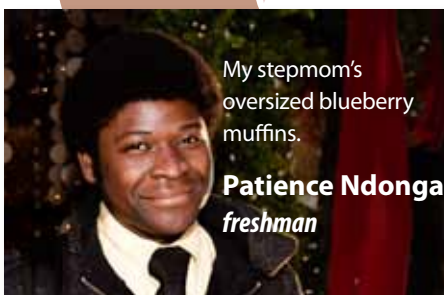
Spending time with my family.

**Carla Wood**  
freshman



Everyone is naturally nicer at Christmas.

**Courtney Tolin**  
senior



My stepmom's oversized blueberry muffins.

**Patience Ndonga**  
freshman



Eggnog.

**Rob May**  
junior



Christmas break.

**Luke Timoldi**  
freshman

*What is your favorite thing about the Christmas season?*

## the COLLEGIAN

Bob Jones University  
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### EDITOR

Taylor Anderson  
editor@bju.edu

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Luke Cleland

### COPY EDITOR

Rachel Peed

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# Seven study tips can simplify final exams

HEIDI WILLARD

Exams are inevitable. There's no way out of them—that is, unless your grandma gets run over by a reindeer. Maybe then you'll have an excuse to skip them. But since that's not likely to happen, you should probably just plan to study. That's why we've compiled a list of some helpful final exam study tips.

Study concepts, not just facts. It's better to learn a concept that can be applied to several questions on the exam than to memorize random facts that may or may not show up on the final. Understanding concepts is especially important for exams with essays since it ensures that you have a broader knowledge of the subject.

Don't multitask while you study. Maybe studying while you listen to music, get on the Internet, text your friends and talk to your roommates isn't the most effective approach to final exam preparation. You can sit in front of the books for five hours, but if you're multitasking the entire time, chances are you're studying for

only about an hour, according to Dr. Brent Cook, a BJU professor of religion who teaches about 550 students each semester. "People think they can multitask, but they can't," he said.

Make flashcards. There are two ways to do this: write out your own flashcards by hand or use an online flashcard program such as Anki. Anki allows you to create your own flashcards and study from them. The program keeps track of which flashcards you don't know and will review those cards more frequently than the flashcards you do know.

Take breaks. Let's be real. Most people can't focus on one thing for more than an hour or two. So do your brain a favor and give it a break. "Sometimes I go running in the evenings just to take a break and get some exercise, and then I can think better when I come back," said Katie Altizer, a sophomore English major.

If you're not into running but you still need a break, Jessica Ball, a senior early childhood education major, recommends taking a few minutes to read children's books to clear your mind. Jessica also en-

joys coloring. "Coloring is a stress reliever," she said.

If you really don't have time to take a break, at least move around. "Pacing helps," said Dan Snyder, a senior history major who paces in his room as he reads his notes out loud.

Review old tests. While re-reading your 2,000-page chemistry book may be tempting, it probably isn't the most efficient use of your time. Reviewing old tests, however, saves time and helps you focus on the most important ideas from the semester.

This is especially important when studying for cumulative final exams, said James Yang, a senior premed major.

Carefully consider whether studying in a group is right for you. Studying in groups has its pros and cons. While



studying with other people will probably keep you from falling asleep, it can also be a distraction if the group tends to talk about unrelated topics. "I cannot study with groups," James said. "I just never find that helpful. It's not my style."

If you choose to study with a group, make sure it's the right kind of group. "It has to be a very motivated group," Dr. Cook said. "And it doesn't typically help unless you've done some preliminary studying on your own."

Realize that making the grade isn't everything. "This is not about a letter grade in the end," Dr. Cook said. "It's [about] stewarding the mind that God has given you. Cramming can get you a letter grade, but it doesn't lead to lasting knowledge."

## BJU to begin application for regional accreditation BJU to participate in intercollegiate athletics

TAYLOR ANDERSON

The BJU Board of Trustees has unanimously voted for the University to apply for regional accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the accrediting association for colleges in 11 southeastern states.

This decision is merely the beginning of a multi-year process in which the University will continue to look into the application process and prepare an application for membership with SACSCOC.

BJU officials said recent changes to the SACSCOC policies and the 2008 Reaffirmation of the Higher Education Act's call for accreditors to "respect the stated mission of the institution, including religious mission" significantly address past concerns about regional accreditation.

They said accreditation that allows the University to pursue its mission with biblical integrity, provides value to those it serves and enables it to continue to improve its operations and quality is worth serious consideration.

