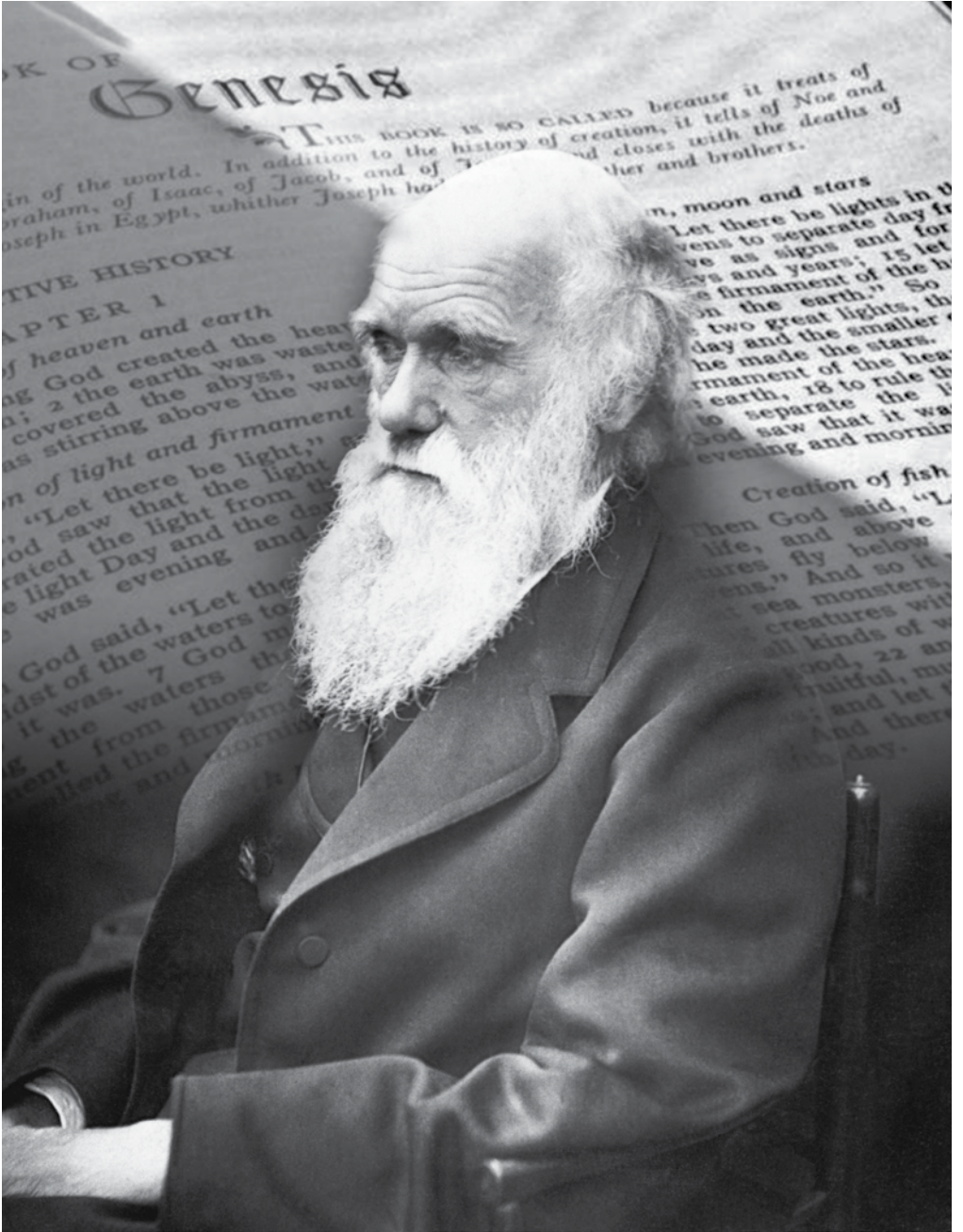


CRITERION

THE STUDENT QUARTERLY OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

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EDITOR'S NOTE

People have been jumping on the bandwagon of “change” for a while now.

If you type in the word “change” on Google, you’ll find 1,070,000,000 hits relating to this recently popular verb. Our country is a transiting period. Change of governing. Change of policies. Change of goals. There’s a lot happening lately. One can get lost.

How does *The Criterion* fit into this coined term, “change?”

Besides the new look, we’ll be shifting the way we will be reporting. There will be more depth in our articles. More analysis on issues concerning the campus and local Riverside news and while anyone can get the news on the change our great country is facing, we will also be presenting our own coverage of the news and how the students of La Sierra University are effected by what happening.

There will be mistakes. Some of the issues we tackle will make you uncomfortable. Hopefully all will stimulate discussion. Shed new light on different perspectives. If we play our cards right, positive proactive action.

We’re growing.

While change can be a good thing, it can also be intimidating. People can grow accustomed to the motions of life. It is my opinion that many La Sierra University students have fallen into apathy. That’s a scary thought. College is the time for edifying growth. College is a time for soul-searching. College is a time to prove adulthood.

A time of change.

I believe that in order to survive, to grow, to mature there must be change. Just as you are surviving, growing, maturing, so is *The Criterion*.

For the better.

Those of you who were students last year (...and to those who actually read) probably have already noticed that our publication hasn’t been coming out every month. There is good reason for that. Although, *The Criterion* came out monthly, I believe that the quality of the works and the presentation of our reporting was rushed and unorganized. This year will be coming out once every quarter. Trading quantity with quality. This will drastically effect the way we will be handling our reporting, enabling us to dive deep into investigations and follow-ups. This is a new process for all of us. If you love it tell us. If you hate it, please tell us. We’re here to serve you.

It’s time to wake up.

We are the medium of revolution. Let’s go change the world.

Always truly,

Israel Carreon
Editor-in-Chief



NEWS

SENATE INDUCTION CEREMONY

OCTOBER 23, 2009
PM

UNIVERSITY

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HELLO FRIENDS!

The school year of 2009-2010 has proceeded very quickly and before we know it we are already done with Fall quarter. At this point I sense many different atmospheres going on all around the campus; some are in disbelief that they finished their first quarter of college while some can't wait to finish what might be their last. Wherever you are in your academic walk, however, SALSU is here to remind you to stop and smell the flowers; and there are plenty of flowers to smell here in La Sierra.

We know that college is challenging, and our goal is to make your time here in La Sierra University most memorable. Find new friends and reconnect with old ones with our social, religious and CABL events. Past events such as Cosmic Bowling, Costume Skate Night and CABL Run were successful only because of your participation, and we hope to provide you with even more fun-filled events in the future. Look out for coming tournaments, retreats and social events such as the SALSU Spring Banquet on May 3rd (starting ticket price of \$15 for LSU students) which will no doubt knock your socks off. Tri-Campus Spiritual Retreat is coming up January 15th where Loma Linda Univ., PUC and La Sierra come together for worship and fellowship in the beautiful Yosemite. Wednesday night worship, 4th Down, will continue to provide spiritual food in a student-focused worship setting. In order to keep in touch with the latest updates on anything SALSU, make sure you visit our website at SALSU.LASIERRA.EDU. Indeed, SALSU offers multiple outlets for you to relax and be rejuvenated to tackle any tasks ahead.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that as Christian we are citizens of a kingdom that transcends national borders. We are highly privileged and blessed to be able to pursue our dreams and aspirations; unfortunately for many of our brothers and sisters worldwide this is not so. About 2 million Adventists worldwide are illiterate, unable to even open and study their Bible. La Sierra University, as part of Adventist Intercollegiate Association (AIA), is working with Hope for Humanity to help raise money for literacy in El Salvador. El Salvador Literacy Project will touch the lives of thousands today and countless others in a long run, as the gift of education stays for generations. Look for more details in the future on how you can contribute to this noble cause. As we continue our journey this year I encourage you to keep making wonderful memories that you can treasure the rest of your life.



Samuel Limbong
SALSU President 2009-2010

CLUB RUSH

by Isaac Carreon

As a second year student I have come to realize that one of the key steps to having a healthy social life is to engage in some sort of group or social event. It can be extremely nerve-racking to always study and have no outlet for social needs. After all, part of the university experience is meeting new people, and to remain an introvert the whole time they would mean to rob oneself of this experience. One way to get the full experience of college, not to mention the steep tuition bill, is to join a club on campus. There are plenty of new clubs this year and even more that are returning. Joining a club is the perfect way to meet new people and find one's niche. Keeping active in a club will provide an outlet for all of one's social needs.





Usually the first club a person joins is a club that represents their own heritage. This helps one be more at ease at a new social surrounding. Just as an Italian immigrant feels right at home in “Little Italy” after coming to the U.S. for the first time, the same could be said about a new student joining a new club. However, clubs such as the Black Student Association, the Hispanic Student Association, and the Asian Student Association all cater to any individual. New this year is the Filipino American Culture club which is making its way into the club mainstream. One club that is immensely popular is the Polynesian Club, which dominated with their tribal dance at the LSU Talent Shows last year in Spring quarter.

Although cultural clubs seem to be the most popular

at the moment, other clubs on campus have prodigious reputations of achievements. The SIFE Club is a prestigious group of dedicated individuals who participate in various business-orientated events while creating new outlooks and opportunities for young college students. The SIFE team is so successful that they won an award a few years ago, the team even appeared on a cereal box. If you are looking for more clubs that will better yourself, try your hand at the school news magazine, *The Criterion*, they are always looking for new writers, photographers, and graphic designers. Speech and Debate is also another club that many join. Our Speech and Debate team is very successful and has already won several awards in this school year. Savvy speakers are born here and intelligent minds are bred in this environment.



If you are interested in something less intense, clubs such as Club Towers and Club Angwin are great clubs to join if you want to meet new people especially within one's dormitory. Club Towers and Club Angwin both do various events that involve their respective residents. Club Towers recently had "X-Box" Madden Tournament; the winner received a \$200 gift card to Best Buy. Club Angwin often hosts movie nights, their most recent movie was Disney-Pixar's UP. Fresh popcorn was served and even the dorm kitchen was open for baking.

Of course there is always SALSU, to join if you like to plan events. SALSU is the Student Association of La Sierra University; they are the equivalent of high school's ASB. SALSU plans major events like banquets. Usually a new

event is held every Thursday for the students. During the year elections are held and during the spring quarter new officers are elected. If one has the intention to join SALSU it is wise to go to all social events in order to make oneself familiar with the social student body.

Clubs are a major part of this university, and to miss out on all the events they host would be unfortunate. Clubs unite people, helping this campus fight boredom and the mundane rituals of studying. It's a great way to alleviate stress and make new friends. If you have any questions about what club to join or even how to find the one you're looking for, head down to the SALSU office and a representative will be happy to help you out.

IT'S FINALLY HERE! THE LSU APP

Remember hearing all of that hoopla about La Sierra being on the frontier of breakthrough technology? LSU finally proved that they were serious with the launching of the LSU app on October 31. Many more apps are rumored and to be in the process of being created, but this app is the only one that is fully functional and available for free in the App Store.

This whole idea was the brain child of our Vice-President of Student Life, Yami Bazan. She wanted to create a long-lasting culture for La Sierra, and what better way to do it than with an über cool piece of technological equipment that was paid for by the Board of Trustees? This project piloted with 09-10 freshmen and hopefully will continue until our entire campus is interconnected. After all, we are obsessed with community. The app will be the first among many to make the LSU campus more connected. It is already making students' lives easier by making elusive services just a "thumb flick" away.

For those of you that may not own an iPhone or 2nd generation and beyond iPod Touch and are unfamiliar with the terminology, "app" is short for "application." These simplistic, childlike-looking squares are widely known throughout the world, and they range in functionality from calendars that organize your life down to the minute to blank screens of light that function as flashlights. The LSU app is unique in that it is one broad umbrella application under the name of the LSU app but in fact houses nine smaller apps within it. These mini-apps are Athletics, Directory, Events, Library, Maps, News, Images, SALSU, and LSU Church.

Upon opening the 'Athletics' mini-app, all of the official sports that are offered at our school pop up, with cool stick figures illustrating what each of these sports entail (in case you didn't know that soccer involves a player dribbling a ball on the floor with your feet). Each sport has three categories within them: news, schedule, and scores. Even if the season for that particular sport is over or has not yet begun, you can still view what schools they are scheduled to play or what their scores were last season.

'Directory' is probably all the desk workers' favorite mini-app. This is where you can input any faculty or staff name that is listed on LSU's directory, and all their contact information comes up. Do you have a class with Dr. Jeffrey Dupée, but you won't make it to class and want to let him know by email or voicemail? Why, just go to your Directory mini-app under the LSU app and type in all or even part of his name. Voila! You'll discover useful information like in which building and where within it the faculty's office is located and what educational title(s) they have. If you're outside somewhere on campus and you want

directions to their office, the app even automatically activates its GPS to give you exact locations. Talk about making life easier! No more will you have to call the front desk of Angwin, Calkins, or Towers to find out the extension for so-and-so. The LSU app has all this information for you right in the palm of your hand.

'Events' gives you all the events happening on our campus and at the La Sierra University Church. Even if you're not looking for an event that's happening that day, the events calendar gives you information on planned future events. There's even a bookmark category so you don't have to exit the app to schedule it on your calendar. Now you can no longer use the excuse of "I didn't know it was today/at that time!"

'Library' is probably the most complicated of the mini-apps, if only for the fact that it is the LSU Library website condensed into one place. This powerful mini-app can help you look for a book squirreled away in the back corner recesses of the basement that you need for that humanities class, and you don't have to worry about spending hours lost in the labyrinth that is the library. It tells you the exact location, shelf, and section that you can find the book in. You can even make LINK+ orders from this app. Talk about handy!

'Maps' is super-useful because it gives you the location of every building, nook, and cranny on our campus. Ever wonder what the VAC is, or where it is located? Type it into the building search, and not only will it tell you what VAC stands for, it will also give you directions on how to get there. In addition, it gives you the location of all the local businesses associated with our campus. Never has getting lost on campus (and off!) been so hard.

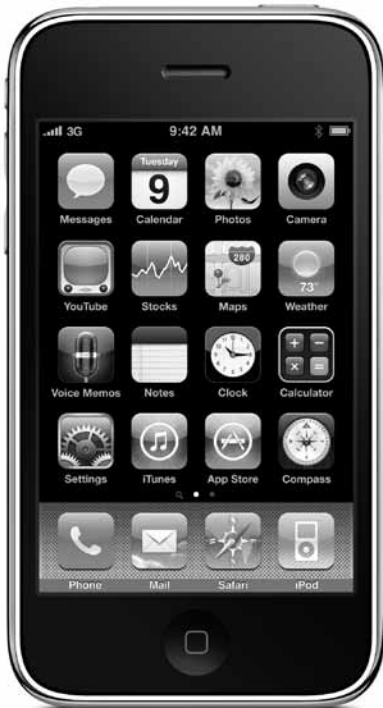
'News' is essentially the news feed that fades in and out when you're on the LSU official website, so instead of routing to that website and having to pinch in or out to view the information or your friend's face, you can just use this mini-app, and it's all there (minus your friend's face, of course).

If you are really set on seeing that friend's face, however, you can just click the mini-app called 'Images.' This highlights all the photos taken at various school happenings, be it SALSU events or Tuesday Tunes. If you use this app expecting to see all the pictures taken at every event, you might be slightly disappointed, but the ones displayed still look pretty awesome, and our various campus photographers will frequently update this section. The SALSU mini-app is dedicated solely to our Perspectives, while the LSU Church mini-app gives you the skinny on all events happening at the church.

by Fern Nelson

A NEW WAVE OF TECHNOLOGY

More mini-apps are in the developing process, but what is featured is definitely useful already. Even though our school is already one of the very few universities in our country to have its own app, if all of La Sierra's apps are going to be this cool, then this will certainly add distinction to our already distinguished school and put us ahead of the game. Make sure to check this app out—in the App Store, search for “LSU” or “La Sierra University.” Even if you don't have an iPhone or iPod Touch, you can view the mini-apps on your smart device by going to this website: <http://m.lasierra.edu>.



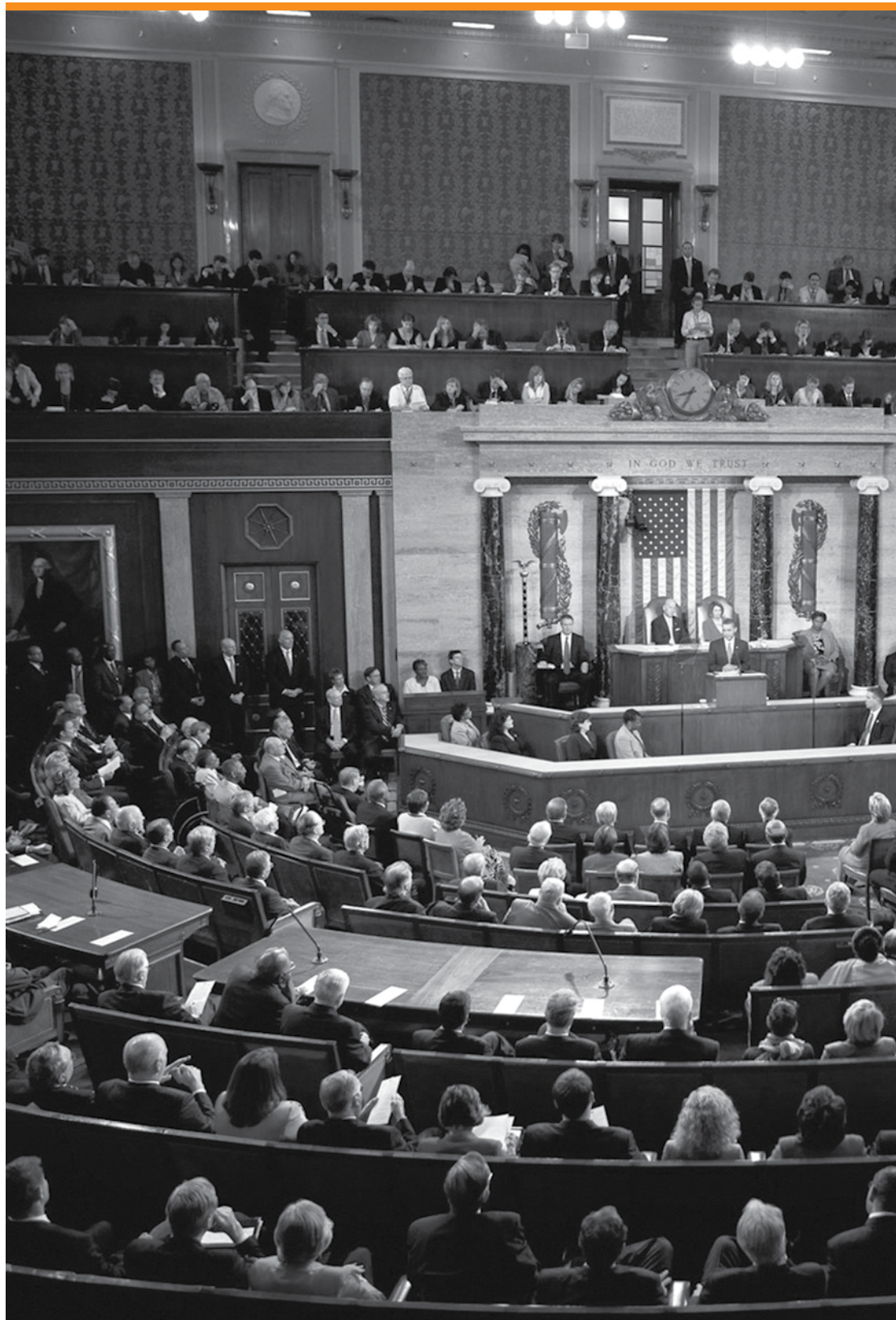
Incoming freshmen students at La Sierra University weren't complaining as each one was given a new iPhone or iPod Touch as a gift, funded through a grant from the Board of Trustees. The aim of this project is to “inspire a whole new era of innovation” on campus, to fortify the culture at La Sierra University, and to enhance the experience of the students with new Apple devices. With this new technology, students will be able to access wireless internet all over campus, allowing them to do a number of things such as register for a class, email a professor, or view a campus map by accessing the La Sierra University app on their Apple iPhone or iPod touch. While not all the students at La Sierra are receiving a free iPhone, all students with either an iPhone or an iPod touch will be able to access the LSU apps.

The incoming freshmen are not the only ones that can benefit from this new offer. After negotiations with Apple and AT&T, all University employees that transfer their phone contracts to the “University owned” contracts and arrange for the bills to be sent to their respective departments will receive a 20% discount. Employees who transfer their phone contracts to these university contracts, but continue to be billed at their home address will receive a 15% discount. Finally, all the students at La Sierra University will receive a 10% discount on their phone bill and a 20% discount on accessories, given that students use their university email address for identification with AT&T.

The response of the incoming freshmen has been overwhelming as the iPhone and iPod touch distribution was unquestionably the major event during Ignite Week, according to Caitlin Miller, a freshman who chosen to get an iPod touch. “I was in disbelief when I found out I was getting one! The iPhone is definitely 125 million percent worth it!” Odeli Castillo expressed the same sentiments about her new Apple gadget. “I was thrilled beyond belief! I was very surprised and felt extremely blessed. It was a pretty awesome thing that students at other schools definitely envied as well.” Jimmy Dale, who chose to get an iPhone, was at least partially convinced to attend La Sierra because of this. “It actually made me think highly of La Sierra and, believe it or not, it factored into my college decision.”

Since the time the announcement was made, the hype has not died down. Freshmen continue to be grateful to the university for giving them such a generous gift. Additionally, the fact that it was free and would not affect tuition was a bonus cited by many people. La Sierra University aims to “recruit and educate students interested in reaching for new heights of their potential.” Providing them with a tool that encourages that to happen is indeed an excellent place to begin. For more information contact Student Life or visit www.lasierra.edu/iphone.

by Natalie Sayegh





REFORM

HOUSE PASSES HEALTHCARE BILL BRINGS NATIONALIZED HEALTHCARE ONE STEP CLOSER

Whether or not you have health insurance right now, the reforms we seek will bring stability and security that you don't have today. This isn't about politics. This is about people's lives. This is about people's businesses. This is about our future.

— President
Barack Obama

by Israel Carreon

A new health care bill was passed in the House of Representatives, 220-215, on November 8th, bring some closure on the debate of nationalizing healthcare. This new health care reform bill will include drastic changes in the current system, such as requiring all employers to provide health insurances for their workers and also establishing the choice for public health insurances to contend with private insurers. Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, was one of the primary leaders in the passing of the bill. After the close of the vote, Pelosi gave the statement,

“That was easy.”

The argument over health care has been the cause of major party divides in our country, due to disagreements whether the government should take care of its citizens or if its citizens should take care of themselves. The idea for the bill was birthed in 1943 with the help of Sen. Ted Kennedy, along other senators. Throughout the decades of debate on this issue, this is the closest we've come to the passing of a healthcare reform bill passing since the Clinton Administration. With this victory, the Democrats plan to push forward in health care reform, aiming for the bill to be signed into law by President Barack Obama by the 2009 year's end.

President Obama has had plans for health care reform since his days campaigning for the presidency. With this new bill being pass, it is a huge step forward in completing one of his many campaign promises. However, it's still a long road for the Democrats to work out every minute detail in the bill itself. Opposing Republicans also are one of the major roadblocks on this issue, clinging to the notion that a public option will bring the fall of privative insurances and hinder the American people by the increase of taxes nationwide. If President Obama's plan were to come into a reality, the cost of his plan would be a little under \$900 billion, covering over 36 million who are without some kind of health insurance, saying, “Whether or not you have health insurance right now, the reforms we seek will bring stability and security that you don't have today. This isn't about politics. This is about people's lives. This is about people's businesses. This is about our future.”

Understanding the Goal

No matter where one stands, understanding what President Obama's goals for the country is very important. As stated on the White House website, President Obama's plan is to cover health insurance for all Americans. The Obama administration carefully outlines its goals for all to read on the White House website which gives the breakdown to every citizen depending on their current situation. Those who already have a pre-existing plan are allowed to keep their insurance, but those who are

without, the government would cover medical costs.

Citizens with Existing Health Insurances

- 1. Putting a stop to intolerance against citizens with pre-existing conditions.** Under the new bill, it will be against the law for insurance companies to reject coverage for health reasons or risks. If a person already has a previous health condition, such as high blood pressure or diabetes, under no circumstances can insurances turn away a client due to these pre-existing conditions.
- 2. Lifts the “age and gender factor” when applying for premiums and other health insurance coverage.** President Obama's plan for health care will lift the ban of private insurers' practices of billing other premiums or rejecting coverage relying on gender or age. This also includes the limit on premium deviation.
- 3. Stops insurance corporations from dropping their coverage when a citizens' health turns for the worse.** There have been many cases where a patient is not covered by their insurance due to unforeseen illnesses, unexpected accidents, or any medical condition that are not covered by the current policy. This bill will cover all medical problems despite which plan a patient has.

Citizens without Existing or any Health Insurance

- 1. Will allow people with existing plans to evaluate other plans with the option of choosing another plan at a competitive price.** If a citizen is content with the plan they currently have, they are allowed to keep it. One also has the option to swap for a different one for a more affordable price. Citizens who lose, change, move jobs will also be allowed to choose an affordable health insurance plan.
- 2. Provides many health insurance choices for those who are not covered or cannot find inexpensive coverage.** With this plan into action it will in turn encourage competition among all insurance companies allowing citizens to freely choose which coverage suits them best.
- 3. No extra fee for those who have a pre-existing condition, making all available coverage accessible to everyone.** If a citizen is not granted coverage because of a pre-existing medical condition, the passing of this new plan will allow all forms of coverage available without an extra cost.

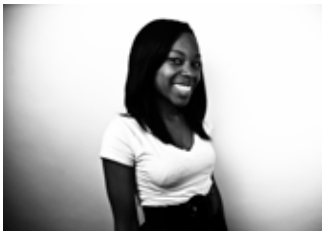
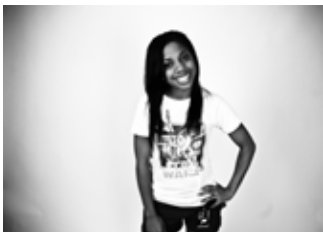
With the passing of this bill, there are many doubts if it will bring stability to our current health care system.