TAYLOR ANDERSON

The Bob Jones University Board of Trustees has unanimously approved the establishment of an intercollegiate athletics program.

The goal is to be able to participate in the National Christian College Athletic Association with a limited schedule of competition by the 2012-2013 school year and with a full schedule by 2013-2014.

BJU will initially compete only in

men's and women's soccer and men's and women's basketball but may compete in additional sports in the future. Hopefully, this move will strengthen school spirit and draw alumni and the community onto campus.

Though the focus of BJU athletics will undoubtedly shift to the intercollegiate program, university officials say the intramural sports program will still be maintained to enable the majority of students to continue their participation in sports.



### » This week in weird:

An opera-singing parrot has been on the loose in NYC. Its owner, Allan Kirson, said he feels lost without the Yellow-naped Amazon named Captain. Kirson said the parrot has perfect pitch and sings his own arias.

### » Herman Cain campaign suspension:

Herman Cain announced Saturday that he's suspending his presidential campaign.

Cain said the allegations of sexual harassment and infidelity had become too much of a drain on his family. Though he denied all the accusations, he said they had been too much of a distraction from his campaign.

"I am not going to be silenced, and I am not going away," Cain said in an interview on Tuesday. He will keep pushing his tax reform plan through a personal website and will make an endorsement for the Republican primary. Source: Fox News

### » This day in history:

1940 — The smallpox virus became the first human disease to be driven to extinction.

### » They said it, not me:

"If they pick somebody who I think can't win and if they pick someone who is, in my opinion, the wrong person, I might run as an independent." —Donald Trump, saying he'd consider running for president.

### » American spy plane:

Iranian authorities say Iran shot down an unmanned U.S. spy plane yesterday. The plane, which U.S. military authorities acknowledge has been lost since last week, is now in Iranian custody, according to the Iranian government.

American authorities say they have "absolutely no indication" that the plane has been shot down.

Iran now has the plane on display. According to officials, American spy planes are monitoring suspected nuclear facilities and compounds in Iran. Source: Fox News

## In the know:

### II Semester Preregistration

Preregistration for classes offered next semester closes today at 5 p.m. on Student Central.

### Christmas Vespers

This year's Christmas Vespers will be presented Saturday in Rodeheaver Auditorium at 7 and 8:30 p.m.

### Student Body Chapel

The SLC will present the final student body program of the semester Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the FMA.

### University Dismissal

The semester will officially end after chapel on Thursday.

# Summer program offers chance to gain missions experience, academic credit

GLORIA GIBRAEL

Frontline Missions International will be hosting the Frontline Experience, a missions training program, at Bonclarken Conference Center in Flat Rock, N.C., this coming May 14-23.

BJU students who participate in this program will earn two academic credits, according to Mr. Mark Vowels, director of missions. The credits count toward CM372 Field Work. The program is limited to 50 participants.

The Frontline Experience training program is a 10-day system of classroom and

field experiences, according to Dr. Jim Bennett, a Frontline Missions representative.

Students will be working with experts in various fields who have planted churches, started international businesses, worked in medical clinics in war zones, trained state-and national-level crisis management workers and done advocacy work on behalf of persecuted believers and other oppressed groups.

"Anyone pursuing a ministry in missions will benefit from the program, although it has been primarily designed to prepare individuals for ministry in settings that can't be accessed with missionary's stamped on a

visa," Dr. Bennett said.

The program includes training in many aspects of missions in those countries that are hostile towards foreign missionary efforts.

"In places such as this, there will seldom be a legacy of missionary work to build upon," Dr. Bennett said. "You will need creativity since you won't be able to enter the country overtly as a missionary, and you are likely to encounter organized and systematic hostility to the Gospel once you arrive."

The program will teach students about cross-cultural ministry, Muslim evangelism and eastern religions along with non-

traditional mission topics such as entrepreneurship, crisis management and cyber security. "It is a pretty packed schedule," Dr. Bennett said.

Frontline Missions is dedicated to taking the Gospel to unreached people groups.