Many question the logistics of the bill itself. Many conservatives are strongly against the bill. Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan made the statement, “This is perhaps the worst bill I have seen come to the floor in my 11 years in Congress.”

By allowing the government to offer public health insurances, many Republicans fear it will bring the fall of a capital system. If everyone were to choose a free public policy, competition will be almost non-existent, theorizing the collapse of capitalism. The cost of the bill will loom around \$900 billion, which will increase taxes. An increase of taxes will also mean the cutting of certain programs. There will also be an increase on citizens who make over \$500,000 and over in revenue per year adding a 1% tax rise. The concern of quality service is growing as well. The possibility of the patient to doctor ratio will rise, possibly resulting in an inflexibility of balanced treatment.

However, nothing is set in stone. The bill still needs to go through Senate legislation, which is now resting on the shoulders of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who still in need to reach 60 votes in order to make its timeline goal for Christmas of 2009. President Obama is hopeful though. Urging Capitol Hill in the need of reform, gave the statement, “Thanks to the House, we are just two steps away from achieving health insurance reforming in America. Now the United States Senate must follow suit and pass its version of legislation. I am absolutely confident it will, and I look forward to signing comprehensive health insurance reform into law by the end of the year.”





2009-2010 SENATE

**not pictured
Jason Slater
Monique Gramling*

ELECTION AND INDUCTION CEREMONY

by Carlos Casiano & David Harris



ELECTION

Each year, the student government of La Sierra University undergoes a transformation. It becomes a new and distinct unit, empowered by the students and entrusted to make the campus a better place.

The process began last spring when the students elected the new officers of the Student Association of La Sierra University for the current year. However, the student government does not rely solely on the work of the officers.

In the fall the students of La Sierra University gathered to elect their senators, who will work with the SALSU officers to address the general needs and wishes of the student body.

This year saw a considerable number of students applying for positions in the Senate. The applicants put in bids for positions on various committees, each of which is charged with working on particular issues concerning the student body. The end of the application process saw several seats with multiple applicants.

The actual voting process began with the primary election on October 15, which became necessary due to the number of applicants for some positions, particularly seats on the social committee. Ballots were handed out during Breakouts. At lunch, SALSU officers set up a booth outside the Student Center where students could vote.

By the end of the day, the final senatorial candidates had been selected, and the election moved on to its next stage.

In the days leading up to the general election, some of the candidates used campaigning to make themselves better known to the students. Posters began to pepper walls around campus, and a personal campaign pitch occasionally interrupted meals in the cafeteria. Other candidates chose to remain more low-key, either out of a healthy amount of self-confidence or for some other reason of their choosing.

Election day was Thursday, October 22nd. Several hundred students filed into the La Sierra University Church for University Worship. The students received the ballots as they walked in and returned them on the way out. Within an hour, the votes for the new senators had been cast, and the ballots were handed over to the SALSU officers.

The officers quickly got to work counting the ballots. There was a distinct sense of excitement in the SALSU office, especially as the results began to come in. Samuel Limbong, president of SALSU for the 2009-2010 year, described the general feeling in the office the afternoon of the election.

“I was ecstatic about the whole Senate election process, and so were the rest of the officers,” he said. “We know that the success of this year’s events and activities depends largely on the level of dedication and commitment of the senators, and we couldn’t wait to meet them.”

The SALSU officers and senators will be working closely together throughout the year to improve student wellness on campus. Each senator will serve on a specific committee that is headed by a SALSU officer. Although it is hard work at times, the senators are encouraged to work in areas where they feel they can be of most help.

Christina Thompson, the SALSU director for Collegiate Advocates for Better Living (CABL) and head of the Wellness Committee, said that she was looking forward to working with the senators on her committee, whose role it is to help plan and implement different activities for students.

J. Murdock, the SALSU Religious Vice President and head of the Religious Committee, also described the role of senators on his committee. They are required to attend a weekly meeting before 4th Down with several other students on the committee. Rather than simply being told what to do for each event, they are asked how they would like to help and are allowed to work individually.

The ballot counting continued, with each officer counting a certain number ballots and then inserting the results into Excel, which tallied the results as they were put in. As the counting began to draw to a close, the excitement in the SALSU office began to build. Some of the races were especially close, and the results were not evident until the computer had finished running all the results. It was not an election of landslides.

Once the final results were in, the officers began the process of calling those who had been elected, as well as those who would have to wait for another day, to inform them of the results of the election.

“I was nervous,” said Courtney Young, who was elected as a senator on the Social Committee. That all changed when she received the phone call telling her that she had won. “I was really excited and happy and started yelling,” she said.

Before the end of the night, the 2009-2010 Student Senate was in place.

“I was really excited and happy and started yelling.”

INDUCTION

Friday October 23, the SALSU officers along with President Wisbey and members Student Life gathered in the Cactus Room for the first ever SALSU senate induction. Nineteen of the twenty newly elected senators were in attendance. Five of the senators were appointed during club council; the other fifteen were elected the previous day. This year's freshmen class is extremely well represented. Each committee has a seat reserved for freshmen (5 seats out of 20 available), but this year three committees have multiple freshmen (9 seats taken out of 20 total).

SALSU Executive Vice President Jonathan Finau began the ceremony by welcoming everyone to the first ever SALSU senate induction. In previous years senators have been elected and immediately got started on their work with their committee. This year Finau wanted to let the senators know how special they are and important their job is. By being sworn into office the senators are making a promise to the students of La Sierra. They will keep the best interests of the students in mind while protecting, preserving, and defending the constitution of La Sierra University. Finau hopes that this will become a tradition in order to emphasize the importance of senators. Religious Vice President J. Murdock opened with prayer.

After an introduction by SALSU President Samuel Limbong, University President Randal Wisbey got up to address the new senators. In his message Wisbey read a passage from 1 Thessalonians 2. He challenged the senators to follow Paul's words from verses 6-8:

“We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. ⁸We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.”

Sharing the good news and life as well as being open and available to students is what being a senator is all about. Wisbey encouraged the new senators to take a cue from last year's group. They did an excellent job at collaborating with other groups on campus (i.e. working with security to get the fence around campus) and delegating the responsibilities fairly.

Then President Limbong and the Committee chairs each had a quick message for the new senators. They all thanked the senators for their commitment. They also made sure the senators knew that they would work. The senators were challenged to amplify the voices of the student body so appropriate changes could be made.

After the senators collectively took the oath of office, they got up, one by one, to shake hands with their committee chair, President Wisbey, Yami Bazan, and President Limbong. Each senator received a personalized folder with their name and seat number. The folder contained a copy of the university constitution, so the senators would have a point of

reference as they made decisions throughout the year.

Even the SALSU officers who aren't committee chairs emphasized the importance of senators. Alix Lopez emphasized that there are only ten SALSU officers, only twenty hands and twenty ears. But having twenty senators triples the number of voices heard and the amount of work that can be done.

Financial Vice President Cindy Sihotang remembered getting her start as a freshmen senator on the judicial committee two years ago. She remembers not only changing the balance of power among SALSU officers, but also being introduced to what SALSU does. At the end of the year she decided to run for office and has been FVP ever since.

The senators were seated by committee. They didn't waste any time getting to work. As they ate lunch they set up meeting times, exchanged contact information, and began brainstorming about what they wanted to do. Religious committee senators Germeen Yousry and Christy Solis have been hard at work helping to organize 4th Down. SALSU Social Vice President Kendall Hester immediately put the Social Committee to work. In their short time in office, the senators have already helped out at multiple SALSU events, made calls to people about the talent show, and starred in a PR video for Costume Skate Night (youtube.com/salsupr). The other committees have been meeting and discussing their plans to make this year the best possible.

SALSU Senators 2009-2010

Judicial Committee

Seat # 1: Israel Carreon*	Seat # 4: Monique Gramling
Seat # 2: Natalie Sayegh*	Seat # 5: Jesus Rodriguez
Seat # 3: Jason Slater	

Emerging Issues Committee

Seat # 6: Kaleb Lane	Seat # 9: Christopher Kaatz
Seat # 7: Ivan Rybkin*	Seat # 10: Jennifer Orrala
Seat # 8: Jestine Le	

Social Committee

Seat # 11: Brianna Jones	Seat # 14: Kyim Mung
Seat # 12: Carl Nolasco*	Seat # 15: Aubrey Ferguson
Seat # 13: Courtney Young	

Wellness Committee

Seat # 16: Charles Meighan
Seat # 17: Jeremy Baroi*
Seat # 18: Joanna Tampubolon

Religious Committee

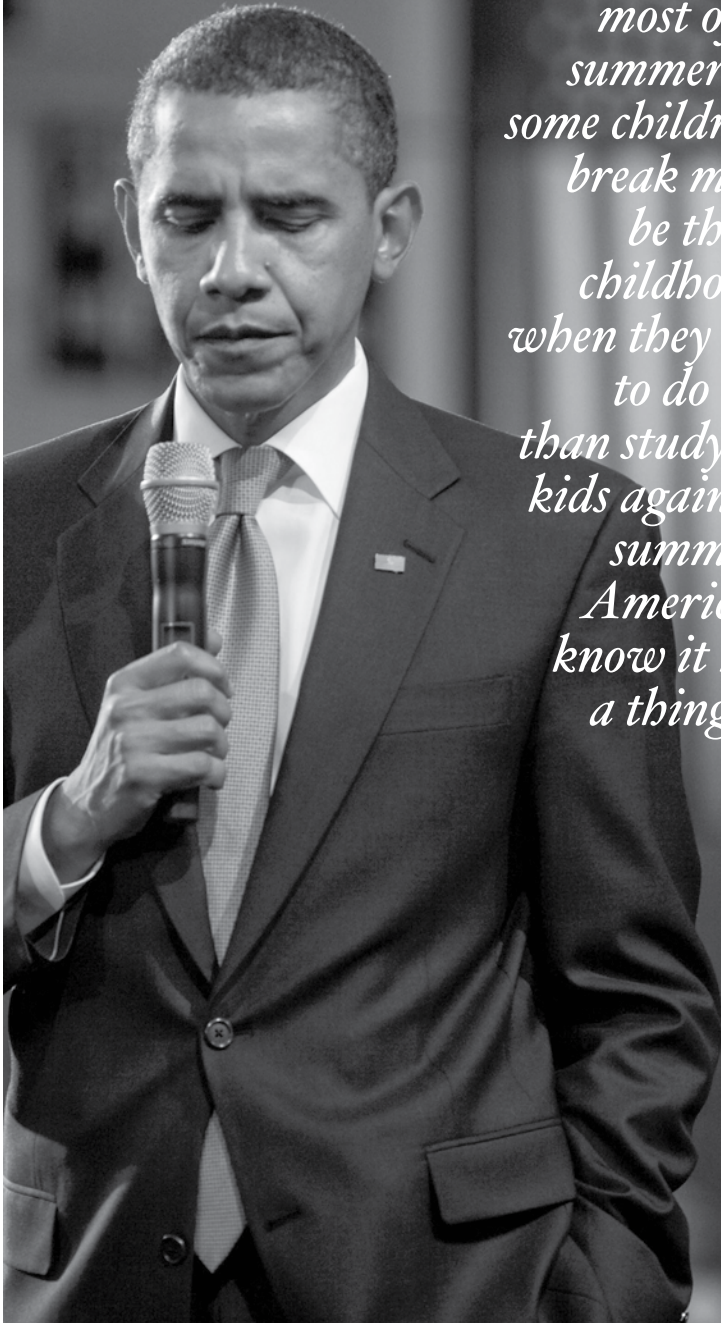
Seat # 19: Christy Solis
Seat # 20: Germeen Yousry

*senator was selected during club council

THE SUMMER BUMMER

It is probably safe to say that American students, at least most of them, love summer break. For some children, summer break might as well be the epitome of childhood, the time when they are allowed to do things other than study and just be kids again. However, summer break, as American students know it may soon be a thing of the past.

—
by Carlos Casiano



Toward the end of last summer, concern began to grow that President Obama would push for new education reform; more specifically, that he would push for adding time to the academic school year. Summer break quickly became the theme of several news reports as well as angry YouTube rants from disgruntled students. However, though the media attention toward extending the academic year intensified near the end of summer, the idea itself has been around for some time.

President Obama mentioned adjusting the academic year in a speech to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on March 10 of this year. “I’m calling for us not only to expand effective after-school programs, but to rethink the school day to incorporate more time,” he said, adding that this could include both having school meet during the summer and expanding the typical school day, particularly for students who need additional help.

Arne Duncan, the U.S. Secretary of Education, shares President Obama’s views. “I think time is one of those big things where we can dramatically improve student achievement,” he said in a news interview earlier this year. “We can be much more creative in our use of time, thinking of longer days, longer weeks, and longer years.”

Both President Obama and Secretary Duncan said that the structure of the school year in the U.S. is no longer good enough for the modern American education system. The original concept of summer break was largely influenced by the agrarian calendar. By and large, most U.S. students no longer require a long summer break to help out on the family farm.

There is some concern in the education system that students in the U.S. are falling behind their peers in other countries around the world. “There are many countries where students are going to school 25-30 percent more than we are,” Secretary Duncan said. “I think our children are at a competitive disadvantage.” Secretary Duncan argues that with U.S. students spending less time in school, it is becoming increasingly difficult to compete with students in countries that have longer school years. But is the U.S. education system losing its place at the head of the pack? According to some of the most recent research, the answer is yes.

The National Center for Education Statistics, working with the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences, recently released an international education assessment for 2009. The assessment uses international test results from the last few years to compare students in the U.S. to those in other countries in the areas of reading, math, and science. According to the 2009 report, while the U.S. has not necessarily fallen behind the rest of the world in education, it certainly is not leading it.

The report found that the test results for U.S. students in grades four and eight have either remained relatively constant or have improved slightly in the last few years. However, results for 15-year-old students in the U.S. showed that average test scores have either remained the same or decreased, particularly in the areas of math and science. Even if the test results have remained the same, they have not been able to compete with the improving scores of other countries; students in several Asian and European countries have outperformed American students in the last few years.

Although many Americans now believe that something should be done, it is difficult to reach a consensus on exactly what to do, as is often the case when dealing with political issues. Some U.S. schools have experimented with longer schedules, producing mixed results. For example, the Massachusetts Extended Learning Time Initiative, which began in 2006 and added approximately two hours per school day, has produced improved test scores and is considered by many to be a model education program. On the other hand, a similar program in Florida called the Miami-Dade County School Improvement Zone was not so successful. In its final evaluation released in May, the evaluation director said that the program had little positive impact, and what impact it did have was comparable to that of other, less extreme programs.

Others call for more conservative reforms, or object to major reforms altogether. Some argue that summer break is an important time for many students, especially at a time when job and internship experience is becoming ever more important to succeed in the future.

President Obama recognized that the idea of adding more school time would not be very popular, tying it to his own family. “Now, I know longer school days and school years are not wildly popular ideas,” he said. “Not with Malia and Sasha, not in my family, and probably not in yours. But the challenges of a new century demand more time in the classroom.” Secretary Duncan also continues to stand by the need for more school time. He was asked how many months of school would be right for U.S. students. “Thirteen,” he replied.

If and when summer break will be cut short is still uncertain, as the Obama Administration appears to have plenty of issues on the table as it is. However, education reform is on the agenda. Although longer school days and years may not be the most appealing idea, perhaps a few more hours, days or weeks in school wouldn’t hurt. Ultimately, it might even be necessary—just as long as it’s not thirteen months.

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A LOOK INTO LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY'S RETURN RATE

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL
SCREAM FOR... LA SIERRA?

by Shantal Gonzalez



Many will agree that there needn't be an occasion or hot day to enjoy a wonderfully delectable scoop of ice cream.

Day or night, summer or winter, ice cream is surely a treat that deserves to be cherished year-round. What makes for an even more mouthwatering scoop is the variation of delicious ingredients. Everything from chocolates, cereal, fruit, syrups and cookie chunks adorn the tops of the best ice cream flavors in the world. The jingle "I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream" surely holds truth in the sense that people everywhere can't get enough of this creamy and sweetly satisfying dessert.

In a sense, each college campus can be viewed as a uniquely different flavor of this frozen treat. Just as ice cream brings an array of flavors to choose from, so there are numerous colleges of which to attend. Therefore the true question is: what flavor can La Sierra University claim? Is it labeled as the weirdly colored and oddly flavored kind that hardly, if ever, gets requested? Or the one filled with indulgent delicacies that seem to have everyone asking for more?

This school year, the freshman class of LSU is 348 students strong! This 12.2% increase from the previous year proclaims that La Sierra has become a more attractive option for graduating seniors. However, La Sierra's attention cannot be entirely focused on incoming students. Sure, this school might be an appealing ice cream flavor that many people want to try, but is it one of the favorites that people just can't get enough of?

According to stateuniversity.com, roughly 59% of La Sierra's students are retained each year. While this staggering number seems nothing less than failure, return rates are hardly ever 100%. A report by U.S. News stated that "as many as 1 in 3 first-year students don't make it back for sophomore year." Of course, reasons for not returning range from financial situations, personal struggles, loneliness, and academic problems to overall dissatisfaction with certain collegiate atmospheres. However, the question remains: how can this university experience at La Sierra University be one that more students will want to be a part of the following year?

Knowing the retention rate for a school is useful, but only by comparing rates to other universities can this information be truly helpful. The norm for a school's retention rate can be found by looking at other universities with many of the same qualities. For comparison of La Sierra's 59% retention rate, this would include other private Christian campuses in the surrounding area. Azusa Pacific University, a private university roughly 35 miles from LSU, has about 79% of its students returning each year. Similarly, California Baptist University, which is right up the street and nearly 78% of their students come back for their next school year.

One could say that LSU is a small Seventh-day Adventist university, in which case comparing it to campuses with more students and resources is not fair. Thus, sister schools of La Sierra will also be discussed. According to stateuniversity.com, Walla Walla University in Washington has a retention rate of 72%. Southern Adventist University is at about 70%, while Pacific Union College trails not too far behind with 68% of their students coming back the following year. With many other SDA schools boasting an average of roughly 70% students returning for their next year, what can account for a mere 59% from La Sierra University?

Many will excuse this low retention rate due to the fact that several students enrolled at La Sierra are a part of pre-professional programs that transfer after a few years. For this reason, retention rates of freshmen alone can be analyzed to see how many first-year students decide to return to LSU for another year. In this manner, the news feature provided by U.S. News shows which colleges can actually claim to be an ice cream flavor that has everyone on their knees begging for more, along with those that don't even get a second taste. Putting aside the most popular Cal Poly at 90% and Long Beach State at 85%, other private universities shall once again be used as comparison. At California Baptist University, 83% of their freshmen come back enrolled and ready for their sophomore year. Taking into consideration other Adventist campuses, Walla Walla University, at 71%, is doing a respectable job in ensuring an enjoyable experience for their students. La Sierra is found much farther down the list with a jarring 63% of freshmen returning for their sophomore year.

Reasons for leaving LSU vary from student to student, but there are countless ways to increase the number of returning students and expose the true greatness of La Sierra.

With the economy in its fragile state and many families scrambling to get their bills paid, it is no wonder that finances are one of the most common reasons for students not returning to private and more expensive universities. At the beginning of each year, the chatter begins as students venture to find the reasons for the absence of countless students that are no longer in attendance. As rumors fly, financial struggles always seem to be at the head of every other conversation. Private education is increasingly expensive and the financial office may not always seem willing to help find financial support for their students, as many distressed students have acknowledged. Year after year, lack of funds has been a huge factor in many students' inability to return to private campuses. La Sierra is no exception. To help counter this, each student should exhaust all possibilities of finding grants and scholarships as they don't come easy. However, both students and parents should begin to plan and save for college before the day comes to start packing bags to move in to the dorms. College is an investment, and it is important to know how the financial situation will be handled prior to receiving a bill in the mail and immediately thinking of transferring to city colleges.



Overall satisfaction of college life was another big issue that many students have voiced concerns about. With so many of La Sierra's students living within reasonable driving distance to LSU, a major complaint is that there is nobody on campus to socialize with, especially over the weekends. This poses a dilemma for both students and the university because there is no point in creating activities for the few people on campus. However, the Office of Student Association does their best to ensure that some activity is going on to entertain those that stay on campus. But, even during school days, despite the hustle and bustle of getting to class or meeting in the cafeteria for a meal, La Sierra's campus can seem to lack liveliness as many students go home or hide in their dorms after classes. Though homework and studying for tests is pertinent, communion with other students outside of one's group of friends is what enriches the college experience. Thus, being socially active is a two way street between school and student. There are many activities available for students to participate in all throughout the year, as long as students take the step forward and get involved. Unfortunately, clubs and SALSU have many events throughout the year with few attendees. Laziness is an all-too-common problem for students which leads them to reason that there is nothing "fun" to do.

Though La Sierra University may not suit everyone's taste, the fact that only 59% of its students feel that this private Christian university is the best place for them to be shows that something has gone awry. LSU is

nowhere near perfect but this university is overflowing with exceptional qualities that many students fail to take note of. The diversity on this campus is one of the aspects that truly make this campus a jewel to behold. According to the La Sierra student handbook, "Diversity encompasses differences in age, color, ethnicity, gender, national origin, disability or handicap, race, religion, socioeconomic background, or unique individual style." By taking a quick stroll around La Sierra's campus, this statement will ring true. Every student, faculty and staff personnel found on this campus exemplifies uniqueness.

Moreover, one of the advantages to being a part of a small private school is the atmosphere. The drive for excellence is felt by many students while the teachers are there to ensure that goals are met. La Sierra is a caring community that unites to ensure the scholastic and spiritual success of every individual. However, LSU's efforts must now be directed towards encompassing every student, not only 59% of them. If each student does not feel a part of the La Sierra family, all efforts are anything but constructive.

Today, each and every person that considers themselves part of the La Sierra University campus must take action. The school itself needs to do everything in its power to further the success of this college. However, students must also do their part to make this university experience one that surpasses all others. La Sierra has the potential to be a flavor of ice cream that both students and staff can't get enough of, one that will boast no difficulty in bringing students back for more!



TRUE

A black, textured Bible cover is shown against a light background. The words "HOLY BIBLE" are printed in white, serif, all-caps font on the upper half of the cover. Overlaid on the lower half of the cover is the word "FAITH" in a large, bold, orange, sans-serif, all-caps font. The Bible cover has rounded corners and a slightly worn appearance.

HOLY BIBLE

FAITH

THE EVOLUTION OF A CONTROVERSY

With a modest 1,250 copies printed, it is clear that publishers did not anticipate the impact that Charles Darwin's eventually ground-breaking book, **On the Origin of Species**, would have on the scientific community.

by Nick Smith

Not only were Darwin's ideas regarding the evolutionary process new to scientific study, they were radical ideas that eventually seized the minds of both academics and laity, together, transitioning into a formidable alternative explanation to the creationist perspective.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has adopted 28 fundamental beliefs, which outline the truths that define our church. La Sierra University (LSU) is an institution that recognizes these beliefs as its foundation for Christian education. According to a recent statement, voted on by the LSU Board of Trustees, "[We are] fully mindful of La Sierra University's responsibilities and commitments as a Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher education. This includes whole-hearted support for the doctrines and teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as defined by the 28 Statements of Fundamental Beliefs."

Despite such profound support for these basic truths, questions have still been raised regarding the school's commitment to Seventh-day Adventist ideals, specifically drawing attention to the commitment, or perhaps lack of commitment, of specific professors in our Biology Department.

The evolution debacle involving the Biology Department witnessed its compelling foundation when a website, LaSierraUniversity.net, was anonymously created as a voice, speaking out against La Sierra University—specifically the Biology Department—calling for immediate action to be taken in resolving the issue of a supposed corrupted faculty. This is not to say that the issues brought forth by this anonymous person or entity was new to our local, or even our national, academic community. Issues taken up with specific educators and academic administrations altogether, especially within our Adventist institutions of higher learning, predates recent memory. For example, when

referring to this compelling foundation, a comparison should be drawn between the establishment of LaSierraUniversity.net and perhaps the inciting incident of a short story within an anthology of similar texts—all of which, if we are to compare such texts with reformative objectives, reflect a widespread theme of academic restructuring.

Jared Wright, a graduate student at La Sierra University and avid researcher of and published author devoted to this issue, explains the historical significance of this debate. "The Adventist Church has a long and ugly history of assaults on institutes of higher education. Andrews University, Southern Adventist University, Pacific Union College, and Walla Walla University all have endured nasty attacks on faculty members going as far back as 1938."

LaSierraUniversity.net served as a platform from which letters and emails regarding the concern of how evolution was being taught at La Sierra University could be viewed on the World Wide Web, and thus available to the global Adventist community. At what exact juncture in the progression of growing thought on this controversy David Asscherick became involved is unclear. But at some point following the publication of these letters and emails, Asscherick, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor and the director of Arise Institute (an organization committed to training evangelists for the field of ministry), having read the testimonials of these still unknown persons, decided to take action, but in a more profound way.

Asscherick began writing letters to Jan Paulsen (President of the General Conference), Don Schneider (President of the North American Division), and Ricardo Graham (President of the Pacific Union Conference) in the hopes that something would be done to resolve the problem. While such letters were

not intended to be made public, computer mice were soon clicking and keys tapping in households across the country—the online community was abuzz as that dreaded ‘forward’ button was utilized so efficiently. Dr. Sean Pitman, a graduate of Loma Linda University and guest-lecturer at LSU on creationist thought on multiple occasions, began educating himself on the topic a few years ago. Like Pastor Asscherick, Pitman wrote letters to the higher-ups in the Adventist Church, seeking a direct resolution to the growing concern.

The responses that Asscherick and Pitman received from these correspondents did little to resolve the issue; in fact, they very well could have made the situation worse. General Conference President, Jan Paulson, even though he later put out a statement affirming the Church’s support for the 28 fundamental beliefs, could do little to remedy the issue. “My only suggestion to you would be to take up this matter with Dr. Randal Wisbey, whom I know to be a fine, upright, and approachable person. He may be able to articulate to you, clearer than I can, how the University views this matter and how they plan to address it.”

One must understand that the purpose of the letters to begin with was to call for an intervention. Concerns raised directly to the faculty in question as well as concerns brought forth to Administration seemed to do little for those who felt uncomfortable during class discussions—class lectures and syllabi seemed to remain debatably biased towards an evolutionary explanation of origins. The stagnation following discussions with constituents involved with this issue (including LSU President, Dr. Randal Wisbey and biology professor, Dr. Lee Greer) appeared to only result in a reaffirmation, by Administration, of the school’s commitment to Seventh-day Adventist principles.

So, one could understand why the cries for reform only grew louder when public statements were made that neglected to necessarily call for immediate action. Such statements reiterated the importance of a well-rounded scientific education, presenting both creationist and evolutionary interpretations. A response from Pacific Union Conference President, Ricardo Graham, expressed what many others have subsequently expressed with regards to the sciences at La Sierra; that a presentation of both creationist and evolutionist perspectives is imperative within the science classes if we are to educate students “to think for themselves” and to be able to compete in a rigorous professional setting.

“If you continue to defend an employee, that is blatantly contradicting a fundamental belief of an organization, you could possibly end up dragging the whole institution down.”

Many students I have spoken with agree with Graham on this issue. “The purpose of a college education is to broaden one’s understanding of the world,” says Charles Schoepflin, a senior double majoring in Biophysics and Psychobiology. “When we omit valuable topics of discussion from our classrooms, we only serve to stunt our own intellectual growth. We cannot assume that these topics will disappear if we omit them from our classroom. If we truly want an education, we need to be open to all possibilities and confront them with our own set of beliefs and values.”

According to Shane Hilde, founder and moderator of EducateTruth.com—the leading offensive outlet for initiates such as Asscherick and Pitman—the problem in the Biology Department is misrepresentation. “This is simply an issue of an employee misrepresenting an employer,” says Hilde, “If you continue to defend an employee, that is blatantly contradicting a fundamental belief of an organization, you could possibly end up dragging the whole institution down.”

In response to the apparent lack of a response, these advocates for change made a call for drastic measures to be taken, including, but not limited to, an implied call for immediate termination of faculty. Tactics escalated when, on Alumni Sabbath of last year, Louie Bishop, among others, attempted to hand out pamphlets informing constituents of the situation. “I felt [the alumni] has a right to know what La Sierra’s classroom stance is regarding the origin of life. After all, that is what they are investing their money in.” Additionally, many used LaSierraUniversity.net as a forum for discussion on this topic. Shortly after its creation, however, LaSierraUniversity.net ran into some trouble regarding its domain name. The administrator of the site did not have legal permission to use the school’s name for their site.

Needless to say, this online conglomerate of testimonials, leaked personal contacts, and other related articles, was shut down due to copyright infringement. Hilde, a 2005 graduate of La Sierra University and current high school English teacher at Banning High School, was a frequent visitor to the .net website. Periodically, Hilde encouraged the still unspecified administrator of the website to make him/herself known so as to accrue more leverage in their objective. So, after they were shut down, Hilde was motivated to create and moderate a new website to act as a unified platform from which Seventh-day Adventists could push for transparency, that is, “full disclosure” of what exactly was being taught in the biology classrooms. This was the birth of EducateTruth.com. The site was launched on June 2, 2009, and has served as the central channel through which such proponents of academic transparency can express their ideas.

On this new website, Hilde opened up an online petition calling for 10,000 signatures in a mass call

for full disclosure. The petition spread like a wildfire, utilizing Facebook and email, providing a link to the EducateTruth.com website and calling for constituents to sign the petition. This lobby of sorts has never had any real decisive role in how LSU should handle the issue; but Hilde set it up, anticipating a long list of names that he could then present to President Wisbey and the rest of the Board of Trustees at their next meeting on November 12, 2009. As the Trustees gathered on the 12th, and after this petition had roughly 5,950 unduplicated signatures, it was presented to the meeting. A copy of the petition along with a list of all the names that appeared on it was subsequently given to each Trustee as they deliberated on a plan of action. “One of the things that I most want as the President of La Sierra University,” explains Dr. Wisbey, “is to make sure that all voices are heard, and that we are respectful in sharing our opinions, as well.”

When we read about some of the accusations made by students like Carlos Cerna and Louie Bishop involving scholastic methods within the Biology Department, it may seem fitting to conclude that there is a problem that needs to be promptly addressed. Bishop, a graduate of UC Davis and current student at La Sierra University pursuing a career in medicine, has contributed much to this discussion of what needs to change, if anything. “The Biology Department at La Sierra University,” Louie says, “is currently promoting the theory of Darwinian evolution over and above the recent and literal six-day creation model held to by the SDA community at large.”

Bishop has become one of the most audible voices in the demand for change in certain Biology professors’ curriculum. Using Dr. Sean Pitman’s expertise with regards to scientific data along with his own passionate devotion to the Biblical principles at the heart of this issue, Bishop has worked to ensure a clear understanding of scripture and its relevance to scientific study remains focal in this discussion. “The idea that Biblical Creation Science doesn’t have sufficient supporting scientific evidence is simply a myth,” says Bishop, who not only attended Dr. Pitman’s presentations on creationism in Hole Memorial Auditorium in February, but also helped facilitate it by helping arrange the last minute presentation as a counteraction to the supposed evolutionary bias presented in the classrooms.

The general theme coursing through all the heated arguments, letters, emails, and even videos is that as an Adventist institution, La Sierra University has an obligation and expectation to present science in the classroom from a perspective that is consistent with the Biblical principle of a literal, recent six-day creation. According to Hilde and several others, a few of the biology professors are, and have been, presenting material in such a way that contradicts the University’s commitment as an Adventist institution of higher education to the fundamental beliefs of the Church,

specifically to the sixth doctrine regarding creation. Fundamental belief #6 states:

God is Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic account of His creative activity. In six days the Lord made “the heaven and the earth” and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of His completed creative work. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was “very good,” declaring the glory of God.

—(Gen. 1:2; Ex. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Heb. 11:3).

How exactly should science be presented in the classroom? There are many opposed attitudes on just how science should be delivered in an institution such as ours—there are those who have held that the idea of a literal, recent, six-day creation is a faith-based concept, not a science; and thus, the concept has no place in a biology classroom. There is definitely merit in this argument. They contend that our belief in a six-day creation week is just that—a belief. As Adventists, we accept this to be truth, but there is an obvious lack of empirical evidence that shows God created our world in six literal days. To say that one can defend the theory of “intelligent design” by evidentiary proof is an entirely different concept altogether; and all of the biology professors on campus would be the first to acknowledge the merit of this theory.

“When you study things up close on the cell molecular level, you really gain a deeper appreciation for God’s creation.”

But almost everyone I have spoken with on this issue has expressed the importance of a well-balanced presentation of both points of view. And a good number of those students who have weighed in, have also said that they haven’t taken issue with the methods in which the biology professors have presented the material. “I’ve heard what has been said about the biology professors, and honestly, I do not see that,” says Samuel Limbong, a senior Biology major. “I mean, when you study things up close on the cell molecular level, you really gain a deeper appreciation for God’s creation. The more I studied it, the more I appreciated it.”

There are those who defend the presentation of evolution, as they try and explain why some students might misunderstand the objectives of the teachers in conjunction with the school’s mission concerning this issue, which is stated as such: “We, along with Seventh-day Adventist parents, expect students to receive a thorough, balanced, and scientifically rigorous exposure to and affirmation of our historic

belief in a literal, recent six-day creation, even as they are educated to understand and assess competing philosophies of origins that dominate scientific discussion in the contemporary world.”

So, the question remains: How can we “understand and assess” mainstream scientific perspectives if the merits of such perspectives are not presented in class? This has been the argument from a number of students and faculty—how can students learn to think for themselves with regards to the origins of life, or in all facets of academia for that matter, if a large population of students coming to La Sierra have previously been over exposed to a rather limited creationist perspective in the scientific field of study? “All of our biology classes in the North American Division expect our students, not only to be introduced to the theory of evolution, but to interact with it,” explains Dr. Wisbey, “The examinations that they must take in order to graduate—those are standardized tests—they have to be able to deal with all of the issues that they were to have studied during their biology courses here at La Sierra.”

But based on the discussions we have heard, it is safe to conclude that a balance should exist between time and energy spent teaching both creation and evolution. Differing opinions have been voiced as to the effectiveness of the teaching methods with regards to science classes on campus. But the fact still remains that there are some (arguably a minority) who have sat through lectures by our biology professors and have felt a digression from the truth of the Biblical creation week, regardless of what the professors believe to be true. Given these facts, La Sierra University is faced with a few options as how to best handle the situation, taking into account the consequences of these actions. This, however, is no simple task. When asked how he would deal with the problem, the administrator of the petition itself, Shane Hilde had no insight. “If they’re not being responsible to the organization they are being employed under,” says Hilde, “you have to start taking measures to ensure that that happens. I don’t know what those measures are; I’m not in that position.”

“The examinations that they must take in order to graduate—those are standardized tests—they have to be able to deal with all of the issues that they were to have studied during their biology courses here at La Sierra.”

La Sierra Administration could take no action at all. But sheer inaction could see further damage done to an already blemished reputation. The La Sierra “witch hunt,” as it has been referred, would most likely continue to open fire on the Biology Department until action was taken, or until such barraging saw the demise of LSU

altogether. Administration could give in and terminate the professors in question, consequently putting a quick end to the negative publicity. But doing so—that is, openly admitting to a corrupted faculty—would surely lead to further negative attention, creating new questions of internal corruption within La Sierra’s Administration.

What La Sierra University has done (perhaps the best solution to this sensitive issue) is call for small changes to be made to the science curriculum that will allow for greater focus on the Adventist belief in a six-day creation, but still retaining an adequate exposure to other theories of scientific thought. La Sierra University has sanctioned a “study group” consisting of President Wisbey and two science faculty members from each of the Adventist colleges and universities in the North American Division, two representatives from the Geoscience Research Institute, and two representatives from the General Conference Department of Education for the purposes of conducting research to determine how best to meet students’ spiritual needs with regards to the sciences, and how to develop a curriculum that will meet those needs head on. In addition, Dr. Wisbey has met with the biology professors on numerous occasions and is pleased with the results. “It has been a very enriching experience getting to know these men and women and their incredible commitment to Adventist education and their incredible commitment to teaching these biology students.”

But are La Sierra’s efforts too little too late? Larry Becker, Executive Director of University Relations at LSU, explains the effects that the negative publicity has had on our school. “Most of what we have heard is anecdotal up to this point. Our freshmen class is up by 12% this year...We have the highest number of biology majors in 20 years. So did it hurt enrollment? That’s hard to say. Probably not this year.” Becker did go on to say that some of our recruiters have been getting questions from prospective students regarding this issue. University Relations has been working with the recruiters, as well as with Dr. Wisbey, on proper ways of addressing these sensitive questions.

But we cannot measure success through numbers when it comes to this issue. Success is measured by the way in which our institution executes the education process in preparing young minds for what the world has to offer them, while still staying true to what we know as Seventh-day Adventists to be truth. According to Ellen White, “It is the work of true education to . . . train the youth to be thinkers and not mere reflectors of other men’s thought” (Education, p. 17). Perhaps the overarching goal of our daily scholastic lives should be, not to educate truth, but to allow truth to educate us in a way that develops in us a deeper understanding of life as Christian academics.

STAR SEARCH TALENT SHOW

by Jonathan Finau



“The sound of your voice when you sang that song just makes me want to go home and hug my family,” says Pastor Sam Leonor while judging one of the fourteen performances at the La Sierra University Star Search Talent Show.

Star Search was the theme for this quarter’s talent show, which was on Thursday, November 19, 2009 at Hole Memorial Auditorium (HMA). According to Kendal Hester, SALSU Social Vice President, “The reason why ‘Star Search’ was chosen as the theme was because in the beginning of the talent show, our SALSU officers will be performing an opening act about four detectives searching for potential talents and stars.”

We’ve seen shows on television that have the same idea of looking for America’s favorite talent, dancer, or singer, such as “America’s Got Talent,” “So You Think You Can Dance,” or “American Idol,” each of which has a reputation of making one’s dream come true. This quarter’s talent show has the same reputation but is a little more special and unique. Dreams do come true, but it’s more than that. Why? Because of “DA-SNL” (which does not stand for “The Saturday Night Live”).

Diversity

Our school is known for its diverse cultures and community that makes it unique from all other universities. The acts during that night went from a jazz routine to a number of solos and duets to a group dance. When it comes to talent shows, La Sierra University does it better than any other university or show. Have you ever been to a talent show where you see so much variety? During the Star Search, acts varied from students singing their own version of a song, dancing to a contemporary or cultural routine, or strumming an instrument. It was just breathtaking to see the variety of talents that our students have. On top of the diverse talents that we have at La Sierra University comes Determination. Almost every act that went up on stage to perform had the passion and determination to show us that La Sierra had talent. This quarter all the acts had to go through a process of auditioning, callback, and dress rehearsal before the live performance. It may be a time-consuming process, but our students were determined to go through it and showcase a live performance that would be memorable.

Audience

When it comes to the talent show, the crowd is probably the craziest act even though they are not competing. There is screaming, yelling, clapping, jumping, Fa’auumu-choohoo (Polynesian way of screaming), and all sorts of crazy acts. An audience member visiting from Loma Linda, Jeremy, exclaims, “They don’t do these kinds of things at Loma Linda University, and I am telling you, La Sierra University got talent, but the crowd is way crazy

and loud. Sometimes I can’t even hear the guys up stage because the girls are just screaming out loud.” “A” may stand for Audience, but it also stands for Acts. This quarter’s talent show had 15 acts with 4 fillers. All acts were judged by our very own campus chaplain, Pastor Sam Leonor; Angwin Hall dean, Dean Vilchez; and the very talented Beverly Maravilla.

Surprises

According to Kendall Hester, this quarter’s talent show will reveal a lot of surprises, especially from our very own SALSU officers and a couple of talented students. All the acts were full of surprises and unbelievable. The SALSU officers took a huge step up and started the night with a smooth jazz routine, and the fillers, the Taylor Swift band, were just too cute to watch as Aubrey and Niiang fight over Richard’s heart. Some of the other surprises were the Richie Bricks and the 909 version of Jay Z and Alicia Keys’s “Empire State of Mind,” Pauline Dyer’s version of Corrine Bailey Rae’s “Put Your Records on,” Shiva and Kristina’s version of Lauryn Hill’s “Killing Me Softly,” Jelon’s playing a sweet but calm act on the piano, and many other acts.

Natural Talents

Everyone has talent, but it can only be shown as a true talent when it comes out naturally. After watching all the acts come together, I am truly surprised at the talents that our students have. You can just recognize how naturally it comes out because of the energy that they have as well as the energy of the audience. La Sierra likes to give everyone an opportunity: opportunity to explore life, reality, a relationship with God, and an opportunity to showcase a natural talent. That Thursday night was the right place and time to let everyone in this campus know how talented our students are.

Live

Although the “live” of Saturday Night Live is close similar, our Live is extended in terms of a live performance in front of an audience that cheers non-stop, and a show that supports the opportunity of talents around campus. Also, our live is not some celebrity performance or special guest host but a performance from La Sierra University students hosted by your student senate’s Social Committee. It’s impossible to try to explain the energy, performance, and variety of this quarter’s talent show. In addition to live performances, admission was free. The turnout number of attendants for this quarter’s talent show increased as it does every quarter, according to our dedicated seniors and super-super-super-super- seniors that have attended and participated in the talent show every quarter.

After a night of entertainment, the prizes were awarded. In 3rd place was Janelle James, who sang a cover of Sara Bareilles's "Love Song." 2nd place was awarded to the Cultural Club, who performed a variety of Tahitian, Samoan, Tongan, and African pieces, dedicating it to all the tsunami-affected islands and countries. And finally, our 1st place winner, David Ryan Harris, did an amazing mash-up of "Pretty Girl," "Free Fallin'," and "This I Promise You" with help from Brandon Pardosi.

² Timothy 4:7 says, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." On November 19, 2009 in Hole Memorial Auditorium at 8 pm, La Sierra University students fought with their talent a night of performances and surprises, finished what they fought for, and kept the faith that everyone is a winner no matter what because La Sierra has stars shining all over campus.





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THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

by *Andre Lewis*

There are few positive words that could objectively describe the La Sierra University basketball teams last year. The effort and coaching were there, but these things don't mean much if talent is lacking. With no disrespect meant to the individuals on last year's men's and women's basketball team, there is a definite talent upgrade on both squads this year giving reason for optimism for the upcoming season.

Last season the women's team had the talent, but not the wins. Last year's players such as Nerida Peever and Ashton Marez led the way for the team but only managed six wins. Although they managed to make the playoffs, they lost both games to UC Santa Cruz and Chapman University, but night after night, the effort was there.

"Even though we lost both games, it was a good experience," said senior Angelica Castrejon. "Throughout the year we were determined, talented, and young and fought as a team to give the program a better name."

Following the end of last season, there was high hopes for the team despite losing Marez and Peever; there are four returning players: Castrejon, Audrey Ramos, Laura Ramons and "Ice" Quinn. There is also some new blood on the team in the form of six new players. Even though

there could only be ten players on the team and that doesn't seem to worry any of the ladies.

"The lack of depth won't really affect us because we're a talented team and we know how to play the game," said freshman guard Tyre Whaley. "If we stay mentally focused, I don't see why we can't go the playoffs and win the whole thing."

"The chemistry has been really good for a, virtually brand-new team", said freshman guard Grace Orellana. "We all get along really well and have good on and off the court communication."

With the talent observed in practices and scrimmages, there is no doubt that the women's basketball team can easily improve upon last year's amount of wins. It'll be more difficult because they don't have big players in terms of height, but they are definitely big in terms of ability. So with all this promise, the question remains: how far can this team go?

"As a team, I think we can go far as we want; the sky's the limit," said Castrejon. "We have the skill to defeat any and every team. The only thing that's going to stop us from going as far as we want to go is ourselves."



Last season marked a new era for the men's basketball team. New head coach Derek Robbins brought in a new philosophy to the team, however, the results remained the same as they went 5-20. While he brought new energy to the program, the talent just wasn't there to take it to the next level. This year that'll definitely change from a talent and wins perspective, and the entire men's team agrees.

"The main difference between this year's team and last year's team is experience", says sophomore guard Miles Robbins. "Most players on the squad have at least one year of college basketball experience."

"We've definitely made strides toward being a respected program locally," said junior guard/forward Austin Doggette. "The athletic director has been helping out by getting sponsors, and the type of team we have this team also helps out."

With nine new players, there is an upgrade at every position giving this year's team added depth and flexibility. Having this kind of improvement, confidence definitely radiates supreme amongst the team members on what they can do this season.

"I don't expect to lose a game this year," said Doggette. "If we stay together and focus in one on one game at time, there's no reason why we shouldn't have a dramatic turnaround from last year, record wise."

Robbins gave a mirror-image comment: "If we do what we have to do game in and game out, coming to practice ready to work hard and play great defense, there's no reason we should lose a game and we should definitely hang a banner in our gym."

On every level of athletic competition, there is always a marquee game that a team or school looks forward to: a rivalry game, a revenge game or a game that will school or organization on the map. For this team, it was what game was Nov. 19th against Cal Baptist University.

"They're a good team," said Doggette. "They are a good measuring stick for how good of a team we will be for the rest of the year."

This year, there are two talented teams. They look good on paper so it remains to be seen how they perform throughout the season. Nevertheless, talent shows only promise, but hard work and results produce wins. La Sierra University hasn't exactly been a hotbed for great college basketball, but there's a certain buzz around campus that this might finally be the year where all that changes. This season, expect to see great coaching, ridiculously talented players combined and a effort and desire to make the La Sierra University Athletics a respected program.



NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AIMS FOR COMPETITIVE SUCCESS

by Andrew Garcilazo

Success is when a basketball player drains a big shot. Success is when a baseball player hits the game-tying home run. Success is when a soccer player scores the winning goal. Success is when an athlete receives a standing ovation. Success is a word usually associated with the athletic programs of USC or Notre Dame—not, dare I say, La Sierra University.

Success is something that La Sierra University Athletics hasn't been too familiar with, but it is a word and idea that new Athletic Director Javier Krumm is trying to establish after years of mediocre athletic performance.

How will he go about doing this? Krumm was quick to establish his three main long-term goals for the program:

1. *Improve the current recruitment system at La Sierra University.*
2. *Find ways to fundraise and increase the Athletic Program's budget.*
3. *Find ways to make the program more appealing to potential athletes.*

The goals are a monumental task for Krumm, one that is not going to be a quick fix. Careful observation and analysis must be at the forefront of the decision making process. It is a challenge that the new Athletic Director is looking forward to.

"I put pressure on myself in every single job I have," he says, "I put a lot of pressure on my own work."

Born in Argentina, Krumm has worked in the athletic education field in three different countries. The current 2009-2010 school year is the director's first with La Sierra University after spending last year at Puget Sound Adventist Academy in Washington.

In coming to La Sierra, Krumm is met with a unique opportunity, one he understands will take hard work and dedication to repair. He admits that "things haven't been good" with the current Athletic Program recognizing that changes must and will be made.

Already the new director sees progress. Hot chocolate, frosties, and other snacks are being served at sporting events. Posters containing a particular team's schedule are in the process of being made, as are schedule magnets—items that are similar to what a state school might produce. Signs promoting sporting contests are also being placed around campus to help promote event attendance.

Although these changes may seem small, they are just the first steps in the lengthy process. Indeed, Krumm can already see that attendance at games has increased, thanks in part to the minor changes he has made. However, there is no overnight solution; it is going to take time, which some students just don't have the patience for.

"It's frustrating for us to never seem to win, and I know the athletes are working hard. It's just that I want to see success and now. I'm only here for four years," says sophomore Matt Quiba.

Krumm and the rest of his staff understand student's frustration and are working hard to correct the problem. While it is easy to criticize the current state of LSU Athletics, students' must recognize the effort that is taking place.

For the athletic staff, their job is never-ending. Krumm stated his job is pretty much an all day affair. A lot of work and meetings go into it, he said. The staff is really working hard to make changes. Nobody is more aware of the problem than Krumm himself.

The fall quarter sees action in basketball, soccer, and volleyball. This means coaches and staff are always on hand, working constantly to help make the program as good as it can be.

Ultimately, Krumm envisions the athletic program becoming a big part of the university as well as the surrounding community. He wants athletics to help increase school spirit and to "have people love our athletics." His goal is for athletes to become involved in every aspect of the school. In turn he sees the university becoming a big part of the athletic program, but it doesn't end there.

Krumm believes that getting involved and developing a connection with the community is key to the program's success. After all, the community does contain a large pool of quality athletes.

"We want the community to care about the program," Krumm says. Athletes are being encouraged to make a difference in any way they can. In fact, the La Sierra University soccer team has been using kids from La Sierra Academy as ball boys, something that Krumm is very excited about.

Javier Krumm's goals of community involvement and athletic success may seem ambitious, but what would



a successful Athletic Program mean for La Sierra University? Would students even care?

“Should I care?” responds sophomore J.R. Vingua.

“Since we are at a small school sports really don’t matter,” said sophomore Justin Nguyen.

If the majority of the university has accepted this attitude, the athletic program has its work cut out for them. Without student interest, it will be very hard for LSU Athletics to ever become an integral part of the school.

Is the current lack of interest in LSU Sports based mainly on the lack of success, or is Nguyen right? Is La Sierra too small a school for its students to care?

Baseball star John Roach doesn’t think so. “I care because I’m part of the sports program,” he said

Javier Krumm is trying to do just that. It cannot be argued with that a successful athletics program would greatly help the university in many ways. The question is whether or not Krumm can bring the success La Sierra University has been looking for.

Sophomore Daniel Samano believes that successful sports teams would lead to increased student attendance at team games. He also states, “If LSU were to become competitive, it would bring the school pride, much the way SIFE does.”

“It is important to care because it [the athletic program] brings prestige to the school.”

In 2007 SIFE, which stands for Students-In-Free-Enterprise, won the SIFE World Cup.

The program has had numerous years of top tier success, something that the university is very proud of. Perhaps the athletic program should get some tips from Dean Thomas, dean of the School of Business.

SIFE has shown that competitive success is achievable at La Sierra University. Why then has SIFE been so successful and the athletic program struggled? Is athletic ability in shorter supply? Perhaps the university itself places more emphasis on academic success than athletic success. After all, the school is a small university with a small athletics program. Maybe Nguyen is right. Maybe the school itself believes it is too small to care about athletics.

If that is the case, the athletic program is working hard to change this perception. As stated above, Krumm is planning for the athletic program to become a big part of the university. In fact the program is in the process of joining the NCAA as a member of its Division III. Krumm had no update on the transition into the NCAA as he is not allowed to talk about it, only saying, “We are in the process of deciding which path we are going to take.” This transition will no doubt raise LSU’s athletic recognition, and it might make the school more attractive to athletes who want to play for an NCAA-recognized institution.

With SIFE, La Sierra University has shown that it is capable of competitive success. This shows promise for the future. Success would bring recognition that the school would love to have. Recognition leads to more students, and this leads to more money for the institution. Krumm seems to be on the right track. As of now there is little to complain about. The key is to continue the growth that Krumm has already begun. If he can do this, La Sierra University may finally produce the successful athletic program that has been sorely missed.

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4TH DOWN

An Intentional Evolution
by David Harris



“Are you going to Rendezvous?”

It's a question that is heard all around campus on Wednesday evenings. The answer to that question varies. You may get simple a simple yes or no, but you are just as likely to hear, “*Rendezvous?* Don't you mean *4th Down?*” with which you would reply, “Whatever, it's the same thing.”