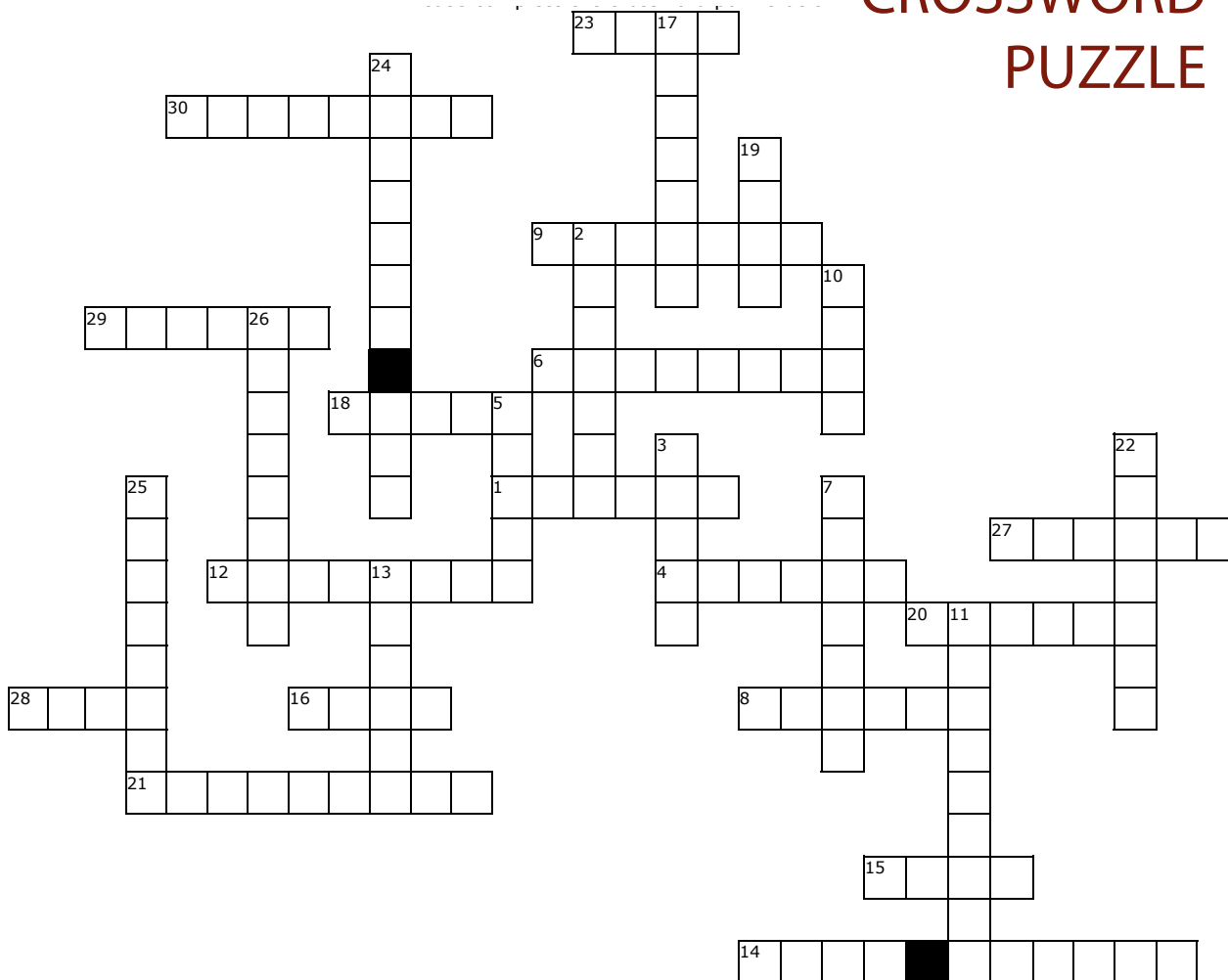
"There are billions of people in the world that have little or no access to the Gospel, and most live in places inaccessible to what we would call 'traditional missionary activity,'" Dr. Bennett said.

He added that it is exciting to see people of this generation finding creative ways to access these unreached people groups for the sake of the Gospel.

Dr. Bennett said Frontline's desire is that God will use the program to send a flood of well-equipped workers into places where He is not widely known or worshiped.

Students can find more information and apply to the program at [www.frontlineexperience.org](http://www.frontlineexperience.org).

## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS:

1. What Christmas character did the store chain Montgomery Ward introduce?
4. What famous mathematician was born on Christmas in 1642?
6. Name the guardian angel in "It's a Wonderful Life."
8. The White House's first Christmas tree appeared during which U.S. president's term?
9. In which country did Christmas trees originate?
12. In the Christmas song "Winter Wonderland," what has gone away?
14. What Canadian province exports more Christmas trees than any nation?
15. Who nodded to the boy in the "The Little Drummer Boy"?
16. What is blazing before the singers in "Deck the Halls"?
18. Name the prophet who foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
20. Name the prophet who prophesied the virgin birth of the Messiah.
21. In which century were Christmas trees first used?
23. What animal's head was a main Christmas dinner dish in England?
27. What item was used for Frosty the Snowman's nose?
28. Which Gospel tells of the angel Gabriel coming to Mary?
29. Name the country from which poinsettias originated.
30. What glistens in the song "White Christmas"?