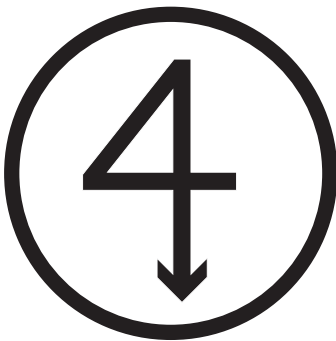
Is it? Is the name change just a gimmick to get people excited about coming to Wednesday night dorm worship? This year the name change is not the only difference.

Like many great ideas, the name *4th Down* was born in a restaurant late at night. Last spring while sitting in a Nebraska Olive Garden, SALSU Religious VP elect James “J.” Murdock was brainstorming about the coming year. One of the big things he wanted to change was Wednesday night dorm worship. During spring quarter of 2009, Murdock asked random students attending Rendezvous three questions.

- 1) Rate the night's program on a scale of 1-10.
- 2) List some good and bad things about the program.
- 3) If you were SALSU RVP what would you do?

For the first two questions, answers varied from week to week, but an average of three out of five people answered the third question the same way: “If it were up to me, I wouldn't come.”

This troubled Murdock, so he started looking for solutions. Murdock is big on community, so he started there. The ideas just started flowing: We'll be huddling in a circle like a community, this is the last chance to get dorm worship credit for the week, and it's the fourth day of the week. The football analogy was obvious, and the name *4th Down* was born. Pastor Sam and Yami Bazan loved the idea. The logo came almost as easily.



The circle represents people coming into Hole Memorial Auditorium as a community, like a huddle. The 4 represents Wednesday being the fourth day of the week and the concept of a 4th down in football: last chance. The structure of the number four as

drawn has three strokes. One (right to left) for coming into the circle, the second (the one going up at an angle) for praising, learning, and discussing, and the final stroke (going down with the arrow) going out and living what was learned. Also if you look at the intersections of the strokes, there is a cross representing Christ at the center.

Wednesday Night Dorm Worship is different, not only in name, but in purpose. The mission statement of *4th Down* is “What we do here is done intentionally.” Murdock's goal is to be able to look back and see a continuous journey at the end of the year, not just a bunch of people getting up to play music and speaking about whatever is on their minds. People want to see worship on a higher level.

The inaugural *4th Down* was about showing people the inner changes and giving them a look into the thought process. Many did a double take when the praise band led by Gatra Suhari faced away from the audience and towards the front of the auditorium. Not only did they have their backs to the audience, the whole band setup was backwards. The drums were closest to the audience, the singers were farther onto the stage, and instrument cases were in plain sight. Murdock wanted people to recognize that there was a change in how worship was going to be run. Having the praise band turned around during the first week gave the audience a backstage feel. The sound was different and the view was unusual; it was raw, but that's the way J. wanted it.

After praise Murdock got up to explain the changes that were made to Wednesday night dorm worship. He gave a brief history of Wednesday dorm worships. At one point, boys only went to Towers and girls only went to Angwin, but in 1999 SALSU decided to come up with an alternative: Rendezvous with Jesus. The name was shortened in 2002 and had stayed that way until last year.

4th Down was going to be different. He used the logo to explain. We come into the “circle” with Christ at our center to learn, discuss, and praise. With experience comes knowledge, and with knowledge comes responsibility. So we have to get out of the circle and share the Word.

For some, the answer to J.'s third question hasn't changed. Dorm worship is still just a requirement. However, he hopes that since they are already there, they might as well get something out of it.

There has been music from Re:Live Ministries worship leader Chris Picco, Chad Manalo and friends, Home Base Ministries, and other student groups. Murdock and senior theology major Matt Burdette have done the majority of the speaking.

Two miscommunications from the messages have arisen this quarter. The first happened during week



one when J. said that he wanted to abandon the idea of being Seventh-day Adventists and become Seven-day Disciples. Murdock did not want to totally abandon the SDA faith. He just didn't want people getting stuck in the mentality that worship is solely for Sabbath.

The controversy with Burdette involved the statement, "I don't believe in the Bible. I believe in Jesus." Matt did not mean to say that the Bible is not relevant or true; he was just saying that we should not put our faith in a book.

People approached J. about both issues and the miscommunications were cleared up. Murdock welcomes the disagreements and loves getting the feedback. He

promises that the *4th Down* team will mess up. But he also asks for patience, understanding, and feedback.

The changes haven't been universally accepted.

One of the biggest reasons people come to *4th Down* is because it's a break in the middle of the week where they get to see many of their friends. The name "Rendezvous" seems appropriate for that purpose. Many returning students don't like the fact that their mid-week "Rendezvous" with their friends and God has been changed.

The reasoning behind the name *4th Down* is liked for the most part, but a few people feel that the concept



of “your last chance” seems like a desperate ploy to get people to come.

People are still struggling to make the name change. Some campus publications still have Wednesday night dorm worship listed as *Rendezvous*. J. understands that change is a process.

Another one of Murdock’s hopes is for there to be a stronger sense of community. He believes that the gospel was given to many people, and those people have different ways of sharing it. Only through community can we reach as many people as possible. This is something he cannot do by himself.

Murdock is not alone in his endeavor. His team includes the SALSU religious committee senators Christy Solis (*Worship Coordinator*) and Germeen Yousry (*Webmaster*), Angela Pineda (*Praise Director*), Katie Sassone (*PR director*), Ramona Bahnam (*Greeting Committee Head*), Rebecca Barcelo (*Activities Coordinator*), Katie Case (*Stage Manager*), Pono Lopez (*IT Director*), Matt Huston (*Tech Crew*), and Emily Peterson (*Photographer*). They all work hard each week to organize worship. If you would like to be involved in *4th Down* in any way, or if you have any suggestions, ideas, etc., don’t hesitate to talk to J. (salsu.religious.vp@lasierra.edu) or anyone on his team.

They’d be happy to hear from you.

MY YEAR IN THE MISSION FIELD: PART ONE

Bienvenidos a Peru

by Keith Ybanez

The following is the first part of my adventures as a Student Missionary, I am currently serving in Peru along with my good friends and fellow LSU students, Martin Corona and Colt Sicher, for the duration of the school year. It is my hope that you are able to experience a little bit of what a student missionary's life is like. We are working with an organization called Touch of Love in a foreign location and exploring a new exciting culture. If you want to send us a message or ask a particular question about our mission experience, e-mail me at kybanez@gmail.com.

I walked out of La Sierra Hall, enjoying the sudden availability of free time since my 1:00 class had just been cancelled. It was early in winter quarter of 2009 and by all accounts was a day like every other. I walked and talked with Michelle, a friend of mine who consequently would also end up becoming a student missionary to Rwanda this year. After we split up I headed over to my car parked at the School of Business lot, eagerly anticipating a quick run to Taco Bell to get the lunch I thought I would miss that day. (The thought of Taco Bell after our home-cooked, which means less than savory, meals in Peru is making my mouth water now. There are some sweet pleasures of home that you can't help but miss!) However, as I was proceeding out of the parking lot, I suddenly felt a moment of clarity about an issue I had been debating for quite some time. Months before I had felt the desire to be a student missionary, and after discussions with my family, some info from the Missions Department, and a lot of prayer, I knew at that moment that I would have to put the Gordita on hold and make a stop in the Missions office.

Eight months after that day, I was at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, IL saying goodbye to my parents, sister, and our dog, Tank. After all the paperwork, immunizations, and missions meetings, this was what I had been looking forward to for the better part of the year. This trip was what I had spent the entire summer working to save up for in between studying for the LSAT, which I took a few days before I left (Here's some advice from me: don't take a very important test right before you leave the country for a year!). Twenty hours after my plane left Chicago, I arrived in Pucallpa, Peru. As I walked across the tarmac towards the "airport", a term which I use loosely to describe the building in front of me, I saw Colt and Martin waving at me from inside. I was glad to see my friends waiting for me and I was eager to hear their stories, since they had arrived in Peru two months before me. I grabbed my bags and

exchanged excited greetings with the two of them, then we loaded the beat-up truck that belonged to our organization, Touch of Love. As we drove toward the compound, I looked around and tried to take in all that I was seeing. I have traveled a good amount to many different countries around the world, both rich and poor, but I don't think you ever get used to seeing poverty in the American sense of the word. The only road that was paved was the one we were traveling on; the other "roads" were just stretches of dirt. The horns of the "motocabs" could be heard in front and behind us, and there were shacks here and there as well as undeveloped land as far as the eye could see.

We arrived at the mission compound around 6:15 a.m. Before I could think about going to sleep, it was time for worship and breakfast with the rest of the missionary team. I was quickly introduced to everyone and I got to experience my first worship in Spanish. I immediately learned that at the eating table where we have our worships and group meetings, we are only allowed to speak Spanish out of respect to the Peruvians who live with us and are a part of our team and so we can get practice. I hadn't really practiced much Spanish since I took a class in high school in 2005-2006. Needless to say, it wasn't pretty and I'm positive I was butchering the Spanish language every time I tried to communicate. After worship and breakfast, everyone has chores assigned to them and then our workday begins. Most of the girls were working on a health campaign at the time, so they were living closer to town. Their jobs were to go door to door in Pucallpa and invite families to the health seminars they would give at night, teaching them basic sanitary practices and how to live healthier and cleaner lives. The rest of us had our own projects to work on. I got right to work with Colt, Martin, and two Peruvians named Ever and Lucio. We had a lengthy hike out through the forest that was part of our compound, until we arrived at the "chakra", as we call it. It essentially is a huge field where yucca plants



are grown and harvested. The organization then sells them to fund our operations. Our job for the day and the rest of the week was to use our machetes to cut down the weeds and other plants that were growing alongside the yucca. We started working every day at eight in the morning, but it's already blazing hot at that time and we're all wearing long sleeves and jeans to combat overexposure to the sun as well as protection from the insects. The long sleeves and jeans may sound like a bad idea to you, but trust me on this one. I worked one day with a regular t-shirt and one paid for it dearly with constant insect bites and sunburns since one's skin was more sensitive to the sun as a side effect of the malaria pills we take. The heat quickly wears us out, except for the Peruvians who work like machines and continuously amaze me. On the first day I was out there, I was just trying to survive and stay upright. After a full 8-hour workday doing our backbreaking and exhausting tasks, I couldn't wait to shower and get in bed since I had been awake for 40 hours straight. The rest of that week and the next week were pretty much the same: wake up early, work from 8-12, take a break for lunch (we all take turns rotating cooking for each meal), do our chores, and then it's back to work from 2-6. After our regular work there are also evangelistic meetings, which we run, and free English classes offered to any of the locals who are willing to show up. The days are very long and tiring and we're all usually in bed by 10 each night, definitely unusual for a bunch of college students!

One day we finally finished our work in the yucca fields a couple of hours before the workday was over, but instead of being rewarded with the rest of the day off, we hiked deep through the jungle to help out with another project. The trek through the jungle was tough. Combined with my exhaustion from our own work, I was pretty upset about what we were doing. The deeper we went into the jungle the more furious I became—a product of having to do extra work, getting my legs cut up by anything and everything, and almost breaking my ankle a few times getting caught on thick vines or fallen logs. It was not one of my better moments and in retrospect I'm ashamed of my attitude, but it brought with it an enlightening moment. I was reading *In the Name of Jesus* by Henri Nouwen and a line in it stuck out to me at that time. "Jesus promises a life in which we increasingly have to stretch our hands and be led into places where we would rather not go." Those words summed up how I felt about that jungle hike. I was so against having to go deeper into the jungle, hacking my way through, but I realized that's what being a missionary and being a Christian are about. There are some experiences I have faced that I'm sure I will continue to face as a missionary, and that we all will as Christians, where we're just not sure if we can handle it and we resist having to go down that road. But by letting Jesus lead you through them, you will get to have experiences you would otherwise never have. When you realize what a beautiful thing it is to just let go and let Jesus lead you, you'll be amazed by the changes in your life and how God will use you for his work.

HOMOSEXUALITY & THE MISINTERPRETATION OF BIBLICAL TEXT

No credible case against homosexuality or homosexuals can be made from the Bible unless one chooses to read Scripture in a way that sustains the existing prejudice against homosexuality and homosexuals... The “problem,” of course, is not the Bible, it is the Christians who read it...

— Peter Gomes

by Ricky Kim

The highly controversial legislation of Proposition 8 which pronouncedly overturned the former ruling of *In re Marriage Cases* in the November 2008 General Elections has continued to fuel much debate and discussion concerning the inclusion and recognition of gay and lesbian Christians within the church. For many, the pressing inquiry of homosexuality has become increasingly difficult and divisive for people on both sides of the issue. Despite the difficulty that surrounds this delicate subject, many individuals have taken the initiative towards fostering inclusiveness by engaging themselves within constructive discussions on homosexuality. However, this is not without its own sets of risks. As Jeffrey S. Siker, editor of *Homosexuality in the Church*, states:

[...]Participating in constructive discussions means that people must be willing to risk something of themselves, for we are not talking here primarily about some objective issue out there, but about real people: about ourselves, about gay and lesbian people among us, about sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. This is by definition an intensely personal conversation, for we are talking with and about actual people, about matters of personal identity and self understanding, about our relationships with one another [...] To avoid such engaged conversations and encounters is far more dangerous and destructive, for it simply dismisses and ignores people and merely masks our own fears and ignorance.

The purpose of this article then is to engage its readers within the ongoing discussion concerning homosexuality and the implication it has for us today by interpreting scripture within its original context.

The Creation Story

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.

—Genesis 1:26-28

Many Christians today have used the creation story found in the book of Genesis to exert their claim that God created man and woman for a monogamous and heterosexual union and that anything outside of this mandate is a perversion and against God's original plan for humanity. However, when one critically analyzes the account found in Genesis 1 & 2, he or she will find that the text does not lead its readers to advocate the popular Christian notion that homosexuality is a byproduct of original sin.

Ancient Israeli laws and traditions that governed marriage and sexual relations were never derived from the creation story, as most Christians have come to advocate. Rather, it served another purpose. Victor Paul Furnish, author of *The Bible and Homosexuality*,

notes that the account found in Genesis 1 functioned primarily as an illustration to show how man was like and unlike God.

The statement about creation in God's image and "likeness" is meant to emphasize that humankind is set apart from the rest of creation by reason of its special relationship to God. This relationship is shared by all members of the human species, both male and female. Nothing is said about how humankind is like God, only that this "likeness" is what distinguishes humankind from other species.

He also goes on to assert that the Genesis account does not promote monogamy or the institutionalization of marriage. "Old Testament heroes of the faith certainly did not model monogamy but rather followed the patterns of their culture, with multiple wives, concubines, and slaves as sexual partners. The Bible not only approves, but appears to mandate such behavior." In addition, the commandment does not entail that everyone must marry and reproduce, for the passages in Genesis "take no account whatever of the physically or mentally impaired, the celibate, the impotent—or of those who in modern times have come to be described as homosexual". In his closing remarks Furnish goes on to state that "This notion that a model of monogamous, heterosexual marriage is somehow contained in Genesis 1 is simply not true. It appears to be an artificial construct designed to deny the rights of marriage to those who are homosexual".

The Levitical Holiness Code

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

—Leviticus 18:22

The book of Leviticus continues to expand the narrative story of Israel's history as they prepared to transition into the Promised Land God has set aside for them. A predominate and prevailing theme found throughout the book of Leviticus is its strive for "holiness" or "to be set apart". The conditional and intricate nature of the relationship the people of Israel shared with the land God promised them explains the high emphasis of holiness within Israel's ancient culture. John F. Dwyer, an Episcopal priest, explains that "the authors of Leviticus are setting the people of Israel apart from those societies around them...sacrifice and loss of the land will be the result should the conduct that takes place in the land be judged immoral". In order to fully comprehend the biblical text concerning homosexuality in Leviticus (particularly Ch 18:22 & Ch 20:13), it is important to understand the role of both sexuality and the holiness codes within the context of ancient Israel.

Dr. Robert Shores-Goss, a former Jesuit priest, explains the sexuality code that dominated ancient Mediterranean practices in his article *Homosexuality and the Bible: The Practice of Safe Text* by stating:

It is a mistake to identify the modern concept of homosexuality as understood by the Bible... [For sex was] comprehended within the model of active/passive or inserter/insertee or what colloquial language terms top/bottom. Men in the ancient Greco-Roman world were catalogued according to their social status (and thus power). Free men or citizens were expected to play the insertive role in sex with either female or male. Sex is essentially penetration of a person of lesser status—whether it is a female, a lesser male, or a youth. Penetration establishes or expresses a superior status over the penetrated.

It is precisely because this concept of sexuality is an act of asserting one's dominance over another that our present understanding of sexual orientation and identity cannot be applied to the ancient world. Such notions were completely absent in the mind of the ancients, which can be seen in the fact that there are no biblical words that can be translated to the term "homosexual".

The holiness code which dictated the daily conduct of the Israelites was a manifestation of the Levitical priest cult understanding of how the world was conceived. In summary, the priests held the view that God created the world by bringing into order the chaos that was found throughout the universe. The role of man then was to replicate this action of continuing stability by being the world's caretakers. By juxtaposing the ancient world's understanding of sexuality with the priests emphasizes on stability, it was seen that for a male to take the position of a female during sex (and thus betray his masculinity) came as a threat to the Hebrew's understanding of order and is thus defined to be an abomination, for it undermined the society's understanding of gender roles. Hence, the context of Leviticus is not so much concerned about homosexuality as it is with compromising their understanding of gender relations.

Sodom & Gomorra

But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, where are the men who came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

—Genesis 19: 4-5

The prelude to the story of Sodom and Gomorra begins with Abraham and his interaction with the three men passing by his estate. Rather than letting the men pass by, he is seen running out to greet them (even going as far as bowing down before them) and offers them a choice meal. The scenario then shifts towards Lot, Abraham's nephew, who is also portrayed as showing the same act of hospitality towards the three men. The problematic text concerning homosexuality does not arise until later in the passage when the key event begins to unfold. It is clear from reading chapter 19 of Genesis that foreigners are not welcomed within the city, and the citizens of Sodom and Gomorra are exerting that claim through their desire to rape Lot's guests.

Although many have come to interpret this text as an obvious lust for homosexual intercourse, this seems to

not be the case when one understands the concept of rape within the ancient world. Daniel Heminiak, professor of psychology at the University of West Georgia, states that "in the ancient world homosexual rape was a traditional way for victors to accentuate the subjection of captive enemies and foes. In that culture, the most humiliating experience for a man to endure was to be treated like a woman, and raping a man was the most violent way of instilling such a treatment". Many biblical scholars have come to agree that the story of Sodom and Gomorra as well as the divine judgment carried out against them was not due to homosexuality, but rather because of the violent and hostile nature of the cities' inhabitants towards others. Victor Paul Furnish, a New Testament scholar, gives evidence towards this claim when he states:

Significantly, not one of the biblical references to the story makes a point of the homosexual character of the intended rape. For example, in Ezekiel Sodom's sin is described as her greed and her indifference to those in need: "this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy" (16:49). In Matthew 10:12-15 and the parallel in Luke 10:10-12, Sodom's sin is identified with inhospitality in general, without any sexual reference at all; and the reference in Matthew 11:23-24 to the city's destruction serves as a reminder of what happens to those who disobey God's will [which is to show hospitality and exemplify inclusiveness towards others].

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

—1 Corinthians 13: 1-3

Much of the assumptions and positions that we have come to hold in the 21st century concerning sexuality are vastly different from those shared by the inhabitants of the biblical world. Issues regarding sexual conduct arose not over the question of homosexuality but rather social justice and gender role. To utilize these passages as a weapon against certain individuals within our communities not only does a disservice to the biblical text, but also further marginalize others from experiencing inclusiveness. It is important for one to note what really upsets God—more than anything, are not issues of personal morality, sexual sin, or not worshipping on the proper day in the proper way, per se...what really grieves God is when we fail to take care of those around us who really need help and are lacking a sense of dignity and a healthy place in society. It is when we fail to take care of the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized, and the orphans that God reaches the point of breaking his composure and is very capable of unleashing wrath of biblical proportions (Isaiah 1:16-17, Ezekiel 16: 49-51). In today's context we, as Christians, often fail to take care of and include members in our communities and churches the gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders among us. It is time that we realign ourselves with the true essence of Christianity by manifesting the love and acceptance Christ has shown us to others.

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INDIVIDUALITY

THE WINGTIP FASHION BLOG: INDIVIDUALITY

by Charles Dickerson

Stop.

Drop your fork back onto your plate of towering haystacks and take a break from stuffing your face with Fritos and sour cream. iPhone and Blackberry heads, pause from typing your latest Twitter post and put your techy gadget back in its holster. Teacher's pets, put away your apples and indulge in something other than yawn-provoking material. Take a moment and do whatever you need to get comfortable.

Ahhh, there. Now, take another moment and separate yourself from your surroundings. Okay, now imagine that there is no such thing as sound and communication is instead done solely through visual representation. Colors take the place of volume, images take the place of emotion; lines are used to connect the dots of transitional conversation.

Look around you. What do you see? Do you see students passing by heading anxiously to their next classes? Do you see a group of friends hovering over each other indulging in conversation? Or maybe you're in the middle of a boring chemistry lab and you can't see anything because of the smudges you frequently get on your goggles. What unique characteristics of La Sierra University catch your eye long enough for you to make more careful observations? Here, I'll give you a hint. Find a mirror and gaze into the beauty of what you find. There, you've found it! Yes, believe it or not, you are the most unique characteristic on campus! But who am I to make these judgments when we've never even met? Well chances are I know more about you than you would have ever thought.

How much does an outfit tell about that person? Whether you are aware of it or not, you speak volumes. This is the power of fashion. Clothing is no longer something that we buy and wear simply to cover our naked bodies. Like cavemen. Fashion is what characterizes or distinguishes the habits, manners, and dress of a period or group.

Perhaps the biggest influence on one's style is the culture with which they identify. This is what makes La Sierra such a dynamic place. It's a mixing bowl of cultures that creates an atmosphere that is overwhelmed with style. But what are the other influences that have such strong impacts on how we communicate beyond what we throw on each morning? Furthermore, what is the key to style after all? Well, take one last bite of your

heaping 'stack and join me as I spell it out!

What is the definition of style? Is it colorful t-shirts and skinny jeans? Is it what you see and read about in magazines and on billboards, witness faithfully on catwalks and in music videos, or can it only be found in the streets of Paris and Tokyo, which claim to be the fashion capitals of the world? Really, there is no right or wrong answer. Style is subjective; it is what you want it to be. I appreciate the local pedestrians throughout Southern California who I find expressing themselves in various ways: the skater and his undersized button-up, the basketball player and his oversized white shirt, the private school fashionista with her knee high stockings, and especially the fashion-forward business executives who clutch their portfolio cases and eat Subway sandwiches for lunch.

Growing up, I would watch my dad as he got dressed and ready for work every morning. I can still smell the original scent of his Right Guard deodorant as he sprayed the bronze can in a circular motion. He would choose from one of his freshly dry-cleaned shirts in his closet and select the cuff links he would wear that day. After pulling up his calf-length socks, he laced his wingtips, windsored his necktie, and whisked out the doorway. The influence that this daily routine had on me was subconsciously impacting how I would pattern my own morning rituals. We all have experiences that ultimately motivate our styles. Whether it is on television or in our parent's bedrooms, what we see around us day in and day out becomes a part of us. What we take from these experiences helps us shape a foundation for how we communicate our feelings in how we present ourselves. In addition, taking the time to observe the simplest characteristics of fashion is something we all can do to learn a wealth of information about the people we interact with.

Year after year fashion trends introduce themselves, hang around for a bit, then after exhausting their welcome fade into hiding. The ever evolving fads keep the air free of stagnant fashion misuse. However, there is much to learn from those who wave the flag of traditionalism. These constants don't sweat the pressures of frequent evolutions. They maintain the timeless fashion cues, using them



as the basis that ultimately all trends stem from. They believe in staying classy with labels that stand the tests of time and prefer wearing clothes that fit their frames comfortably and effortlessly. The confidence is quiet with these fashion mainstays while not so much for others. The colorfully bold clothing that is currently popular with the arrival of the “Jerk” movement represents an attitude that demands your attention with loud behavior to match a loud lifestyle.

What is it that motivates these rapid trends that come and go seemingly overnight? Why do we accept these trends and turn to renovating our closets to make room for these new additions? Perhaps the most popular motivation for preparing your look comes from the opposite sex. I mean, if I lived in a world of nothing but males, I’m frankly not sure if I’d care how I looked in my 8 o’clock class. The motivation stems from the desire to get attention from the other sex. Am I wrong? If you ask the ladies on campus why they dress the way they do they might tell you a number of reasons. However, I’d bet the most popular reason is to be thought attractive by the male population. And men what about you? What are you thinking each morning after returning to your dorm room from the shower and gazing into your closets? The fact is, what we wear has much to do with how we want others to feel about us then how we feel about ourselves.

One of the strongest concepts that I frequently consider is the concept of having confidence in yourself.

Perhaps this is the foundation that fashion as a whole is built on. Confidence gives us the ability to not only be who we want to be but wear what we want to wear. It unleashes the shackles of doubt that constrict us through fear of ridicule and segregation from our peers. Don’t be ashamed! Believe in yourself! Go out and represent your feelings the best and most fun way possible: through your attire.

It is important to stay away from diving completely into the latest fashion trends because, well, they’re trends after all. They are sure to pass, and the last thing you want to do is be stuck in a style that is no longer current. So keeping to classic roots while adopting some personal touches is the way to go when searching for ways to stay looking new while staying grounded. Adopting these practices will keep you on top of your game and maybe even stamp your nomination for MVP!

So, Ladies, the next time you cross a young man wearing a baseball cap and oversized, baggy jeans, don’t clutch your purses. Instead, offer a handshake and a smile out of appreciation for expressing himself positively through his unique visual representation. Gentlemen, take heed to the visual communication spoken by the ladies on campus and offer them the respect they deserve for waking up that extra hour early to perfect their look while making it their own. Because after all, the key to style is individuality.

Favorite brand?
Rock & Republic

What trend should die?
Skinny jeans! It needs to end

Trend-proof advice:
Keep it simple

Style essential:
A nice pair of jeans to go out in

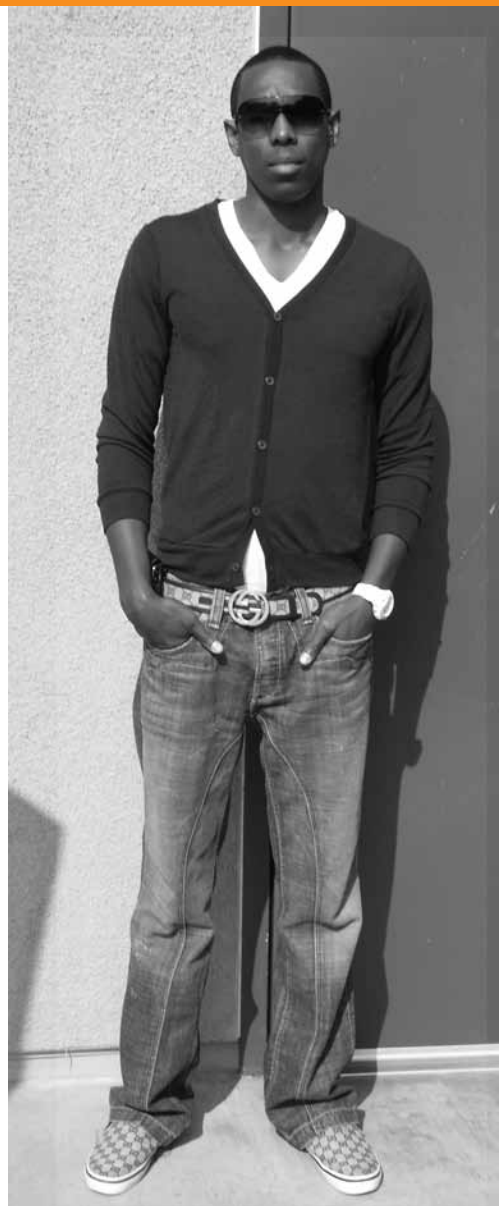
Which celebrity do you pattern your style after?
I can't say only one; I take a little style from everyone and make it my own

Who has wack style?
Someone who isn't confident about what they're wearing

Favorite fast food joint?
In-N-Out "Umm... Let me get a #1, no cheese, no spread with ketchup and mustard instead. Oh, and a pink lemonade."

Favorite dessert?
Strawberries

What song captures your style?
Pharrell ft. Snoop Dogg – Beautiful
(In high voice) LOL



CONRAD

Sophomore, Accounting

Sacramento, California

Cardigan by American Apparel
Denim by Antik
Kicks by Gucci
Belt by Gucci
Watch by G-Shock



INA

Junior, Spanish & Communication

Denver, Colorado

Clothing by Mom's Boutique
Heels by Purple Barbie at Nordstrom
Vintage Bag by Balenciaga
Shades by Ray-Ban
Heart Earrings by Tiffany's

Item in your closet you regret buying:

My Ed Hardy zip-up hoodie, GAG! I hate Ed Hardy!

What trend should die?

I absolutely hate Coach

Trend-proof advice:

Don't wear something you don't feel comfortable in because it shows

Favorite music artist

Lil Wayne & Britney Spears... Yup!

Mac or PC?

Mac of course

Favorite accessory

Bags!

What nail polish are you wearing?

Electric Blue from The Face Shop

Favorite sport

Football

What perfume do you wear?

Burberry Summer

Favorite fall activity

Watching movies at home while it rains outside

Style essential:

A good bag or good hair to go with your outfit

What trend should die?
Flattops

What's your favorite food?
Junk food

What's the next big trend?
Geeked up

What inspires your style?
Girl's reactions

What ice cream flavor would you compare your style to?
Neapolitan – I'm a bit of everything

Favorite gadget
My laptop

Why LSU?
Because it's the best University ever!

What item can you not live without?
My cell phone holster

Any shout outs?
All the single ladies!



MANU

Freshman, Pre-Occupational Therapy

Bakersfield, California

Button Up by Abercrombie & Fitch
Jeans by Guess
Kicks by Vans



NANCY

Senior, Communication

Denver, Colorado

Top by BCBG
Tights by Target
Boots by Guess
Belt by Urban Outfitters
Bag by Gryson

Any advice?

Only drink Italian Espresso, don't be a poser!

Trend-proof advice:

Recycle, reuse, and renew!

What song captures your style?

Summer in the City by Regina Spektor

Who has wack style?

Hillary Clinton, too many pantsuits!

What piece of clothing tells most about one's style?

Shoes, always look at shoes first!

What are your most favorite kicks ever?

Brown moccasin boots, almost to the knee

Favorite song?

Tchaikovsky – Violin Concerto in D Major

Do you own any animals?

I want a goldfish!

Favorite vacation spot?

Florence, Italy

TUNES ROCK LSU

by Daniel Skoretz



A move to a new location has brought a new dimension to Tuesday Tunes. Although it was charming with a coffee-house feel, the Student Center was cramped. There were wires winding all over the floor, and finding a seat usually meant stealing one from someone who made the mistake of going to the restroom. "It felt too much like an airport lounge," said Patrick Garrett York, who is the director of Tuesday Tunes, and decided to move it this year. They now sell many drinks and snacks to help keep you warm and full while enjoying the good music. An additional change is that Tuesday Tunes now occurs every other week rather than every week.

On the first night, the concert took place just outside the La Sierra Campus bookstore. At this location the energy level was high; the attending members of the attendees were lively and excited for the new experience of an outdoor performance. The music of the performers music resonated throughout the entire campus. This drew more people to the show that were curious to know what was going on. However, the night was not without its trials. There was no provided seating. Students took to sitting around on the edges of the planter, but at filled up fast so anyone who arrived late was forced to sit far away or stand. Towards the end of the night all those standing got tired and decided to sit on the floor in front of the stage. In addition, the night was cold, and all the attendees huddled close together like freshly shorn sheep.

The next location, Matheson Chapel, has become the new home of Tuesday Tunes. Matheson has plenty of room for seating, a ready stage, and the homey relaxed feeling of a coffee shop. The indoor space also provide an excellent opportunity to do creative things with the lights on the stage, such as the floor to ceiling lights of colored effects on the walls and spotlights. To the relief of all those in attendance, it is also warm with no wind. A drawback of having Tuesday Tunes at Matheson Chapel is that sound no longer resonates across the campus as it did before. Without the sound carrying all over the whole campus, Tuesday Tunes will have to depend more on advertising to get people to come to the show. Technical difficulties have occurred more often, but when the sound is working it is just as good as it was outside.

Tuesday Tunes is going to have to start looking for another location. Though happy to share the space with Tuesday Tunes, Marilynn Loveless, chair of the Drama Department and primary overseer of Matheson is about to start construction on the set for this quarter's drama production. She regretfully states, "We need this set built and will be keeping supplies on the stage that'll just get in the way of what they are trying to achieve. In addition, we'd like to keep the staging for this one a surprise." Whatever solution the leadership of Tuesday Tunes thinks up,

they will not disappoint. The new locations have proven to be an adventure.

There is a new face of Tuesday Tunes. An M.C. talks in between acts and introduces each new act. Denby Rasmussen has stepped up to this challenge. He has brought his own unique flair to the Tuesday Tunes stage, telling jokes and skillfully introducing each band to come to the stage.

The year started strong for the music of Tuesday Tunes. The lead singer of Paper Mache on a solo acoustic tour, Zaptra, and Noah Gudersen & the Courage provided the music on the first night. The singer of Paper Mache started the evening with a solemn yet striking serenade of sad songs that provided the listeners with an intimate look at his personal life. When asked about his songs after his set he said he "keeps it on stage," so he can stay happy in his regular life. Zaptra followed with an electric rock sound that provided a perfect upbeat contrast that you couldn't help but jump up and move to. To finish, Noah Guderson played his acoustic guitar while The Courage brought up the rhythm with bass and drums. The sound they provided was chill but upbeat and fun.

The following performance was rather different, featuring two artists, Nick Zork (Guitar) and Aaron Beaumont (Piano). Rather than play separate sets, the two sat onstage together, rotating between songs each of them had written. The two had clearly played together before and each had things to add to the other's songs. The night's energy was hindered by technical difficulties but expertly brought back up with by the humor of the artists on stage and their being at ease with each other and the audience.

Two weeks later was the La Sierra University sampler. It featured the talent of LSU, and it came out in full force with ten different musical acts including Cody Breyer, Kendall Trood, Pono, PGY, T.A.B.Y.N.H.O., Wesley, Roheeb, Paula and Justin, The Open Mic Club, Denby Rasmussen, and Kyle Dever. The talent of this campus is astounding; most of the performers showed us a piece of their souls by playing original songs. Even when the songs were covers they were presented with a personal flair by each artist, such as The Open Mic Club who performed a medley of different popular songs all tying into the theme of love. The different genres displayed included acoustic rock, blues, chill island sound, rap, spinning, piano ballads, and even classical guitar.

The next Tuesday Tunes provided a special treat for all those who attended. It featured performances from The Denouement and Garage Voice. Both bands were Christian-influenced in their subject matter and provided a great show. The Denouement covered the whole stage. They were a six-piece band featuring a guitar (who during a solo used a drill to play



his guitar to creating a desired effect), bass, drums, synthesizers, violin, and other various percussion instruments. They were a jam band with an array of influences and gave a sound that made you feel like you were sitting in on a bunch of music majors seeing how many instruments they could use to create a good indie song, and succeeding every time they tried. Next was Garage Voice with a classic three-piece band of guitar, bass, and drums, with anything but a traditional sound. The drummer was versatile giving every song a different feel rhythmically but always sounding upbeat. The bassist's fingers were living being in and of themselves, dancing up and down the fret board and leading themselves to be used on the keys instead of one number. The guitarist had a heavy blues influence and a voice reminiscent of Bob Dylan. However, what stood out the most was this bands understanding of what it takes to make a good song. Even though all were highly talented musicians all only played enough to add what was necessary to the song, each some of the music featured a trombone or three performers doing a three-part harmony acapella.

“It just feels like home.”

This year Tuesday Tunes has presented the student body with nothing but the best. Every effort has been put into making it a positive experience with good food, good music, and good company. When the bands were asked about what they most enjoyed of their performances at Tuesday Tunes, only one answer was given: “the people.” Every artist had their own reason. “Everyone is so helpful,”(Paper Mache). “The energy is constant and high,”(Zaptra). “It just feels like home,” (Nick Zork). “Everyone is just so nice here!”(Denouement). So it would seem that our La Sierra University returns the favor for the joy brought by the artists of Tuesday Tunes and will continue to let the Tunes rock LSU.

A FRESHMAN PERSPECTIVE: IGNITE

by Michael Aguilar

During the week of September 15th to the 17th, the La Sierra campus was transformed into a swirling hub of activity. Incoming freshmen from around the nation flooded its walkways and buildings with high hopes for three days of fun and excitement. Although this was not the first Ignite that La Sierra had seen, there was something markedly different about this Ignite- the incoming freshman class was huge. With such of influx of students roaming the campus, it was evident that Ignite '09 was going to be one to remember.

The first day was destined to be the most hectic. Since it was move in day for freshmen, the dorms were packed with parents, liaisons, squabbling RAs, suitcases, and many other articles. People were almost getting pummeled by frantic students pushing overloaded carts full of miscellaneous items. Mountains of paperwork containing release waivers, meal plans, and noise policy documents were being administered to the students by a handful of resourceful volunteers. The elevators at Towers were slower than a Los Angeles freeway during rush hour, and many students were reduced to carrying their articles up the interminable flights of stairs rather than waiting for the infamously slow Towers elevators.

The move-in frenzy lasted well past noon; once the majority of the students had established themselves in their rooms and the task of interior design was completed, it was time for the real events to commence. After a somewhat chaotic dinner at the cafeteria, it was time for the first general session.

As could be expected, Hole Memorial Auditorium was completely crammed. People were standing up trying to sort out their friends amidst a sea of constantly moving faces, and the incessant clamor only added to the difficulty of such a task. Finally, everyone eventually got settled and the session began. After some general announcements and fanfare, it was time to divide into family groups.

The process of dividing into family groups had all the feel of a public auction: people were shouting out numbers, and group leaders were responding by madly waving a plethora of artistically adorned posters. The dizzying sorting of family groups continued until each group was assembled and subsequently ushered off to their predetermined meeting places. The group consisted of at most two leaders who were very accommodating, if not somewhat quirky.

By nightfall of the first day, family groups could be spotted in various locations around campus performing a series of, let's say, creative games: games like Ninja, Big Booty, and freeze tag were among the favorites. Shouts of laughter could be heard from all corners of campus, permeating the ink-black darkness with a fun-filled vibe.

After the games ceased and it was time to return to the dorms and call it a day. Students slowly filtered back to the residence halls, their silhouettes outlined by the eerie glow of the many streetlamps that line the walkways at La Sierra.

The morning came early on the second day of Ignite since breakfast was only being served between eight and nine.

Many tired, sleep-deprived freshmen trickled into the cafeteria on the second day, ready to embark on the many festivities planned.

After breakfast, students were once again guided into Hole Memorial Auditorium for yet another general session. Medleys of contemporary worship songs were sung and a slideshow of the previous day's events was shown, much to the liking of the audience.

Following the second general session, students were once again joined with their family groups, guided out of the welter that was Hole Memorial Auditorium, and obligated to attend a series of workshops that covered everything pertaining to sex and drugs in college. Although the workshops were didactic, they weren't exactly what you'd call the highlight of the day; luckily, by the time the workshops were let out the day was still young, and that's when the real fun began.

The planned events that followed, collectively called "Family Group Challenges," were a great deal of fun. One of the challenges was a styled after the popular board game Monopoly. Family groups met in the Student Center and were told to pick a square of the oversized take off of a Monopoly board, but instead of buying squares labeled "New York Place" or "Connecticut Avenue," these squares displayed information on various La Sierra support centers and locations. It was quite a sight to see hoards of family groups shuffling around a crowded mock-Monopoly board after they rolled two oversized dice. This specific event was enjoyable, if not exactly graceful. As if the Monopoly challenge wasn't wacky enough, its inherent zaniness was perpetuated in the hula hoop challenge. This challenge required family groups to form a large circle all the while holding hands and then pass a hula hoop around the circumference of the circle without unlocking. After some trial and error, various family groups became fairly good at the hula hoop task. The real challenge, however, came when family groups had to compete against each other in a timed trial. In the fury that ensued, groups jumped, vaulted and threw themselves through the hoops, all in an effort to gain Family Group supremacy. The most interactive of the challenges took place in the gym. It involved students forming a square around a large portion of the gym and kicking enormous soccer balls across "goals," which were actually the four sides of the square and composed of freshman, all eager to kick the soccer ball into oblivion. To add to the confusion and wackiness of the challenge, the only way that competitors could move about was to shimmy across the gym floor facing upward on both feet and hands. Once Van Halen's "Jump" started to play, the gym came to life. Students joined the frenzy with savage vigor, and the balls went flying like projectiles, hitting unsuspecting students with a muffled "thud." After the fury ceased, freshmen were left either panting for breath or craving another round. The final of the challenges involved a possible soaking. Family groups congregated on the lawn directly in front of Calkins

Hall's entrance and arranged themselves into a succession of columns, then security informed them on the technicalities of the challenge. The leader in the column was to run up to a cooler filled with water balloons, cautiously bring one back to his group and pass it over his head (all the while trying not to give anyone a unsuspected bath), then the group was to pass it down the column in similar fashion until the last member ran to the front and repeated the crazy task. The first family group to reorient themselves from back to front was the winner. The bark of a security dog was the trigger that sent people running (and slipping), towards the coolers. Initially, the groups were successful in establishing a steady system of passing the water balloons, but as the competition grew fierce, that's when the real waterworks started. The sensation of a summer monsoon diffused across the lawn as balloons went popping in random succession. Towards the end, the water balloon challenge had evolved in an all out water balloon war complete with an air raid (balloons falling from above), artillery (balloons being mercilessly hand-tossed), and of course plenty of friendly fire. After the deluge ended and peace was made (or rather after the water balloons ran out), the mood was markedly different. After a day packed with zanies and camaraderie, the freshmen were tired, hungry, and ready for a change in itinerary.

After a short break directly following the last challenge, students filed into Hole Memorial Auditorium for a short briefing. Freshmen were informed about the La Sierra faculty, their aims, and then dismissed for dinner. Waiting outside, however, was the faculty and spread shoulder to shoulder and forming a one long, snaking row. In order to progress to the dining commons, freshmen had to pound fists with their future instructors. The faculty was very affable and many pleasant conversations were exchanged.

After dinner, students were encouraged to attend LSU Live an informative social event that featured booths from the various La Sierra University clubs and organizations, games, live music, a variety of ethnic foods and, of course, free giveaways. LSU Live carried on well into the warm evening.

By 8:30 p.m., it was time for the sure-to-be-interesting Ignite talent show. Auditions for the show had been held the day before, and the performers were busily preparing for their momentary exposure under the scrutiny of the penetrating spotlight, as well as the large audience. As could be expected, Hole Memorial Auditorium was filled throughout with reverberating cacophony and heat, all due to stuffing such a large number of freshmen into such a limited space.

Once the talent show was underway, the distracted crowd suddenly became attentive- all eyes were on the performers. The talent show was primarily of comprised musical acts, although some individuals chose to instead act and dance. After the last of the acts had finished, the judges were promptly sequestered to choose who would be the winner. Upon their return it was announced that the grand prize would go to a male and female musical duo. For many, the talent show was seen as a very creative and enjoyable event.

The last event planned for the intensely scheduled day was the calming family group chat. Groups dispersed to their designated locations and were supposed to ruminate on the

day's events. However, many groups decided on continuing the previous night's games. Shouts of bliss and excitement could be heard in all corners of campus, piercing the warm stillness of the opaque, sparsely-illuminated night. Thus ended the second night of a very energy-infused Ignite.

By the dawning of the third day of Ignite, the restlessness of the freshmen was apparent. Not only was this the third and final day of Ignite '09, but it was also the day that the much awaited iPod Touches would be handed out.

The first order of business for the morning was a delectable pancake breakfast. I vividly recall people spreading mountains of whipped cream on their pancakes and then further suffocating them under a deluge of red strawberry syrup. A great deal of socializing ensued until it was time for class pictures.

Outside the heat hadn't even reached its climax, but it was already beginning to feel toasty. The entire incoming freshman class gathered near the Dining Commons to take one huge picture. This was easier said than done because of all the reorienting that was taking place. Short people were told to come to the front and tall ones to stay in the back. Everyone smiled wide and with the closing of the shutter, everyone was off to University Worship.

When worship let out, it was time for lunch and the final family group meeting. The fare sounded risqué- BBQ at an Adventist institution? Well, not quite. The quasi-barbeque consisted of veggie patties and veggie links. Even then, the setup on the lawn created a relaxing, sociable setting.

Everyone could sense it and the staff already knew it- it was officially time to hand out the iPod Touches. The moment the freshmen had been waiting for all Ignite was finally here, and the mood was charged with anticipation. Students were instructed to gather on two sides of the lawn, one for iPod Touches, and one for iPhones. The two categories were quickly sifted out accordingly. I remember the excitement as I was directed to Cossentine Hall to receive my glorious palm-sized device. The task of actually distributing the devices to the students was dizzying. Students that weren't paying attention would miss their name being called or even worse, you wouldn't hear your name called at all. The volunteers in charge of distribution (or at least mine), were constantly stressing out about the noise level and other inconsequential disturbances. The annoyances, tribulations and days of waiting were soon forgotten however once that iPhone was in my hands.

When I think back to Ignite, I quickly conjure up images of fun and excitement. Although Ignite was all these things, the real reason for it being held is easily overlooked. Ignite was held so that students like me could assimilate into the college lifestyle together, as opposed to assimilating alone. Another purpose of Ignite was to cultivate enduring friendships that will hopefully last throughout our college experience. By laying the groundwork for a successful school year through a combination of fun and learning, Ignite did something larger than just creating fond memories-it gave freshmen a head start on the path to success in college.

CRITERION

THE STUDENT QUARTERLY OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

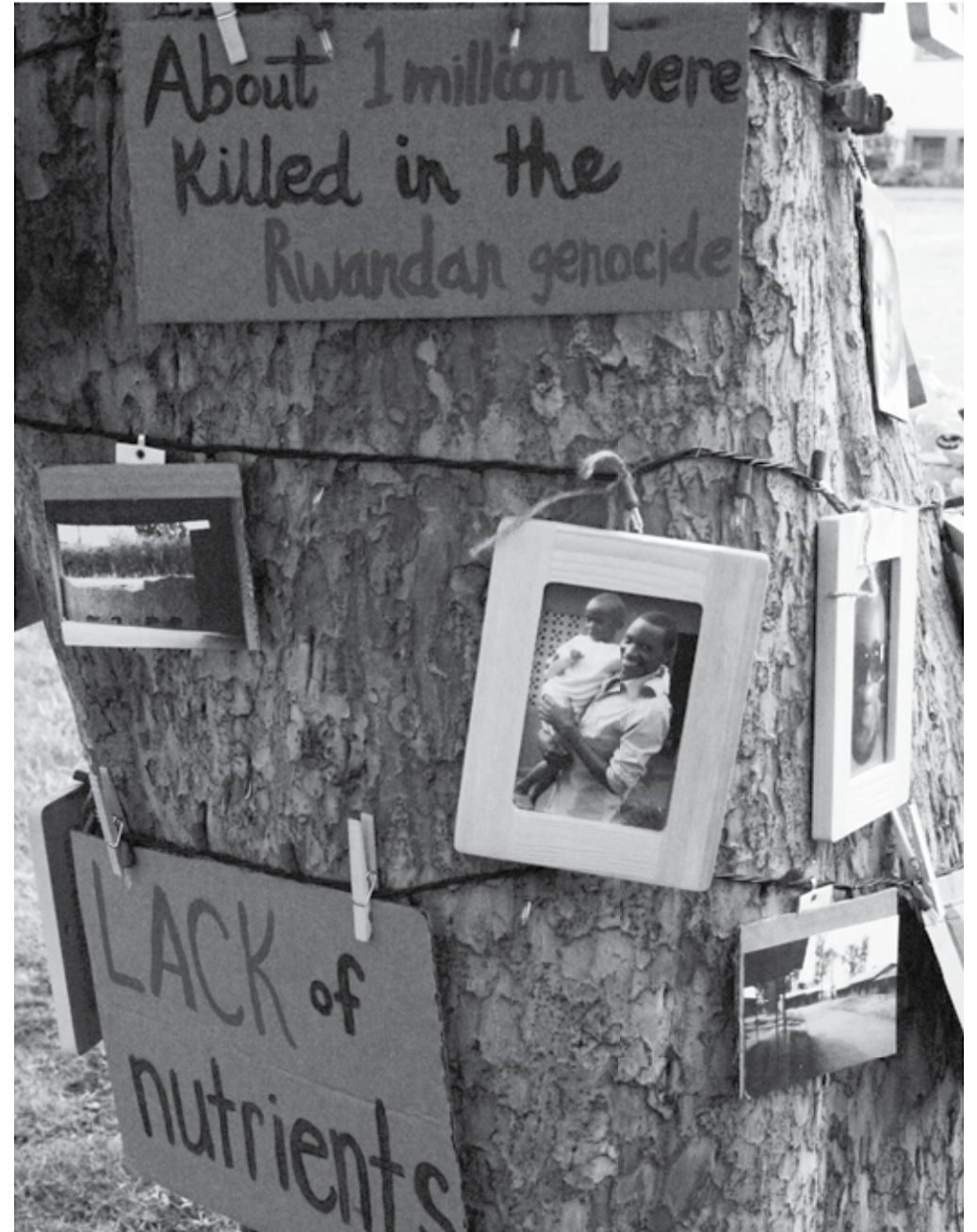
SPRING 2010



CRITERION

THE STUDENT QUARTERLY OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2010





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EDITOR'S NOTE

Spring is here. A lot had happened when we first started in fall. Much has changed since then, and the university itself has undergone a series of changes. Throughout the year, it has been our job here at *The Criterion* to present balanced and objective news based on those changes.

We've done that.

Also, just as important, to highlight stories of positive proactive change.

Done that too.

On a national scale, to make students aware of legislative issues that will have a significant impact in our generation and future generations to come.

Check.

In our last issue for the school year, we bring you the last of our coverage of the news that took place throughout the duration of the spring quarter. Events such as the powerful movement known as REVO will be featured. On a grander scale, progress on the healthcare bill will also be discussed. *The Criterion* is also presenting a special report from Haiti, where Features Editor David Harris reports on the progress of the relief efforts. Although this is our last issue for the year, our presentation of quality news stories stays the same.

While presenting this last issue is like being free of a heavy burden, it is one of which I have trouble letting go. Never have I experienced a love of a job, staff, and audience as I did this school year. Leaving it will be extremely difficult. I feel comfortable knowing that I leave *The Criterion* to the very capable talent of our current News Editor Nick Smith. Please give him the same enthusiasm and welcome

as I received this year. I would like to recognize Nic Sanchez, without whose experience in graphic design we wouldn't have had the same amount of success. Thanks, homie. Michelle, there is no way I could thank you enough for the countless hours of editing the mountains of articles. You are beautiful. Thank you. Isaac, you're my rock. Thank you for being the foundation I need to press forward. To my staff of writers and photographers, you are the backbone that shaped this quarterly from nothing into what it is today. It was you who made this news outlet stand out proudly from all the other Adventist university publications. I couldn't have asked for a more talented group of individuals who are dedicated in making a difference in our community. I love you all.

Finally, there is you, the reader. There is no possible way I could ever express enough how important your responsibility is as the public who reads the news. All the support and criticism you have provided is of extreme value to a journalistic team. It shows two things: a passion for discovering the truth and the willingness to allow a public discussion of all topics under the sun. You have fully accepted that responsibility.

It's been a pleasure serving.

We are the medium of revolution. Let's continue to change the world.