### DOWN:

2. What country first used the Christmas card?
3. What is the first toy the Chipmunks say they want for Christmas?
5. Name the king of Judaea at the time of the birth of Christ.
7. What do you call a Christmas tree covered with fake snow?
10. What do the French call Christmas?
11. Who guards the baby in the carol "What Child is This"?
13. What is the last name of the writer of "White Christmas"?
17. Which state was the first to recognize Christmas as an official holiday?
19. What "came upon a midnight clear"?
22. Which Gospel gives the account of the wise men?
24. What movie first premiered the song "White Christmas"?
25. Name the twelfth item in "The Twelve Days of Christmas."
26. What is the last name of the English leader who banned Christmas in 1647?

DESIGN: SALLIE HARRISON; TEXT: JESSI HARGETT

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# Christmas on Campus

With Christmas on the heart and exam season on the mind, students can think of many places they'd prefer to be than a college campus—like home. But by taking the time to enjoy the lights and the last few days with friends, Christmas spirit can come early.



2.

1.



I have always thought of Christmastime, when it has come round, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.

-Charles Dickens



3.



4.



5.



6.

1. Mr. Tim Renner, Ethan Simpson, and Mr. Joey Hoelscher singing 'O Holy Night' at the BJU lighting ceremony.
2. Dr. David Parker leading Christmas songs at the BJU lighting ceremony.
3. The BJU Christmas float for the Greenville Poinsettia Christmas Parade.
4. Christmas garland and bow in front of the FMA.
5. Christmas tree decorations in the women's residence hall Margaret Mack.
6. Christmas gingerbread house in the men's residence hall J. Y. Smith.





## Tornadoes outclass Cavs from start to finish, 26-8

ABBY STANLEY

A talented offense helped the Zeta Chi Tornadoes stay undefeated as they beat the Chi Alpha Cavs 26-8 in men's flag football Friday night.

After the Cavs' scoreless first possession, the Tornadoes began their march to the end zone with a 20-yard run by running back Dan Sells.

The Tornadoes continued to gain first downs and scored when quarterback Tyler Cleveland threw a short pass for a wide-open Patrick Beam. They completed the drive with a pass for a two-point conversion.

A strong start by the Cavs on their second possession ended abruptly when Tornado defender Keith Tillman blocked a pass from Cavs' player Brett Stowe.

The Cavs' defense stepped up against the Tornadoes but was unable to stop the trio of Tyler Cleveland, Evan Brondyke and Daniel Sells as they picked their way down field and scored again but missed scoring on the conversion.

Chi Alpha regrouped and, led by Zach Bruce and Brett Stowe, headed down field.

A rush by Zach led to a Chi Alpha touchdown, and a short throw by Brett into the hands of receiver Justin Deres gave Chi Alpha another two points on the conversion play.

Zeta Chi rebounded in the second



Chi Alpha's Zach Bruce grabs for the flags as a Zeta Chi player advances downfield. Photo: Amy Roukes

half, and Mark Osorio rushed 20 yards after the ball was tipped to him accidentally. Evan caught a pass for Zeta Chi's third touchdown. However, Chi Alpha blocked Zeta Chi's attempt for conversion points.

The Tornadoes' defense string held the Cavs on their last possession with defensive end Micah Broyles blocking the pass

on a fourth down.

On the Tornadoes' final possession, quick blocks helped Evan as he rushed 25 yards for a game-clinching fourth touchdown.

Micah said he has high hopes for his team to continue winning games and end up as championship winners, giving the

whole team credit for the winning streak.

"We don't have individuals on our team; each player focuses on his own job in order to help the team," he said.

Heading into the final week of play, three teams remain undefeated—Omega, Zeta Chi and ZAP—and the three will vie for the championship title.

## Chi Alpha thrashes Pi Kappa, 26-12

ALLISON HARROD



Pi Kappa's Andrew Paquette runs the ball as the Chi Alpha's Will White goes for his flags. Photo: Jon Baker

With playoff implications on the line, the Cavaliers and Cobras faced off on Saturday night for an intense game of flag football.