Always truly,

Israel Carreon
Editor-in-Chief



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HEALTH CARE REFORM

APPROVE

MAR 23 2010

Regardless of one's opinion on the issue, the signing of the Health Insurance Reform Bill into law on March 23, 2010 marked a historic moment in modern American history, and one with far-reaching implications.

by Carlos Casiano

President Barack Obama said the day marked a “new season in America.” On the other side of the aisle, House Minority Leader John Boehner called it “a somber day for the American people.”

President Obama signed the bill into law after the House passed the bill, though by a slim margin. The March 21 congressional vote, which passed 219-212, saw a handful of Democrats joining all the Republican representatives in opposing the bill.

The bill faced and continues to face significant opposition. Critics of the bill say that it gives too much power to the government and argue that it will ultimately drive up costs. Some have suggested that the only way to repair the situation is to reverse it.

“There’s only one way to truly undo the damage this law will do to our economy and our freedoms: repeal and replace,” Boehner (R-OH) said. “Then we can start fresh on reforms focused first on lowering costs for families and small businesses.”

Supporters counter that the bill will provide health coverage for millions of Americans who currently do not have access to care, and that the bill will actually help reduce costs in the long term.

A Gallup poll on March 29 found that public opinion of the bill was almost evenly split, with 47 percent of Americans in favor and 50 percent opposed. The numbers have been similar throughout the last few months, fluctuating between positive and negative majority opinions.

Public opinion largely mirrored the situation in Congress. The same poll found that most Democrats were in favor of the bill, most Republicans were opposed, and independent voters were more divided but leaning toward the opposition.

Although the bill will bring substantial changes to American healthcare over time, its contents are complex and not well understood by many in the general public, a factor that may contribute to the controversy over the bill.

Dr. James A. Morone, chair of the Political Science department at Brown University, told the Christian Science Monitor that confusion is largely at the center of the conflict.

“No one really understands it,” Morone said. “Healthcare is a very high-intensity, low-information issue. People respond to conflict.”

To help the general public better understand the bill, different news organizations and medical groups have written summaries outlining the main provisions of the new legislation.

The bill ultimately requires a majority of Americans to obtain health insurance and is expected to extend coverage availability to an additional 32 million people. The insurance requirement does exempt certain groups, such as people with financial hardships, people with religious objections, American Indians, undocumented immigrants (who will not receive coverage under the bill), and individuals below certain income levels.

People will be able to purchase health insurance through state-sponsored insurance exchange programs. Individuals who do not obtain health insurance will

receive a penalty that will reach \$695 per person in 2016, with family penalties up to \$2,085 or 2.5 percent of taxable income.

NO ONE REALLY UNDERSTANDS IT.

The bill also offers health insurance subsidies for families earning between 133-400 percent of the federal poverty level, which currently stands at \$22,050 for a family of four. The bill also restructures the Medicaid and Medicare government programs.

In addition to healthcare changes for individuals, the bill introduces changes to health insurance requirements for businesses. Businesses with over 50 employees who do not offer health coverage and have at least one employee receiving a government subsidy will have to pay a \$2,000 fine per full-time employee. However, the bill includes tax credits for small businesses and will create an exchange system for businesses to purchase health insurance for their employees.

To help pay for the costs of the reform, the bill introduces a number of new taxes. In addition to the individual and small business penalties, the bill increases taxes for individuals with incomes higher than \$200,000 (or \$250,000 for married couples).

Taxes will also be added to pharmaceutical manufacturing companies and health insurance companies. In particular, a tax will be added to more expensive health-insurance plans, referred to as “Cadillac” plans. A 10 percent tax will also be placed on indoor tanning services.

The bill eliminates health insurance exclusions based on pre-existing health conditions. The new measure will apply to children within six months of the passing of the bill, and to adults by 2014. It also extends health insurance coverage for dependent children up to age 26.

The new legislation will affect young Americans in another way. The reconciliation bill that included the healthcare reform also included a student loan reform, in which the student loan program was changed so that federal loans will come directly from the government through the Direct Loan program instead of going through private lenders first.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that the switch would save nearly \$68 billion over the next 10 years.

However, in an article written for the financial aid website FastWeb, financial aid expert Mark

Kantrowitz said that most current students would not really be affected by the new changes, as the loans themselves will not change significantly.

Loan repayment programs will change so that monthly payments will be 10 percent of discretionary income, as opposed to the current 15 percent. Also, loan forgiveness will start to kick in after 20 years instead of 25 years (except forgiveness for public service loans, which will remain at 10 years).

Even so, most of the changes won’t be implemented until 2014, and since they will not be retroactive, the changes will likely not be of much benefit to current students.

Expenses will be high for the healthcare bill. The CBO estimated that the total cost of the bill will be around \$938 billion over 10 years, a number that critics say is too high, especially considering the difficult economic situation in the United States. Many who oppose the bill believe that it will either directly hurt the national economy or lead to higher costs on personal insurance.

Supporters of the bill say that the high cost will be financed through money saved and new taxes added as part of the reform. The CBO estimates that in those same 10 years the bill will reduce the national deficit by \$124 billion.

Now that the bill has passed, it is up to the government to ensure that the program indeed delivers as it should. Most of the components will not come into effect until 2014, and the bill will not be fully implemented until 2019, providing ample time for arguments for and against the bill to continue flowing.

However, it may be time for the two sides to begin working together to maximize the benefits of the bill and minimize its flaws. As House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said in the final debate prior to the vote, “Illness and infirmity are universal, but we are stronger together than we are alone. In that shared strength is our nation’s strength.”

A summary prepared by the Kaiser Family Foundation highlighting the main points of the bill can be found at <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm>.



LET JUSTICE ROLL LIKE WATER

by John Roach



The ground is broken yet again to improve upon the Path of the Just by placing a fountain as the centerpiece to La Sierra's most famous walkway. The idea for a path winding through the middle of campus was slowly developed over the past ten years due to generous donors and determined individuals that wanted not only to spruce up the simple walkway strip but bring meaning to it as well. Do you know the meaning to this "signature path" and newly constructed fountain? Most LSU students do know the basic theme the Path of the Just portrays but are unclear on the newly constructed fountain and the purpose it serves to each individual traveling by it.

"Let justice flow like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" is a verse from Amos 5 that was selected as the name of the fountain, which represents justice, righteousness, and as Dr. Charles Teel describes, "a spiritual source." The Path of the Just is incomplete without the fountain, and vice versa. As mentioned before, the Path focuses on powerful individuals (Christians and non-Christians) that have strived for human rights, empowerment, and of course justice in a unique way. They have been recognized along the Path on each carved continent that he or she lived on. Dr. Teel would love nothing more than the importance and meaning of this path to "hit the students between the eyes like a Hebrew prophet," but obviously this effect has not been clearly seen. Ask your friend who Desmond Tutu, Iner Sheld Ritchie, or even Elie Weisel is. These are just a few of the honorees that the pathway recognizes, yet most of us know very little about them. If you ever wonder after your eyes fall upon the names of these men and women placed along the path, open up to the opportunity to learn from them by doing a quick search on the web or reading a magazine article or book. Each person applied what they knew and learned in unique scenarios to produce noteworthy actions. Our growth as individuals is enhanced not only by learning but also by being able to extrapolate the core information that is significant to the course of our lives and using it to make a difference. The water from the fountain flows from the core of La Sierra to where the university meets the outside world. Essentially, the fountain represents the spiritual source flowing out of us to others close by and to others living far away.

For those that have no idea where the Path or fountain is, have a friend point it out, and come up with your own theme for what it means to you. The beauty of the fountain portrays the beauty of the message, which is why contributors have worked so hard to turn the picture on paper into a reality in which all can experience the altruistic service of sung and unsung people of the present and past.

ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS

by Sylvie Haber



As many of us know, the 59th General Conference Session is coming up, taking place from June 23 to July 3 in Atlanta, Georgia. The General Conference meets every five years to discuss many subjects of matter in the Seventh-day Adventist churches and institutions around the world. Topping their agenda for the session is the election of world church officers and voting on changes that affect the church's constitution, which in the end affect us.

The first General Conference Session was held in Battle Creek, Michigan on May 20, 1863. That session was held for the sole purpose of connecting the SDA churches of the world. During that time a chairman and a secretary were elected. Delegates of the Conference made bylaws and a constitution and later elected a President, Secretary, and Treasurer. This structure is still being followed today.

Fast-forward to the present, where the Conference has nearly quadrupled in size, spreading almost to the entire world. Our current president, Jan Paulsen, has been in office since 1999 and shows no signs in retiring according to La Sierra's very own Larry Becker. Mr. Becker shows a certain fondness towards President Paulsen, saying, "He is a very thoughtful man, who is personable, warm, and engaging. He represents a legacy of leadership." Overall, President Paulsen is a very well-liked man who is doing the Conference justice.

In regards to this year's Atlanta Session, there seems to be no candidate up for president other than Jan Paulsen. Therefore, we can look forward to another great five

year term for Mr. Paulsen. Yes, the conference and elections are held only once every five years. Originally, the conference was held every year, but due to financial constraints during the years of the Great Depression, the conference rules were changed to accommodate the financial issues.

Many topics will be discussed, but the hot button issue that is being avoided is the ordination of women pastors. According to La Sierra English teacher Sari Fordham, who wrote an article on the General Conference for the *Adventist Review*, this topic is being avoided because other countries are not ready for their women to step up and take bigger leadership roles. Although the culture in the United States may be amicable towards the idea of women holding this position, that is not the case in other countries around the world. Baby steps are still being taken to overcome the difficulties that face the women who wish to serve as ministers.

Another concern that Sari Fordham expressed is the allocation of monies. She wishes that the General Conference would allocate more money to the SDA schools, hospitals, and institutions. She believes this should happen so that we as an SDA community can grow and excel in the future. To those of you who have not read the article that Ms. Fordham wrote regarding the General Conference, I suggest that you pick up a copy of the *Adventist Review* and read it. I hope we can all make an effort to attend the session. After all, decisions made now on our behalf will affect all of our futures as we move forward and grow together as one SDA community.

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ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

by Jonathan Soto

There is something amiss with the La Sierra Golden Eagles, we have good players, and we have good coaches, so why don't we win at least half the games in our seasons? Simply put, we lack in finances, we lack in full rosters, and we lack in support from our university; all attribute to our Gold and Blue's constant disappointing seasons.

But we as a university are going through a tunnel where the light at the end is shining ever so brightly and will promise to usher in a new era at La Sierra University. An era where a team spirit and unity thrive, success on and off the court is assured, an era where the teams have much more than jocks, but servant leaders. We are going into a new division known as National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, simply put NAIA. So what does this mean for us a university?

When Athletics Director Javier Krumm first took office at the start of the year he inherited a program that was in a rut. NCAA div 3 asked for too high demands and La Sierra University could simply not answer those demands on the athletic and fiscal end of the issue. La Sierra University needed to decide how many sports programs it would be able to sponsor while being able to reap the benefit of success from those sports programs.

With a demand too high Krumm has taken the LSU sport programs and revolutionized them. "We are here to have success", those are the bold words Krumm used to describe the decision of taking LSU's into the NAIA division. It is a division that focuses around smaller schools, mainly small Christian institutions. In NCAA div 3 the required minimum from participating schools demand that there be at least 12 active sports programs. This season La Sierra University only had 10 active sports programs. Using simply Math 006 skills 12 is more than 10; this was indeed an issue that the Athletics Department faced, and was one of the leading factors for going into the NAIA. In NAIA there is no minimum of the amounts of teams that a university can sponsor to enter into competition, this was the better option for our university.

Another added bonus to being in NAIA is that instead of having our Golden Eagles playing two or three times a week, we will now be able to schedule our matches for our convenience and give the players and coaches a bigger time lapse from match day to match day. With more time for preparation and rest, our teams will have the adequate state of mind when going into each fixture. Who then will be our main opponents if we won't be seeing lovely



competition like Cal Tech or Cal Bap? Simple, with other NAIA universities in the area, we are able to enter into the conference of other NAIA universities considered in the area.

Being a member of NCAA div. 3 there was a four-year probation time before our university would be eligible to compete for an NCAA div. 3 championships. In NAIA there is a minimum of a 1-year probation time before LSU will be eligible to contend for an NAIA championship match. Two years from now, LSU Golden Eagles can bring back some hardware to our university. It's about time that our trophy cabinet gets filled with cups and championships rather than collect dust.

NAIA universities are generally able to have teams better sponsored and financially backed up due to the minimum rule in place, which is regarding to amounts of active sports programs. This rule will allow LSU to invest more financial aid and backing to specific sports programs. The programs decided that will be sponsored for next season are as followed; Women's Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, and Men's Soccer, Basketball, and Baseball. Why these teams chosen? Krumm explained to me that it was due to projected interests, budget concerns, and a desire to match the sports programs sponsored by Seventh Day Adventist academies.

So now comes the big question; will the change into NAIA permit for scholarship and financial aid for the student athletes? The answer is yes. But there was a format to how financial aid and scholarships would be determined. La Sierra University's Athletic Scholarship Taskforce is dedicated to determine how to deal with the best and most efficient ways in which to distribute aid to the student athletes.

What is known is that for next year, the budget of \$64,000 is to be distributed among the 6 active sports programs. This can pose quite an issue, obviously because that's approximately \$10,667 dollars for each team. Now example: Say the LSU Men's Soccer team next season has a total of 22 players, that means that between 22 student-athletes a scholarship of 484 dollars and 86 cents is to be given to each student. When we put it in those terms it's not much but still it's a start regardless. Something that is good is that scholarships at LSU are renewable and students can get a hold of all kinds of sorts of financial aid, weather its academic performance, GPA, FAFSA, Cal Grant, etc. The point is, is that LSU athletic scholarships will be given and will go to help out the student athlete. Hopefully more financial aid will be invested into these programs in the future.

So where do we go from here?

With induction into the NAIA the doors of opportunity have swung wide open for LSU Athletics. Speaking with Krum about teams and the situations regarding them, I

am very hopeful for the Baseball team in the coming years. At this moment approximately \$25,000 has been spent on improving the field. New dugouts and water fountains have been installed along with improved field positions. New faces have been brought in as well. Gabriel Gamboa, one of the coaches, Krum informed me, was an associate scout for the San Diego Padres. Brining in experience from the MLB business end is definitely an advantage to look forward to and build upon for LSU.

Another exciting prospect is the Women's Basketball team. New couches being introduced are brining in not only great experience but also are very active in recruitment for athletes. Eric Thompson, Ashley Haggerty and Francesca Stiversten will all be working with the Women's Basketball team and program.

When I bluntly asked Krum to give me a broad answer, "What are the goals for next year then?" To which he responded, "We want full rosters, we want to double the amount of wins for our team's seasons, and we want a large gym and field home showing." How can all these be achieved then? "The key is", as Krum explained, "servant leadership." It is a philosophy that everyone must begin to develop.

Professional athletes are selected by top clubs because of more than just their physical skill, but by their leadership abilities. "To win the opportunity to prove yourself on the field and perhaps more importantly, in life, develop the art of servant leadership" that is the closing statement on the plaque in front of the director's office. Servant leadership is when people can humble themselves and put themselves aside and instead go forward with each other to achieve a collective goal.

Through servant leadership Krum has transformed the athletics department and is continuing to do so. We as a university realize the changes that are coming for our athletics next season, isn't it about time we take up the challenge of being servant leaders and push forward, weather we choose to be athletes or not.

So let's come together and show up for our teams' home matches, let's try out even if we aren't any good at sports, let's finally make the collective goal as a university to win more than on the field but off it as well. I know Javier is doing his part, as will I, all that remains, will you?

WORLD CUP

by Jonathan Soto

June is creeping upon us, and we should all be glad for a number of reasons. It's graduation time, all the graduating students, it's time to celebrate and rejoice that you've made it out of La Sierra University and now have a promising future full of success, hopefully. Classes are done, so those of us not graduating, be glad you've made it through another year. Some of us are leaving to different schools, be glad though because you've made it one step closer to your goal. But the most important thing is that be glad, because it's time to fix your eyes upon South Africa for one month.

That's right folks, the FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa is here and it's going to promise to be one of the most historic and exciting events we'll see in our lifetime. Football- or commonly known as Soccer, is the sport on the rise in the United States. Since 1994 when the World Cup was held in America and since David Beckham's introduction to the MLS in 2007, soccer has done nothing but grow in the US.

So why not band wagon before it's too late?

Our boy's in stars and stripes will open their campaign for glory on June 12th against our colonial cousins across the Atlantic, England. All of us should give in and support the red white and blue as it promises to be a great tournament, especially since our success in the Confederations Cup, where we lost the final to Brazil (but let's not be too disappointed by that) but because the highlight was us defeating Spain in the semi-final.

La Sierra University is such a diverse school, so how could I possibly get away without mentioning the fact that Mexico is playing against South Africa in the opening match for the World Cup! So "la raza" better be ready

to support "el tri" all the way. There is also a large host of Spanish nations involved, Uruguay, Honduras, Chile, Argentina, and of course Spain. I don't think I need to remind Latin origin people, but you already know your going to watch the world cup. Don't deny it.

African nations are definitely the big ones to look forward to here; Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Algeria, and South Africa are for the first time playing a World Cup on African soil. These African teams are known to create major upsets in previous tournaments. Japan and South Korea, two regulars in recent history have an exciting tournament to look forward too, building upon a great tournament from 2002 Korea/Japan World Cup, the two teams have a generation of players that look ready to create the upsets in this years tournament. Australia and New Zealand (I don't know if we have any here at La Sierra) but regardless, two teams that play very similar to the US and England style of play will also look to go deep in the tournament.

And of course we have the continent with the most international success collectively. Europe. Can the World Cup holders Italy continue their dominance of the pitch? We can definitely expect to see a strong and defensive Italian team. Other favorites are the Germans, English, French (maybe not so much the French), the Netherlands, Portugal, and the main favorite to lift this year's trophy Spain.

If you saw 2006's World Cup, then you know what to expect. If you didn't, be ready to be on the edge of emotions (and your seat) while you take part and witness the beautiful game. The world will be in awe for one month, I suggest you take heed and join up to become a part of history and also become in a state of "awe."



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Inspiration can be found in everyday life; the little things can sometimes be the most inspiring to an individual. Taking the time to acknowledge your environment and appreciate your circumstances can be an incentive to finding inspiration. However, many people do not take the time to observe the little things in life. They might be too busy with work or trying to give themselves a name, and they end up being ignorant to the positivity that surrounds them. Fortunately, the writer of the amazingly creative play *I Told the Doctor I Got a Good Heart* took the time to admire and acknowledge his surroundings and displayed them through the form of drama. Patrick Garrett York, a senior English Honors Program student at La Sierra University, found his inspiration for his Honors Scholarship Project by riding on the public transportation around the area and overhearing the conversations of the people near him. By experiencing a lot of different environments and recording these conversations on paper as well as on a voice recorder, he realized that “everything had an inspiration” to what he wanted to accomplish with the play. Each character was formed from people’s conversations, from those about aimless things to those as serious as someone figuring his precious worth against a harsh society. To York, life was his inspiration. “I like to write life—it’s something we can all relate to.” And after watching his play, the audience left with a better understanding of it.

Nat Greenfield, played by Denby Rasmussen, is a young, arrogant paralegal that is struggling to pass his bar exam to become a lawyer; he is the character that York uses to expose his gathered collection of conversations and thoughts. Greenfield, forced to ride the bus to work because of a DUI, encounters all different kinds of people whom he considers to be lower than him, and as a result treats them as such. Each character brings his or her own separate issue to Greenfield’s attention, and as he eavesdrops and converses with some of them, they leave him with a little piece of knowledge about their crazy lives. He initially comes across a homeless man with heart problems named Gram (Will Williams), who tries to converse with him but is ignored. He then meets two scandalous old ladies, Merryweather (Brianna Jones) and Constance (Melisseanna Gibbons), who exemplify the young at heart; Charles (Frankie Runnels), a man with Tourette’s who argues with Greenfield to prove that although Greenfield might be more educated and fortunate, they are still “sitting on the same bus”; two Swedish travelers (Thaina Madere and Daniel Skoretz) that proclaim that people in California never leave; and Penny (Caitlin Miller), a young and freely outgoing female who rides the bus constantly to work. As she tries to break through Greenfield’s rough exterior and help him see life differently, she starts to fall for him. Each of these characters helps to build up one of the many messages this production has—the importance of cherishing life.

Greenfield finds himself becoming angrier that a successful male like him is placed in this strange circumstance, and rather than trying to make the best of it, he complains and turns to alcohol. The bus driver (Will Appiah) watches everything that Greenfield does and tries to help him become adjusted to the circumstances despite Greenfield always trying to start fights with him. Penny becomes Greenfield’s voice of reason, and even though she is the only one Greenfield puts up with, he fails to see her signs of affection because of his self-centeredness. The bus driver tries to help him see things he cannot see, and when he refuses, the bus driver points out to him that he is “the only lonely person on the bus.” He then begins to pursue Penny, converse with people on the bus, and tries to open up to the world. Time passes by and his bar exams are coming up, but around that same time, Gram passes away due to heart failure. Gram’s death transforms Greenfield’s whole outlook on life, leading him to not worry about the bar exam and even wear something other than a suit. Although he was embarrassed to change and be good, he realizes that he is just like everyone else.

This drama production was one of the most meaningful and creative productions I have ever seen. To think that York came up with this concept by observing everyday life amazes me. The unique thing about this play is that it consists of numerous amounts of inspirational messages that are hard to find if one is not open to receive them. “Inspiration can be found anywhere in life,” York says with satisfaction, “and it gets better every single time you use it!”



Anusba Sivalingam



2010 ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBITION

by Christina Thompson



Every year La Sierra University's outstanding Art Department provides students with the opportunity to showcase their works in the Annual Student Exhibition. This year's exhibition took place from April 12 to 29. Three judges presided over the competition. Among them was Justin Brandstater, an artist who works in background animation for *DreamWorks*, and Dana Herklerath, a graphic designer who has worked at *Disneyland* as an environmental designer. From the plethora of highly qualified works on display in Brandstater Gallery, which included fabric art, graphic art, drawing, printmaking, and photography, these judges were given the task of awarding a Best of Show and 1st and 2nd place prizes in both Fine Art and Graphic Art, as well as several honorable mentions.

Alexandra Ramirez, a junior Graphic Design and Spanish major, received Best in Show for her handmade book *Benediction*. She created this piece as a tribute to her mother who was six months pregnant with her soon-to-be baby brother. The pregnancy was an unexpected surprise and her little brother will be the last member added to her family. He can be considered a benediction, the "last blessing." In shades of black, grey, and white, 16 photographs are linked together with silver rings to show her mother's profile. On the other side, the 16 different photographs represent the passage of time, showing shots of her mother's face and hands, as well as close-ups of her father's hands. These photographs were printed on hand-made paper called Lacta in order to represent a

skin-like texture. Another part of the piece is a handmade box that is white on the outside, representing all that is visible, and black on the inside, representing the womb. The photographs can be folded up like a map and placed inside the box. Ramirez did not expect to win Best of Show during the award ceremony. At the encouragement of her friends, she finally entered the Brandstater Gallery during the opening ceremonies and to her surprise saw that her work had been awarded the Best of Show.

Kiyomi Fukui, a junior Graphic Design major, received 1st place in the Fine Art category for her work entitled *Paradise*. This fabric art piece depicting a delicate female figure was created in an experimental process using direct dyes. Breaking with tradition in order to find her own sense of style, Fukui strived to achieve a three-dimensional, textural design with a more contemporary look. This piece depicts an illustrated and stylized "Eve" whom Fukui regards as having the most beautiful body lines of any subject. During the dying process she started with a pale yellow, and then layered oranges and reds, finally finishing with greens and purples as accents. When she received her award for 1st place, she was elated because it gave her the confidence she needed to continue to explore her own style.

Katie Pershing, a sophomore English and Fine Art major, was awarded 2nd place in Fine Art for *Climbing Tree*, a direct die and screen print. This work was a first step in Pershing's desire to one day become an illustrator

and is directly inspired by her own fairytale story of the adventures of a boy named Luca and a girl named Wednesday who emerged from a sketch she made while amusing herself during a class. The scene appears to come from an antique fairytale book illustration—a giant knarled oak tree with sparse burnt orange leaves subtly reaches out, grabbing at the two children's wrists and ankles with its bare branches. According to Pershing, the creation process was a huge experiment; each step was a mistake half of the time, but in the end the blurred screen print and boutique dyes in shadowy grey, tan, sandy brown, and steel blue turned into a masterpiece. Pershing was shocked when she got the award for 2nd place because she was unaware that the exhibition was judged. She was also elated when one of the judges approached her asking if she would like to have her work displayed in a fabric art display in downtown Riverside this coming September.

Kim Mah, a sophomore Graphic Design major, was fortunate to receive three honorable mentions. Her *Game Over Pt. I* was a set of four baby onesies hanging from a strand of barbed wire, each depicting a videogame character baby and titled Power Up, Game Over, Enemy Destroyed, and Player 1, respectively. As an assignment in her Creative Visual Thinking art class, Mah was instructed to represent a topic through art. She found that she was extremely interested in the common consensus that violence in video games influences the actions of children. Using Photoshop, Mah designed

each of the videogame characters and then transferred the graphics to the fabric using an iron-on technique. With the barbed wire and sharp blue or pink mohawks on the characters contrasting with the innocence of a baby onesie, Mah hoped to grab the viewer's attention and have the art piece's message about children and videogame violence make an impact.

Alex Kümpel, a senior Graphic Design major, also received two honorable mentions. One of his interesting photographs was entitled *We Like the Exotic*. Kümpel wanted to craft an unusual and intriguing portrait, so he created a wire frame to hold his subject's hair out at crazy angles from her head. For the background he printed out four sheets of vivid blue and turquoise print. Using the dodge and burn tools in Photoshop, he added more contrast to the photograph and adjusted the layers of the colors in order to give background more of a vibration and make the colors "pop."

The 2010 Annual Student Exhibition was a terrific success. Each work displayed in the gallery offered a window into the creativity and abstraction that is art. Congratulations to all the artists who participated in this exhibition.



THE WINGTIP FASHION BLOG: SUN KISSED

by Charles Dickerson

There's never been a better time to hop in your two-seater, throw back the and let the early morning breeze hit you in the face as you escape up the California coast.

Whether it's with your bestie or wifey summer is the time for spontaneity and outings like none other. City pools clutter with neighborhood kids seeking refuge from the blazing heat. The Pacific Ocean is invaded by millions taking turns casually dipping themselves under snow capped waves then burying one another under castles of sand. The smell of charcoal is sprinkled with hints of sweet hickory as barbecue pits are continuously in order.

I wake up each day to the sound of my revolving fan spinning to its capacity. In a tank top and shorts I rise to grab my hanging towel and head toward the bathroom. After twisting on the shower I switch to my iPod where I find Sade's *Smooth Operator*, press play, and begin to sing along.

Throwing on a polo, some chinos and a pair of sandals, I sparingly spray my chest and forearms with a hint of cologne. Grabbing my aviators I rush out the door to join my friends for brunch.

You see, summer is the time for simplicity: simplicity in thought, action, and fashion. After a long grueling school year it's time to let your hair down and be comfortable. But being comfortable doesn't mean you have to sacrifice being stylish.

Exploring your options when it comes to fabrics is extremely important when choosing summerwear, as is fit, color, and comfort. Sticking to shirts with lightweight, thinner cotton blends and linen are sure to serve you very well this season. However, I must say that these fabrics tend to wrinkle quite easily, therefore, be big boys and girls and learn to iron in order to avoid looking as though you've slept in your clothes.

Being that jackets, sweaters and other over garments are ditched during this hottest of seasons, tapered or fitted shirts are an absolute must for both casual and formal wear during the summer. Additionally, looser shirts tend to bunch, shift, and generally place a great deal of

discomfort on the wearer – especially if perspiration is a factor. Cut is also important in the general sense – trimmer shirts will in turn make the wearer appear more fit and more fashion conscious. Baggy shirts are the hallmark of mediocre fashion everywhere and are more detrimental to maintaining a professional image than any other aspect regarding dress or sport shirts.

Let's all do the duty of dodging grays, blacks, olives, and dark blues this summer – they are far too staid for the season, and one will want to avoid anything drab or conservative during the most liberal of fashion seasons.

One of my personal favorite summer pieces are ripped or destroyed jeans. Although the days of torn jeans and patches don't seem too long ago, they're already back! They hint towards a strong character similar to the military jackets that have been in the spotlight these last few seasons. Perhaps the best thing about these jeans is that they pair great with a simple white tee.

Yes, ladies, I'm talking to you too!

Whether dressing for a casual night out or a date in, the key this season is to be comfortable doing it. This summer, no matter what you have planned—boring classes, a relentless internship, or to sip Frappuccinos while dangling your feet over a pool's edge—do it simply or not at all.



JAMEL

Junior, Communication

Manchester, England

Shirt by Snorg Tee
Jeans by One Three Zero
Shoes by Vans
Fitted by New Era
Glasses by Urban Outfitters
Backsack by Vintage

What do you collect?
Witty T-shirts.

Favorite summer snack?
Snickerdoodles.

Who has wack style?
Gangstas.

Item in your closet you regret buying?
Everything I've bought from Aeropostale.

What item can you not live without?
Glasses.

Favorite music artist?
Eric Benet

Why La Sierra?
Diversity.

Favorite dessert?
Red Velvet Cheesecake.

Dream date?
Dinner with Beyonce.

Love is...
Confusing.

What is your favorite hobby?
Ping Pong.

Favorite summer activity?
Going to the beach at night.

Plans for summer break?
Working in Bermuda.

What inspires your style?
Comedy.

Favorite dessert.
Cheesecake.

Most common statement about your style?
You look like a jerker.

Favorite food?
Mom's lasagna.

What trend should die?
Baggy clothing.

Favorite pet?
Cats.

Mac or PC?
PC for life.

What do you collect?
Shoes, purses, & earrings.

What trend should die?
Uggs.

What's the last book you read?
Can't remember.

Favorite food?
Sopes.

Who has dope style?
Zoey Deschanel.

Favorite movie?
Garden State.

Favorite sport?
I hate sports!

Favorite music artist?
Conor Oberst.

Favorite fast food joint?
Del Taco.

Dream job?
Fashion designer.

Favorite summer snack?
Sorbet with fruit.

Favorite color?
Purple.

Summer season essential?
Shorts.

Favorite summer activity?
Swimming.

Favorite brands?
Silence & Noise and Forever 21

Who inspires your style?
My mom.

Summer school for you?
Maybe.

Do you watch fireworks on the 4th of July?

If I'm awake.

What are your hobbies?
Shopping and cooking.

Favorite kicks?
TOMS.



JESSAMINE

Junior, Business

La Habra, California

Shirt by Silence & Noise
Denim by Levi's
Heels by H&M
Bag by Sabina



PATRICK

Senior, English

Victorville, California

Cardigan by Gap
Polo is Vintage
Jeans by Gap
Shoes are Vintage

Favorite dish?
Corned beef & cabbage.

What do you collect?
Plays and books.

Mac or PC?
Typewriters.

Item in your closet you regret buying?
Excessive button downs and sport coats from second hand stores. They don't all fit.

Fashion secret?
Dress nicely, it's not hard and it's more comfortable than you think.

Favorite vacation spot?
Sun Valley, Idaho.

Summer season don't?
Don't forget sun block.

What cologne do you wear?
Lanvin or Gucci by Gucci.

Favorite class?
American Literature II.

What inspires your style?
A lot of subconscious junk, I'm sure.

Favorite kicks?
Simple Shoes Green Toe.

Favorite spring trend?
Cardigans, they're cheap and versatile.

What kicks are you pulling out this season?
Green flip-flops. You'll be wearing them soon, too.

What item can you not live without?
The newest suit I have. It's always changing.

What piece of clothing tells most about one's style?
Over wear (jackets, sweaters, etc.).

Favorite artists?
Michael Hainey, Thom Yorke, Elliott Smith, Kurt Vonnegut.

Love is...
Fodder for profound quotes.

Favorite spring/summer item?
My bicycle. It's finally warm enough to ride around comfortably and my bike is more stylish than I will ever be.



“Lost” – Cool Calm Pete

The instrumentals of this song create a late-morning vibe to it—very slow, warm tones, and smooth. This compliments Cool Calm Pete’s delivery very well. Cool Calm Pete is known for his slow, lazy delivery. With these elements put together, the track kind of paints a picture of him rapping on the side of his bed just after he got up, eyelids still heavy, morning breath, and the room a mess.



“Old School” – Danger Doom

Danger Doom consists of MF Doom on the mic and Danger Mouse as the producer. This song features Talib Kwali on the mic with MF Doom. The two emcees have signature deliveries that are very different from each other. It’s interesting to hear them on the same track. The beat is very lively and upbeat, with trumpets carrying the melody.



“Life and Times” – Surreal & the Sound Providers

Another jazzy hip hop track. The Sound Providers (the two producers of the album) give the whole album a jazz feel. Surreal (the emcee) suits the beats well enough. Not too aggressive, and it has an easy flow to fit the easy listening of the instrumentals. This track is basically the autobiography of Surreal. This isn’t too apparent at first since the narrative is told from a third-person perspective, but at the end of the song he reveals that he was talking about himself.



“Joe Metro” – Blue Scholars

“Joe Metro” follows (emcee) Geo’s thoughts while he rides the metro. Geo masterfully combines his observations and his thoughts. The outcome is a thought-provoking, head-bobbing rhyme, while Sabzi (DJ/Producer, the same one in Common Market) compliments the pensive lyrics with a beat that feels dream-like.



“Feather” – Nujabes

“Feather” features Cise Starr and Akin on the mic. Nujabes’ beats hypnotically carry the emcees’ rap steadily. The beat by itself is focused on a simple piano loop, which goes from a clear to very muffled sound, giving the beat an almost underwater feel. The beat creates such a beautiful atmosphere to the song, enticing the listener to let go and just drift through the track.



“Brasso” – Common Market

Common Market is comprised of Sabzi (DJ/producer) and RA Scion (emcee). The instrumentals contain a catchy brass horn line. It creates a very natural and unique atmosphere. The instrumentals compliment RA Scion’s precise and witty delivery. His flow dances across the horns and percussion at a rapid pace. This is a very simple but well crafted track.



“The Band Played On” – Do D.A.T.

Do D.A.T. has always been trying to represent the Bay Area and its hip hop culture. You can hear his passion and love for the game in his lively and upbeat delivery. This track’s instrumentals are very upbeat and just make you want to move to it. Do D.A.T.’s flow is creative and always changing. This is a very fun song to listen to.



“Coffee” – Aesop Rock

Aesop Rock tackles the subjects of consumerism and the rat race in “Coffee.” Aesop Rock’s lyrics are a little more abstract and harder to understand, but once you understand them it makes them that much better. Aesop Rock has a bit of a lazy delivery, and a faster and mesmerizing flow.



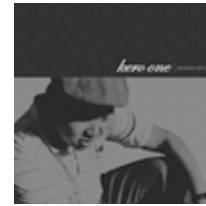
“Jam Session 2.0” – Dumbfoundead

Dumbfoundead has been involved in the LA hip hop scene since he was a kid. This song was actually done as sort of a virtual jam session over the internet. Eight different people (two emcees, one singer, one guitarist, one bassist, one DJ, one dude on a drum machine, and one pianist) hooked up through video feed and put this song together. The artists are from all over the place, and the song includes three different languages (English, Spanish, and Portuguese), touching on the subject of music’s reach across different nations and different people.



“Vacation Song” – Dumbfoundead

I had to put another Dumbfoundead song in this playlist. This song is just too good to pass up. The beat is produced by DJ Zo (the DJ in the previous Dumbfoundead song). It’s a relatively smooth, calm, and quiet beat, which is contrasted by DJ Zo’s excellent scratching, especially at the end of the track. The beat keeps a reflective atmosphere, allowing the listener to contemplate the lyrics, which basically are about escaping: escaping the city, crowds, hate, stress, and routine. This is a very well-crafted song both lyrically and instrumentally.



“Tempted” – Kero One

Residing in San Francisco, Kero One worked as a web designer and would rap and produce on the side. Eventually he made his first single. One of his only 50 copies made its way into the hands of a DJ in Japan, who brought Kero One some exposure when he played it in a club. Long story short, Kero One garnered enough attention that his debut album “Windmills of the Soul” went on to be one of the most well-received hip hop albums of 2006, and it is well worth its merits. This song is my one of my favorites on the album. It opens with a catchy string bass line. A jazzy saxophone bit comes in to build up to the chorus. The track has a very jazzy funk vibe to it. The lyrics focus on trials of temptation. Kero One can tell a story through his rhymes very well, as this song demonstrates.



“Stopping All Stations (Restrung)” – Hilltop Hoods

Hailing from Adelaide, Australia, Hilltop Hoods is currently the biggest name in hip hop in Australia. This song is actually a remix of a song they previously did. A small orchestra was mixed into the track, giving it a very interesting and enjoyable sound. Aside from the instrumentals, the lyrics are carefully crafted as well. The song tells a story of a mugging on a train. The story is told three times from three different perspectives, each time revealing a little more information about the event.

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START A REVOLUTION

Start with love.

by Caleb Walker





The date: April 18, 2010. The event: REVO La Sierra. In the months and weeks preceding the event, the question was being asked, "What is REVO?" Even days leading up to the event, many of those who planned to attend still had no idea what it meant. In fact, many got behind REVO just for a competition with PUC - in University Worship before the event, REVO PUC issued a video challenge, a bit of friendly competition. Whichever REVO chapter raised the most money would get to see the other dressed in their school shirts. This led many students to say, "Yeah, I'll be there! We have to win!...But what is REVO?" This question was resoundingly answered on Sunday, April 18, when La Sierra University students hosted a REVO benefit event to raise funds for the Gakoni Orphanage in Rwanda. The event ran from 4 o'clock in the afternoon until 10 o'clock that night.

Promptly at 4 p.m., as a crowd began to gather under the trees on Founders' Green, Sal and Isela kicked off the event with the sounds of Americanized Mexican music. Reggae music was next with the group Diversity Rising, followed by local artist YouTube sensation Mike Isberto. Finally, our own LSU Jazz Band topped off an afternoon of excellent music performances.

While the music played, people were free to walk around and enjoy the many features of REVO's event. On the Founders' Green, an art wall constructed of burlap featured the art of many of La Sierra University's very own students and faculty. Many of the art pieces were for

sale with the proceeds being donated to this very worthy cause. People were invited to bid on the art in a silent auction, and many of the pieces went for substantial sums. One such item, a table "recreated" by Professor Rebecca Waring-Crane, sold for \$800. Another item, a bed sheet painted with a design of Africa by several REVO team members, sold for \$250. In addition to the art, there were delectable falafels and veggie-chicken wraps available for purchase and provided gratis by the Green Olive Grill for the event. Najwa Medina, proprietor of the local restaurant, donated her time and resources to help make this event a success. Green Olive Grill, located just off of Riverwalk Parkway, is owned by the mother of LSU student Steven Medina. There were also REVO La Sierra T-shirts for sale designed by Angela Mae Payaban, director of the art show and a sophomore at LSU. In addition to the official shirts, stencils, spray paint, and blank tees were available for people to make their own customized REVO shirts. Raffle tickets were also available for \$1 each, and participants had the opportunity to win a surround sound system or a waffle iron. \$5 bought you a hand stamp for entry into the fashion show to be held later that evening. Everywhere you looked, you saw people walking around proudly wearing their REVO T-shirts. The buzz and excitement was palpable as people were bidding, eating, and listening to the wonderful music playing all around them.





AT THE END OF IT ALL, MY SMALL ROLE WAS ABLE TO BE A PART OF HELPING SOME BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD.

The evening was capped off with the fashion show, which began at 7 p.m. People packed into Hole Memorial Auditorium for what was arguably the highlight of a fantastic day. Six design teams comprised of 8 designers were given \$75 to create a signature line. Free to design clothing, choose themes, and hand-pick models, the design teams had almost complete creative control, along with help from fashion show director and sophomore Rebecca Barcelo. Before the fashion show started, the crowd was in for a few surprises. First, emcee Kyle Dever brought Nina Brav, founder of the first REVO, to the stage. She talked to the crowd about the history of REVO and her

hopes for its future. She praised REVO La Sierra for their hard work and reminded everyone of what the night was really about: helping others.

The next segment was something completely unexpected. Several La Sierra students came up on stage carrying various stringed instruments. As they started playing, the emcee called several people to the stage. To the screams of the crowd, Dean Obed Olivarr a, Pastor Sam Leonor, Dr. Trueblood, and Pastor Steve Hemenway made their entrance onto the stage dressed in golf attire. They took turns rapping to the song *Where is the Love* by the Black Eyed Peas. The crowd laughed at the good-natured show of support. Showing that they were willing to poke fun at themselves for a good cause, the musical group left the stage to thunderous applause and riotous laughter.

The fashion show itself was exciting and varied. The six lines were very different thematically. They ranged from a female empowerment look to geometric designs with flashing lights. One line even had the models ride out on the back of Biology professor Dr. Gary Bradley's

motorcycle. Needless to say, the crowd went wild. Students cheered as they saw their friends come out on stage dressed as Alice in Wonderland characters, in beautiful spring dresses, and everything in between. One student, freshman William Angkadjaja, commented that it was the "best event I ever attended in my life."

In the end, REVO wasn't about the event. It is easy to get caught up in the excitement, activities, or even the competition. But ultimately, it was all for the children of Gakoni Orphanage. Located in Rwanda, the orphanage houses roughly 75 children. It lacks many basic necessities such as mosquito nets and clean water. Designer Grace Aragon expressed this when she said, "At the end of it all, my small role was able to be a part of helping some beautiful children halfway around the world."

Sophomore and REVO team member Kelli Kam took it even further by explaining, "REVO is not only a revolution because of the difference it made for Gakoni Orphanage in Rwanda, but also because of

the way in which it inspired the students and faculty of La Sierra to join together and work towards a cause that benefitted people other than themselves. And that is what REVO is all about."

REVO is all about making a difference. This time it was a chance to make a difference in the lives of 75 very real orphans with very real needs. We, the members of the REVO team want this to become more than just one event, more than just a recurring event. REVO is a state of mind, where one sees a need and in response strives to meet it. Five months ago, Jaylene Chung brought the 7 of us together. I had my doubts about what we could do, if a handful of college kids could really make a difference. But we tried. And now \$23,000 later, we've started a REVOLUTION.



I NEVER THOUGHT I'D...

by David Ryan Harris



Greetings from the Hopital Adventiste d'Haiti in Carrefour, Port au Prince! I've been here for a few weeks now. I've been helping with food distribution, running the central supply department, and organizing volunteer transportation (all the while growing my hair back). It's a big job and I'm definitely still learning. But I have time. I'm here all summer, but I've already had so many new experiences.

...be in Haiti.

Before January 11, 2010 Haiti was a hot, humid country with high infant mortality rates and low literacy and employment rates (easily 66%), as well as one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. Why on earth would I want to go there? On January 13, 2010 Haiti was still all of those things, but it was also a country devastated by an earthquake. Even more reason to stay away.

I'd always felt bad about disasters happening around the world but I'd never done anything other than donate money. For a variety of reasons I've never been on a mission trip. But because of my circumstances (not having school for 6 months) and connections at Loma Linda University (thanks, Dad) I was given a unique opportunity. God opened a lot of doors for me to be here and I am truly thankful that I get to be a part of this.

...miss having a cult around.

The Supreme Masters of Ching Hai is a cult that was founded by Vietmanese fashion designer Ching Hai. Her teachings include compassion to all things, so her followers are some of the nicest people you will ever meet. It also means no killing, so no meat. They have a whole campaign focused on veganism because of the health and environmental benefits. One of the things they do is provide food. They provided about 3,000 meals a day for the volunteers, patients, patients' families, and the surrounding community. They were at the hospital for more than three months after the earthquake and departed the week after I arrived. The hospital kitchen has struggled to provide food for the patients and volunteers, so things have been interesting.

...hang out with so many "old" people.

I am by far the youngest foreign volunteer. Everyone I've encountered is at least old enough to be one of my high school teachers, if not my parents (some even act like it). I really shouldn't have been surprised by this. I'm at a hospital where medical professionals are needed. People my age generally aren't medical professionals. Even though many of them are more than twice my age, I've made friends with everyone from med students and

mission doctors to retired plumbers. I've gained meaningful insights as well as new friendships. (Of course, this doesn't mean I haven't made friends with Haitians my age, older, and younger!)

...develop such an aversion to "Junk for Jesus".

"Junk for Jesus" is usually a positive term. Not so much in Haiti. It's great that so many people and organizations have donated stuff, but in my time here I've encountered a bunch of things that have made me wonder, "What were you thinking when you sent this to a mission hospital?" I've seen single sample packs of medicines (written in Arabic), people's old prescriptions, used sharps containers, random UNO cards, and every Haitian's dream: DD breast implants. Even when medical supplies are sent, some are things that won't get used here. Moral of the story: *Think before you donate!*

...thank God for power outages.

The internet here is kind of shaky. The wi-fi goes out periodically, but is easily reset by unplugging and plugging in the router in one of the hospital offices. It's easy enough during the day, but at night the door is deadbolted shut, and the person with the keys has gone home. Nightly power outages are welcome here because it powers off the router and turns it back on when the generator kicks in again. Dallas Koperski (amazing photographer and 4th year LLU med student) and I have spent hours in the volunteer break room hoping for the power to go out momentarily so we can regain our connection to home!

...ask "Why me?" this often.

The two-word inquiry is generally uttered by people who feel that the world has done them some tremendous injustice. This rings true in my case as well. However, in the past few weeks I've come to realize that this injustice is in my favor. Now more than ever, I find myself wondering why I was born into an upper-middle-class family in a country where opportunities are endless, food is in excess, and the biggest problems are generally not having money to pay the bills.

Saying that the earthquake has caused significant problems for everyone is a huge understatement. It's impossible to find someone who hasn't lost a friend or family member. Moses, one of the hospital translators, was at school when it hit. He felt the building shake and ran as the ceiling, walls, and stairs starting collapsing. He made it out unscathed, but many of his closest friends didn't make it out. When school started again at the end of April, in tents, it was difficult for him going back to school knowing many of his friends wouldn't be there. I'm not an emotional



person, but that hit me hard. This kid is my age, and he lost the people who he spent a lot his time with. I thought back to everyone that I don't get to see all the time now, and so many "what ifs" went through my head. It sent shivers down my spine.

Other conversations I've had have shown me how significantly lives were altered. Many people have lost their jobs. Kids who were preparing to continue their education after high school have changed their plans. The vast majority of people I encounter live in tents.

...miss home this much.

I've lived in the Inland Empire all my life. The longest I've been away is fifteen days. By the time you read this I will have more than doubled that. I haven't breathed "vitamin air"; been stuck on the 91 (okay, I don't miss that. Haitian traffic is way more exciting!); led praise with a band; eaten at Del Taco, In-N-Out, Kogi, or Guppy's; done laundry in a machine; slept in my bed; watched or played basketball; or *seen the people*

I love. Am I homesick? Of course! But not enough to leave. God is doing amazing things here and I wouldn't trade this experience for an In-N-Out 4x4 protein style with pickles!

To stay updated on what's going on down here check out my blog, davidinhaiti.blogspot.com.

Feel free to email me (drharriso823@gmail.com) or hit me up on Facebook. Any contact with home is welcome.

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HISTORY OF THE SABBATH

It Was Important Then, But What About Today?

by Mindy Bielas

It was not too long ago that I was talking with someone about the way that we should keep the Sabbath. We were discussing going to the movies with some friends on a Friday night. After I attempted, and failed, to explain the Sabbath in theological terms, my friend blurted out that the Sabbath was just a stupid day for legalists to prove how good they are. I was astonished and hurt by his comment, but I could not dissuade him from his opinion. That night I lay in bed thinking about the meaning of the Sabbath, but I could not come up with a decent reason to observe the seventh day of the week.



As a student of Religious Studies and History, I went straight to my books. I discovered that the Sabbath had significance to the Israelites, was disregarded by the early Christian Church, and then its importance was rediscovered by noteworthy persons of the Protestant Christian Church in the nineteenth and twentieth century. In understanding the significance it held and holds for others, I learned what significance it held for my life.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel has significantly influenced my views of the Sabbath. I will be referring to his book *The Sabbath: Its Meaning for Modern Man* to show how the Sabbath had significance in the context of God's covenant people, Israel. Many religions have a place of worship, a sacred place to meet with their God. It was only after Israel's exodus from Egypt that they had such a place. Before the tabernacle, Israel had a sacred time. This holy time set aside was labeled the Sabbath. This is significant because while humans can manipulate space and objects, time is constant. Time is, just as the Sabbath is always present, independent of your location in space. It is this ever-present hallowed place in time in which God chooses to meet with us.

The Sabbath is a place in time in which we have the opportunity to commune with God without the distractions of the world. According to La Sierra University Professor John Webster, the Sabbath reveals God's *presence* in the creation, dwelling and communing in love. This is illustrated in Exodus 20:8, "When the people of Israel stood before the mountain of Sinai, the Lord said to them: 'Remember the Sabbath day to sanctify it.'" The word "to sanctify" in Hebrew is *le-kadesh*. According to Heschel, in the Talmud¹ this word means "to consecrate" or "to betroth." Paul echoes this idea in Ephesians 5:31, metaphorically comparing sanctifying marriage to the union of Jesus and the Church. Just as the intimate relationship of marriage resembles our relationship to God, the same metaphor resembles our relationship to God in the Sabbath. A wedding is a festival, and a high point in a wedding service is when the bride enters in the church; the rabbis have referred to the Sabbath as a bride entering the creation. God's commitment to the cosmos is greater than any wedding commitment, and the Sabbath is a reminder of the covenant God has made with his people.

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, Sabbath is associated with rest. To fully understand what it means for the Sabbath to be the day of rest, we need to define "rest." According to Philo, a significant Jewish figure in Alexandria, the Sabbath is a day to refresh the body regularly to then be renewed for old activities. I believe this view is popular today, but there is a problem with it. Philo implies that the rest is for the sake of the activity; you rest so that you can get on with what you have not yet accomplished. Heschel says that instead we should view the activity for the sake of the rest; you participate in the

commotion of the world so that when you take a day off to rest, it is that much more significant. In Heschel's argument, the Sabbath becomes the climax of the week.

The Jewish custom of celebrating (or keeping) the Sabbath was not continued into the years of the early Christian Church. As practicing Jews, Jesus and his disciples kept the Sabbath as illustrated in Luke 4:16, and Acts 18:4 shows that the followers of Jesus continued to keep the Sabbath as they started the Christian Church. After the biblical records we have little evidence of Christians keeping the Sabbath. Instead we have evidence of apologists such as Justin Martyr² emphasizing the importance of Sunday as a sacred day. (I have no intention of discrediting Sunday as a day of worship; instead I believe that every day should have time set aside for worship.) While the tradition of keeping the Sabbath passed away, I like to think that the Sabbath spirit stayed with God's people. By this I mean that the meaning the Sabbath held was understood even though the tradition of keeping the seventh day was no longer practiced. To illustrate this I have included a church order most likely written between 375-380 CE, when the seventh day was no longer kept as a day of worship.

*"Lord, almighty, you created the world through Christ
and set apart the Sabbath to remember this
—because on it you rested from (your) works
—for meditation on your laws,
and ordained feasts for the gladdening of our souls,
so that we may be reminded of the Wisdom created by you
(7.36.1)*

*You gave them the Law of ten oracles
Clearly expressed by your voice and written by your hand.
You commanded (them) to keep the Sabbath,
Not giving a pretext for idleness but an opportunity for piety,
for knowledge of your power, for prevention of evil (7.36.4)*

*For the Sabbath is rest from creation,
the completion of the world,
the seeking of laws,
the thankful praise to God for (those things) which were
given to men (7.36.5)"*

The Sabbath tradition was rediscovered and is now understood in similarity to the Jewish community. In the nineteenth century a small group of people who called themselves the Millerites came together with the understanding that God was coming again very soon.