It may have been just one week after Thanksgiving, but turkey was not weighing the Cavs down, and they came out on top with the win, 26-12.

Chi Alpha scored two touchdowns early in the game, taking the lead. The Cobras fought back, determined to put themselves on the board.

With a scoring opportunity in sight at first and goal, the Cobras were ready to level the playing field.

Andrew Paquette heaved the ball into the end zone, but the Cavs' defense deflected the pass, and the ball fell to the ground incomplete.

The next play put the Cobras on the board, but the Cavs, with the help of a strong linebacker played by Will White, kept them at bay for most of the game.

Cavs' quarterback Brett Stowe led his team confidently and was able both to run the ball and to pass effectively, gaining a comfortable lead for his team.

Whether they were running the ball or catching a bullet pass, the Cavs achieved many scoring opportunities from start to finish. Without starting quarterback and safety Andy Dulin, the Cobras could not keep pace with the Cavs.

Despite the victory, the Cavs still missed the playoffs, but the Cobras secured a spot.



GUYS

Basketball Jamboree  
Friday, 5:30-8 p.m., Main and East Courts  
Saturday, 1:30-5:30 p.m., Main and East Courts

Flag Football Championship  
Saturday, 10 a.m., Stadium Field

WHAT 2  
WATCH 4

GUYS + GIRLS

Intercollegiate Sports Next Year  
Guys' soccer and basketball  
Girls' soccer and basketball

GIRLS

Basketball Championship Friday, 8:30 p.m., Main Court

## Pirates tie game at buzzer, defeat Colts in overtime



The Colts drive the ball up court in a tense game against the Tri Epsilon Pirates. Photo: Mark Cronemeyer

ALLISON HARROD

What began as a mild-mannered basketball game Saturday night quickly turned into a frenzied battle as the Pirates and Colts contended for the ball. Though both teams played with vigor, in the end, the Pirates clinched a 62-58 victory.

Sophomore Rachel Niarchos proved to be a major asset for the Colts. The tenacity with which she played rivaled her impressive skill, as seen by her audacity in rebounding over the height advantage of Pirate Kamri Payne.

Playing alongside Rachel and finishing with a total of 16 points, the Colts' Lauren Berry proved a solid shooter her team could depend on.

The Pirates struggled as the Colts' offense continually worked the ball down the court, but with 10 minutes left in the game, the Pirates' offensive players significantly stepped up their intensity.

The Pirates' passing gave them key ac-

cess through the Colts' defense, and with the help of Ilene Anderson, height of Kamri Payne and shot of Brittany Clemens, the Colts began to find themselves lagging behind a formidable Pirate trifecta.

Building up to the final seconds, an almost constantly tied score left each team manic for the lead.

At last, the Colts found their opportunity in a turnover by Brittany, making the score 54-52 with 10 seconds left.

A final Pirates possession held off defeat, and a ball sent flying down the court to Kamri tied up the score, advancing the game into overtime.

The Pirates continued their momentum into the OT, but the score remained close. Overtime continued as had the previous 40 minutes, each team vying point-for-point.

A foul shot by Brittany finally tipped the scales in the Pirates' favor, and a final four-point advantage awarded the team a well-deserved triumph.

THE COLLEGIAN SPORTS

POWER RANKINGS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Rankings as of Dec. 5.

1. CARDINALS

The Cardinals are still showing their championship talent every weekend.

2. TIGERS

The Tigers had another great week with a solid win against the Flames 50-22.

3. PIRATES

Although they had a close game against the Colts, the Pirates pulled out the win.

4. COLTS

The Colts have greatly improved and look much stronger heading into playoffs.

5. CLASSICS

Despite a rough weekday game, the Classics had a solid win over the Kangaroos this weekend.

ALSO RANKED: 6. Seagulls 7. Kangaroos 8. Bear Cubs 9. Bandits 10. Flames

THE COLLEGIAN SPORTS

POWER RANKINGS

MEN'S FOOTBALL

Rankings as of Dec. 5.

1. OMEGA LIONS

Omega pulled out an incredible last-second victory over Pi Gamma to remain undefeated heading into the playoffs.

2. Z TORNADOES

Z faced little resistance during their undefeated regular season with one of the best offenses in the league.

3. ZAP SKYHAWKS

Quarterback Jake Fox has ZAP rolling through the National League with a nearly flawless offense.

4. PHI KAPPA RAMS

Phi Kappa hopes to avenge a narrow loss to Omega during a playoff run.

5. PI KAPPA COBRAS

Pi Kappa's only loss came to a strong Chi Alpha team when key player Andy Dulin was unable to play due to injury.

ALSO RANKED: 6. Alpha 7. Sigma 8. Chi Alpha 9. Pi Gamma 10. Theta Kappa

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## »STUDENT BODY p. 1

definitely recognize.

"There are several interesting creatures and characters that appear throughout the play that students, as well as the world in general, should recognize quickly," Luke said.

This year, like many other years, the student body presidents put together a committee for brainstorming ideas for the program and writing the script once the topic was chosen.

The committee started with a couple different ideas, but they knew they wanted a well-known storyline that students could relate to easily. "We always like to have a full story because it provides more continuity than a series of random skits," Luke said.

"Once someone mentioned the idea for Chronicles of Narnia, the ideas started flowing," Carrie said.

Everyone on the committee loved the idea immediately and started thinking of ideas for characters and different places in Narnia that correspond to places on campus.

Carrie and Luke said the most exciting part of the program is the end, which represents students being set free from campus for Christmas break.

Even though some may have several more finals before they leave for home, Carrie and Luke hope the students will feel refreshed after the program.

"After the exciting end to the program, each student will have something they can take home with them for the break," Carrie said.

The student body presidents said to look forward to a light-hearted, enjoyable, relaxing and surprising program urging students to go home and do something good for the Lord during their break.

## »VESPERS p. 1

of Christ coming to each of us," he said.

Dr. Meers also said that Christmas Vespers is a great way for the university family to come together to celebrate the birth of Christ.

He said Christmas, along with Easter, is a very unifying time for the university family.

During the production, Dr. Lonnie Polson of the communication division will present two Christmas-themed poems.

One of the poems that will be read, "That Day," was written by Dr. Ron Horton, head of the department of philosophy.

Dr. Polson said "That Day" is an address to sinners which presents the elements of the Christmas story with a gospel message.

While the performance is taking place Saturday, planning began over 10 months ago. Mrs. Corretta Grass, a member of the communication studies department, was asked in March to direct this year's Christmas Vespers.

As director, Mrs. Grass was responsible for choosing the theme and deciding what will be performed and how the stage will look. "I've tried to select speech and music pieces that will reflect the true meaning of Christmas," she said.

Mrs. Grass has directed many Vespers programs during her career at BJU. She said she directed her first Vespers in 1968, and this is either her fifth or sixth time directing the Christmas presentation. "It's a true joy to direct Christmas Vespers," she said.

Students with last names beginning with F-L should attend the 7 p.m. showing, and students with last names beginning with M-Z and A-E should attend at 8:30 p.m.

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real, traditional Christmas tree in their homes, opting instead for the artificial alternative.

Now I don't know about you, but to me there is something inherently creepy about having a tree made of PVC plastic in your house and being ok with it.

Not only that, but the thought of having to actually assemble said tree is more than a little disconcerting. Think about it: Each year, you have to take the tree out of your attic, dust it off and screw the fake branches into plastic pipes in order to make it look somewhat presentable.

That's just creepy.

Now I know what you're thinking: Isn't it just as creepy to have a real tree in your house that you had to go find and cut down?

I admit, I'm one of those tree killers. But when you weigh the options, being a tree killer is much cooler than being a proponent of artificial trees.

For instance, did you know that the first artificial Christmas trees in America were made by the same company that invented toilet bowl brushes? They even used the same material in the trees that they used to make their brushes.

In essence, that fake Christmas tree

standing in your family room is a giant, green toilet brush.

Think about that.

Contrary to popular opinion, artificial trees are actually more dangerous than real trees. According to a study done by the research group Ellipsos, artificial trees were shown to be far more environmentally harmful than real trees.

Scared that your real tree will catch on fire? Not to worry. The National Christmas Tree Association—yes, such a thing exists—says that at no time can real trees cause or start fires.

NCTA's website also says, "Christmas trees do not spontaneously combust." Phew!

Lastly, real Christmas trees smell better. End of story.

So take your pick: will you choose a real tree, even if it does mean having to vacuum up a few needles here and there? Or will you go with the synthetic tree that you can also use to clean your toilet?

Yes, I know . . . it's just a tree. No big deal in the long run.

All I'm asking for is a little respect for the authentic traditions that make Christmas the classic holiday that it's been for so long.

And perhaps a little love for my man Charlie Brown.

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