These believers came to the conclusion through intensive Bible study that God would come on October 22, 1844. After the Great Disappointment, these believers' hopes and dreams of the Second Coming were shattered. Some believers left Christianity altogether, but others went back to their Bibles to study and find where they went wrong. Those that held on to their faith started the Seventh-day Adventist Movement, which held study of the Bible in very high standing. In 1847, Ellen G. White³ had a vision concerning the Ten Commandments. In her vision she saw that God's people were following all of the law given to the Israelites except for the fourth commandment of the Sabbath. Prior to her vision, other leaders of the Advent Movement had emphasized the need to keep the Sabbath, but it wasn't until Ellen White's vision that the Adventists officially accepted it as an important tradition. Both Jews and Adventists hold the Biblical teachings as important, and because of this the Adventist view of the Sabbath is very similar to that of the Jewish view.

Adventists are not the only people to understand the importance of the Sabbath. Many well-respected theologians, such as Karl Barth and Jürgen Moltmann, confirm the importance of the Sabbath as well. According to the Encyclopedia of World Biography, Karl Barth was born in 1886 and was the son of a minister in Switzerland. Barth followed his father's footsteps and became an ordained minister in 1908. After studying the Bible for ministerial responsibilities he became more and more interested in theology. During World War II, he was involved in the Anti-Nazi Confessing Church's Barmen Declaration. This confession rejected the Nazi ideology because of its confliction with the gospel. Barth spent much of his time as a university professor for many different schools. He was known for his modesty and humor by those around him and as the author of the 14 volumes of *Church Dogmatics* by those outside his community.

Barth mentions the Sabbath, saying that we go through our week searching to find ourselves in our work, and yet this is not profitable; rather, we find ourselves in the Sabbath. We, as God's creation, are meant to be in communion with God, and it is through the Sabbath that God conforms Himself to the limitations of our world so that He can participate in our history. The Sabbath was an act of freedom by God, freedom to be content with His creation and limit its activity. It was also an act of love by God; He has found the object of His love. It is in the Sabbath that we have the opportunity to take part in this freedom and love by fellowshiping with God.

Another theological view that is similar to Barth's is that of his student Moltmann. Jürgen Moltmann was born in Germany in 1926. He was drafted into World War II and captured in February 1945. He was held as a prisoner of war for three years, even though the Germans surrendered in May 1945. While he was

held as a prisoner, he became overwhelmed with guilt for the crimes the Nazi Party committed and his involvement with the German army. It was during this depression that a chaplain gave Moltmann a copy of the New Testament and the Psalms. Moltmann related to the Psalmist, and in response to his biblical discoveries in prison he became a theology student once he was released. As a theologian his first work was *Theology of Hope* where he emphasized the importance of the anticipation for the future.

Similarly to Barth, Moltmann shows how we try to find our identity through our work, but by doing this we push away the joy in existence. Our existence becomes a joyful experience when we see it in relation to God and the future we will have with God. Sabbath represents the redemption of the world and is a celebration of the anticipated life in which we will be able to participate in God's eternal presence. It is a reminder of the promise God has made us to one day be in a more perfect communion with Him.

In researching what the Sabbath meant to the Israelites, how it was pushed away by the early Church, and how it was rediscovered in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, I found meaning. The Sabbath tradition now is the day I have freedom, freedom to stop worrying about the exhausting, mundane work of the week.

I CAN SIMPLY ENJOY LIFE.

It is an existence in which my God thrives in a personal relationship with me. It is my day to bask in the rays of my God's love and to participate in this love with fellow believers.

¹The Talmud is a Jewish book of rabbinic discussions on the Torah and ethics.

²Justin Martyr is one of the most well-known apologists of the early Christian church. An apologist is someone who offers an argument in defense of something, in this case, Christianity.

³Ellen White is the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "Messenger of God"; she played a big role in the Seventh-day Adventist Movement in the 1800s and is now considered an authoritative figure in SDA history.

THE ADVENTISTS

In the month of March, the Seventh-day Adventist community was abuzz about a new documentary simply entitled *The Adventists*. The film, an exploration of the SDA faith and its hospitals, is being screened in Adventist churches and venues in North America by its director, Martin Doblemeier. Loma Linda University Church was treated to two viewings on March 12 and 13. There was originally supposed to be only one showing on the 12th, but the documentary was so enthusiastically received that another was arranged for the following evening. The sanctuary was packed on both occasions, and the audience was given an opportunity for a director Q&A session with Doblemeier after the movie was shown. *The Adventists* aired on PBS during National Public Health Week, April 5-11, and is available to purchase on DVD at its website and various Adventist bookstores.

The film is made by Journey Films, a company whose documentaries dwell on topics of faith, religion, and spirituality. Some of them include *Bonhoeffer*, about the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer; *Albert Schweitzer: Called to Africa*, a docudrama about the missionaries Albert and Helene Schweitzer; and *The Power of Forgiveness*, which explores several tragedies and the experiences of their victims. Doblemeier, the company's founder, is not an Adventist, but he developed the idea of making a documentary about Adventism after visiting Loma Linda in 2004 to show one of his films. After touring the facilities, he was impressed by the medical pioneering and advanced health practices. Another influence behind the film's creation was the care his mother had received in Florida Hospital, which is one of the Adventist medical centers highlighted in the movie.

In order to introduce Adventism, the documentary shows historical reenactments of the events leading up to the founding of the religion. The short dramas include an example of the abysmal and cringe-worthy medical treatments of the 1800s, the Great Disappointment of 1844, and prophet and Adventism co-founder Ellen White receiving a vision. *The Adventists* outlines the history of Adventism and chronicles how the emphasis on health has been prevalent ever since the Seventh-day Adventist Church's inception. Clips from interviews with health experts, theologians, historians, church leaders and medical professionals served to further inform the documentary's audience.

The contrast between the cutting-edge science, research and technology used in Adventist hospitals and universities and the religious, traditional conservatism of the Adventist religion is one of the main topics of the documentary. Another dichotomy that Doblemeier found interesting and highlights in *The Adventists* is that of science and faith. While the two are usually thought of as being at odds, Adventism merges them, as evidenced by the emphasis placed on healthcare and living a healthy lifestyle.

The Adventists observes that this holistic approach — integrating the body, mind, and spirit — is part of what makes Adventism such a unique religion and leads to its members' longevity. Those three concepts are seen as equally important and dependent on one another: if one is missing or neglected, the other two are adversely affected. The counsel given in 1st Corinthians 6:19-20, that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, is taken to heart. Adventists are often healthier and live eight to ten years longer than the average American due to vegetarianism, exercise, and interacting socially with other Adventists. As a result, Adventists have been the subject of federally-funded medical studies and research projects such as Dan Buettner's *The Blue Zones*.

Medical care is a very important part of the Adventist faith. It seeks to integrate the holistic approach in its facilities, and Adventist medical professionals often see their work as a form of ministry. The film visits Loma Linda University Medical Center, Florida Hospital, St. Helena Hospital and Center for Health, Washington Adventist Hospital, and the Kettering Health Network. It highlights the technology from these hospitals, such as the proton accelerator used to treat cancer in LLUMC, and looks at the way Adventist principles are incorporated into the medical care given to patients.

In order to fully emphasize this, *The Adventists* showcases several stories from the hospitals. Among the most powerful was that of a family whose youngest child awaited a heart transplant. Pediatric heart surgeon Dr. Leonard Bailey served as a link between that story and the equally heartrending one of Baby Fae, who made headlines in the mid-eighties by being the recipient of a baboon heart transplanted by Dr. Bailey. The event triggered a massive outcry from animal rights groups and people all over the world about the ethical implications of the surgery. The endings of the two stories, luckily, are different.

I found *The Adventists* to be a thoughtful, positive portrait of Adventism and its relationship with health. The documentary did a very good job of providing an overview of our faith and highlighting just what it is that makes us unique. The film's topic is very relevant to us as students not only because our university is Adventist but because the majority of La Sierra students go on to attend Loma Linda University and/or work in the medical fields. *The Adventists* challenged me to examine what I believe and how I live my life, and it made me realize how blessed I am to live in a community that values the whole person. Live long and prosper.

by Michelle Rojas

MY YEAR IN THE MISSION FIELD: PART THREE

Why We Serve

by Keith Ybanez

It's said that "home is where the heart is," and if that's true, then I guess a part of Peru will always be home to me. For the last eight months I have lived in the Amazon Basin 38 kilometers outside of Pucallpa, Peru. The mission base for the Touch of Love branch of AMOR Projects (Ambassadors Missionary Outreach Relief) at Km. 38 does not have many of the comforts of home in the USA; nevertheless, over time it has come to feel like home to my fellow missionaries and me. During my mission term, Km. 38 has housed 23 student missionaries from the USA, Canada, and Germany, as well as three Peruvian families and five Peruvian workers who make up the backbone of our manual labor team and who have become like brothers to me. Our group is divided into various smaller teams; the manual labor team (we're the studs of the Project!), the ecological team, the dental team, community ambassadors (teachers) and project promoters, and the nurses and Bible workers that make up the mobile team.

Each team has their own responsibilities and duties which include but are not limited to teaching English classes at the various elementary schools around Km. 38, making a jungle reserve, macheting, building churches, giving nutrition and health classes in poor communities surrounding Pucallpa, giving Bible studies, church planting, and giving free medical attention and medicine during medical clinic weeks. Over the course of the year, we've undertaken four major campaigns in various locations of Pucallpa and Peru. There are three parts to our campaign missions when we set up at a new location. The first part is the medical aid we give from our medical clinic in the community in our first week there. The director of our project is also a Peruvian medical doctor, and he heads up seeing patients, performing surgeries, and prescribing medicines. Fortunately for many of our clinics, we've had other doctors volunteering for the week from various parts of the United States, which has enabled us to see more patients. Our nurses help with triage and assist the patients, educating them about the medicines they're given from the pharmacy we set up at the clinic. We have four student missionaries (two from La Sierra) that compromise the dental team (they all learned how to pull teeth and fill cavities after arriving in Peru). These guys get to have fun filling cavities and pulling out teeth from patients that range from little kids to senior citizens. We also have two student missionaries working as laboratory technicians checking stool samples for parasites and other diseases. At the end of clinic week, we'll have treated and helped 800-1000 Peruvians with

their medical needs. After the clinic week, the second and third aspects of our campaigns begin. The mobile team will stay at that location and set up appointments with families there for nutrition or health classes and Bible studies with the goal of getting them baptized at the end of the Bible studies. The health classes are important because lack of education about the basics of healthful living is the primary reason for the extreme poverty among the Peruvians of the jungle in comparison with other parts of Peru. The Bible workers also work with the families that are willing to have lessons teaching them about the gift of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, His promised return, and the fundamentals of the Adventist faith. At some point during the campaign, the manual labor team comes and builds an Adventist church for the new group of believers that are formed from the work of our mobile team. After 2-3 months in one location, we move on to a new site and do the three parts of our campaign over again: physical healing, health education, and spiritual wellness. Bart Compolo once said, "Don't ignore the poor and the marginalized; our lives need to be about them." This is the central core of our mission down here in Peru, and it's the driving force behind a missionary's motivation for service.

Contrary to popular belief, we student missionaries don't take a year off from school to go on vacation to the islands or some other exotic locale like the jungle. Nor do we leave because we can't handle school or we want to escape from broken relationships; we come to work hard and to answer God's call. I've heard many times from various people over the years and even more so in my time as a missionary that they could never be a missionary because it's too hard; they're not strong enough or not prepared or trained adequately enough to fulfill the jobs. But God does not call the strongest, the smartest, or the most prepared for His mission. He calls those who are willing to listen and place their trust in Him. Through all the work I've had to do this year—toiling in the burning sun, helping a church of new and young believers grow, giving a Bible study to a young woman who struggles through the same doubts and weariness that I think all Christians go through—I have learned one very important thing. WE ARE NEVER MORE LIKE JESUS THAN WHEN WE SERVE OTHERS. Remember that fad of people wearing those WOULD bracelets to remind themselves to ask What Would Jesus Do? The answer to that is simple: Jesus would serve others. There are two passages in the Bible that stick out to me when I think about Jesus and service. The first is in Luke 22 where the disciples get



into an argument about which of them is the greatest; it's a conversation that my prideful and egotistical self can easily relate to. But Jesus stops His disciples and says to them in Luke 22: 26, 27,

"The greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the leader should be like the servant. Who is more important: the one sitting at the table or the one serving? You think the one at the table is more important, but I am like a servant among you."

Jesus is telling not only His disciples in that time but also us, his 21st century disciples, that our significance and meaning comes from serving others. I can't speak for my fellow missionaries from La Sierra or the ones here with me in Peru, but I'll admit that when I first got here I thought I had given up so much to come down here and be a voluntary slave. I had given up a year of my education and graduating with my class, my favorite foods, the easy comforts of life like air conditioning and hot showers, flushing toilets, my time with my friends and family, ultimately one whole year in the prime of my life to hack around a jungle with a machete and talk to Peruvians. But then I think about what Jesus gave up for His "missionary" time here on Earth. Here was the Son of God, sitting at His right hand, living in Heaven. He gave up way more than I could ever dream of for us, a bunch of people who screwed up. Philippians 2:6,7 says,

"Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born to be a man and became like a servant."

For a long time I wondered what I could do to be more like Jesus but didn't know what. Now I have my answer. When I applied to AMOR Projects, one of the questions on the application was *What is your motivation for service?* I thought long and hard about that question before I could finally answer it. I thought about my desire to succeed and have a great career, a wonderful family, and all the trappings of life. But I knew that was a success that was missing something. I strongly believe that to succeed personally, you must try to help others. You can get everything you need in life if you help other people get what they need, and I believe that means that success, happiness, and self-actualization come from serving others. I'm not saying that if I want something badly or I want to be rewarded with success in life I'm obligated to help others, but rather that we realize our purpose and mission when we make ourselves servants and become more like Jesus.

LOSS OF PRIVACY IN CYBERSPACE

by Natalie Sayegh

Like most things, Facebook was created with good intentions. It would serve the same function as MySpace by allowing its users to connect with old friends, but in a more “mature” forum. Social networking sites like Facebook allow us to delve into what comes naturally to us—sharing information and connecting with others.

Four hundred million users later, Facebook has evolved into a social forum where we find ourselves posting pictures and constant status updates, essentially as a form of competition. And naturally, because of our innate human curiosity, we like to know what other people are doing.

Social networking sites have come under fire for the way they claim ownership of the personal information that users include on their profiles. Loss of privacy is a concern that has been voiced for quite some time. Is this failure to protect private information because of the progression of modern times and the willingness of people to publicly record every minute, embarrassing, and even potentially incriminating detail of their lives? Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg claims, “People have really gotten comfortable not only sharing more information and different kinds, but more openly and with more people. That social norm is just something that has evolved over time.” Or does it just come down to the naiveté of some people who are unaware of the need to protect themselves, or who simply don’t care?

Some people hold a utopian belief that the Internet world can be a zone of freedom in our rather monitored world. But, if anything, cyberspace has become even less private than many users realize. Having Facebook as an outlet compels people to post things of the utmost personal importance.

I’m sure I’m not just speaking for myself when I say that I have seen the details of many dramatic breakups I would never have known about outside of Facebook. The anonymity of our lives has been diminished. The amount of information available about us is overwhelming, making our lives transparent and anything but private, whether we like it or not. Although there are acceptable reasons for enthusiasm about these new forms of communication and information sharing, it must be understood that privacy is being sacrificed in the process.

When all is said and done, people putting information on their profiles that could compromise them is not solely a privacy issue. When you decide to put private information on a public network, you are making the choice to announce it, and at that point it is not private

anymore. Where your “announcement” ends up is no longer in your hands, but in the hands of the recipient who can do whatever he or she wants with it.

Of course, this is not to say that Facebook is the only place where privacy is lost. Internet companies like Yahoo! and Google keep records of what is looked for on their search engines, and government agencies can find out exactly what you have accessed online. Ultimately, people must exercise discretion for their own good.

In the same sense, why should our only concern be the loss of privacy? It seems like in the world of Facebook, it is our personalities that suffer the most. Facebook has also set up a virtual reality where users can easily disguise their personalities. Status updates don’t tell you how a person really feels, just like a simple “LOL” doesn’t tell you anything about a person’s sense of humor. The selection of words in our profile is typically a very crafted façade that only shows a glimpse of our personality.

Many Facebook users have turned into nothing more than a list of favorite quotes and fan pages. This phenomenon has reduced the appreciation people once had for being able to form personal relationships with others without using the Internet as a medium. How many times have you added someone on Facebook only to meet them in person and discover that they have an entirely different personality? On Facebook, we have the opportunity to create a persona, and most individuals tend to show only their “good” characteristics online. So, as a consequence, Facebook users invent an online identity—but realistically, what are the chances of a profile being a dependable indicator of one’s personality? The words we write and the pictures we post do not represent anything but a trace of who we are.

I urge those of you on Facebook to take a good look at who you are pretending to be and compare it to who you really are. Are all of your “friends” people you would truly call a friend? Stop obsessively “liking” and joining an innumerable amount of groups. Stop letting yourself get lost in the virtual reality of the Facebook world and just be yourself.

END NOTE

by Israel Carreon

Charles Wiley is a smart man. As a journalist who has covered eleven wars, visited over 100 countries, stared the KGB straight in the eyes, and been arrested on numerous occasions, all in the name of true journalistic integrity, he’s been through it all. In one of his lectures, Mr. Wiley brought up a profound truth about the realm of journalism. There are two kinds of journalists in today’s society: objective reporters and advocate reporters. Objective reporters have a code of ethics in which personal opinion or convictions are left out of the news. Advocate reporters directly intertwine their own views with the stories they present. An objective journalist informs. An advocate journalist tries to influence. Simple as that.

When first taking the position of Editor-in-Chief, I was determined to present the real objective news no matter what the risk. Throughout the course of the year, criticism of *The Criterion* has been abundant, but that is necessary for all news media to thrive. There is, however, a difference between criticism and questioning our journalistic integrity.

In our Fall issue, News Editor Nick Smith’s article about the controversy in La Sierra’s biology department caused quite a stir on campus. Not only was our name put under question, we were subjected to the sharp opinion of a one-sided website, which attacked us for simply informing the student body.

Recently, in our Winter issue, the topic of homosexuality was presented under the Religion section. This piece masterfully and carefully studied the culture of biblical times as it related to this very taboo subject. Again, our integrity was placed under scrutiny, this time to a higher degree during a university constituency meeting. Due to the reading of the article out of context, our name was jeopardized.

IT IS MY PERSONAL BELIEF THAT INSTEAD OF HIDING FROM THESE VERY IMPORTANT TOPICS, A JOURNALIST NEEDS TO TACKLE THEM HEAD-ON WITH QUALITY AND VIGILANT REPORTING.

To set the record straight, we’re a news quarterly magazine. It is our job to report the news objectively— to present different sides of an issue. It has been this news team’s goal to present nothing but quality writing on issues that are important to establish a public discussion. Equally important is making sure that political, religious, and personal values are removed from the news stories that are published. *The Criterion* is a news publication. Its sole purpose is to inform, not influence.

In a world of real news, there’s no room for additional opinionated commentary or for religious promotion anywhere. There is no room for advocacy journalism in *The Criterion*. If discussions of strong issues are not permitted because they do not fit into the personal values of an individual or push a certain faith that would influence the truth, then the news will cease to exist.

The responsibility really rests on our generation. Will we continue to be fed subjective stories by advocating “reporting,” or will the hunger for the naked truth be our guiding light? You make the choice. *The Criterion* already has.



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SPRING

CRITERION

THE STUDENT QUARTERLY OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2010



CRITERION

THE STUDENT QUARTERLY OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2010







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EDITOR'S NOTE

Some would say the spring season defines the theme of “love.” I would have to disagree. If anything, winter would be best time that truly illustrates the word’s meaning. Winter would be one of the few times of the year that brings family and friends together. With Christmas, New Year’s, and Valentine’s Day, it’s not that difficult to find love anywhere.

Lately, however, love has seemed to be hiding.

After a period of so many world tragedies in Haiti, Chile, Japan and Taiwan, it can be hard to carry on. Hard to endure another day. Property was destroyed. Millions of dollars worth of damage. Most devastatingly, lives were lost.

Moving on can be hard, if it’s even possible to do so.

Even our home front has been infected with social and civil chaos. UC San Diego has recently had to deal with racial slurs made towards students of color.

Love, hiding.

Our natural human reaction is to lend a hand. Out of a great display of love, La Sierra students—you—raised over a thousand dollars in just one sitting toward aid for those in Haiti. During Spring Break, students will be journeying across the nation in the name of mission work to help their fellow brothers and sisters. I believe in people. I have faith that humankind is generally good and that when faced with disaster, love conquers all.

This quarterly’s theme is focusing on the power of love. In this winter issue, our writers highlight moments of people

pulling together for a positive change. Along with events such as Peace Week and the SALSU elections, which show students and staff acting out in love for the sake of our campus community, we also hope to inspire discussion with an insightful look into homosexuality and God. With that as only a preview, our coverage ranges from our campus to the Inland Empire community to the world.

When it really comes down to it, all you do need is love. In this dark world, we, as a populace capable of love, carry a torch that illuminates all that is good in this earth.

Love isn’t hiding; it’s waiting.

Therefore, it is our responsibility to carry out all manner of action with the intention to only improve the ruinous state in which we all live. In all things, act in love. That needs to start today. Here. Now. Our generation will shape the future. Knowing that, two roads are set before us: one of victory, the other of ruin.

Let us press forward in love.

We are the medium of revolution. Let’s go change the world.

Always truly,



Israel Carreon
Editor-in-Chief



NEWS



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LA SIERRA UNIVER
School of Business

CLEARING THE RUMORS

THE NEW SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

If you're anything like me, you're the student who first hears wind of changes on campus by some rambling, all-knowing friend in the cafeteria, sitting with you at dinner. You look up from your prosage-rice casserole, tuning-in right at the part where they casually mention that your world will be flipped upside down.

by Rebecca Barcelo

SITY

“...because after the fence is put in around campus, you’ll have to walk around the whole campus perimeter before getting back to your car...”

“What?! Wait, what do you mean they’re going put a fence around the whole campus? When did you hear about this?”

It’s a little unnerving to say the least, and as you head off to your next class wondering whether the information is true or not, you also wonder what changes it will mean for you as a student in the long run.

This was my question when I heard, that the Administration was considering the construction of a new School of Business in the near future. Being the curious student I am, I spoke to Dean of Business, Johnny Thomas, and found that, indeed, the rumors are true. Faithful alumni and supporters of the School of Business have been very generous in their donations, allowing us to start planning for the new building within the next several years.

So, why the change?

As evident by our abundance of maintenance requests on campus, these buildings have been faithfully serving us for quite a long time. The School of Business itself was built in 1968 and, though remodeled, is now bursting at the seams with a growing business program. Approximately, 410 students were registered for the program in 2008, the largest number in La Sierra’s 86-year history, and the School’s Master of Business Administration program has grown to more than 150 students. This leaves little space in the more popular business classes and puts a cap on enrollment that doesn’t leave much room for growth.

“We have students spilling out of our classrooms now,” commented Thomas. “SIFE is gaining more international recognition, our numbers continue to climb, and we have to be able to provide a facility that can keep up with our needs. Our current building can’t provide the space, or support the technological features we need for our students, and I don’t believe in a stagnant school. I really believe we need a program that’s rigorous, competitive, and kept at state-of-the-art levels if we want to make La Sierra a destination school for business.”

The intended location for the two-story building is at La Sierra’s main entrance, in between Calkins Hall and the baseball diamond field, making it one of the first buildings to be seen on campus. Not only will it include a larger section for SIFE and other clubs to meet, but it will contain state-of-the-art computer facilities, larger classrooms, and a recording and editing studio for on-line programs. The entrance to the building will have a customer-service area for students and visitors, leading into a large, naturally-lit gallery to study or socialize in. Last, but not least, a state-of-the-art auditorium will



be included for conferences, presentations, and even non-business activities such as concerts, dramas, and university-sponsored lectures.

“The auditorium will be for everyone’s use, not just for us,” said Thomas. “We believe in social change and the community’s improvement, and we want to demonstrate that by bringing many different academic programs together in our building.”

Thomas also put a very strong emphasis on globalization, both as an important business principle, and as a necessity at a campus as diverse as La Sierra. He plans on highlighting different cultures in the new home of business when it’s completed.



While student size and diversity have obviously been considered in the construction of the building, another aspect discussed has been how “green” or environmentally-friendly the building will be. While bricks will be used for the main rotunda of the structure, Thomas says the plan includes the use of “tilt-up construction” which is faster, requires less transportation costs, and is more “green” than conventional building methods.

“In environmentally-friendly construction rating systems, the top ratings are categorized as bronze, silver and gold. I’d like to make it as green as possible and I’m aiming for at least the silver category, based on what we can afford,” says Thomas.

With an architect already hired, and builders contracted for the job, the projected completion of the project is within the next several years.

“I really want a building that students can be proud of,” said Thomas earnestly. “I think it’s up to us not to follow, but to set trends as leaders of a business program that’s dedicated to, not only profit, but social change. Hopefully this building will enable us to move forward as a quality, destination business school within the Inland Empire and Seventh-day Adventist education.”

REVO LA SIERRA: START A REVOLUTION, START WITH LOVE

by Caleb Walker

REVO is a movement based on the desire for change. It is a decision to stop watching and to take an active role in improving the world around us. Short for “revolution,” REVO began in Hawaii as a non-denominational revolution based on love, to change by being the change. Since then, branches have sprouted up in places such as New York, Anchorage, San Diego, Los Angeles, Guam, Holi, Baton Rouge, Nashville, Oahu, and Ottawa. This year, La Sierra students have decided take up the challenge and start their very own branch. This would make La Sierra University one of only three schools to host a branch, the other two being Pacific Union College and Andrews University.

REVO manifests itself in the form of fundraisers. The members of a REVO branch decide on a worthy cause, organize a benefit event, and donate the proceeds to that cause. This year, La Sierra students decided to bring change through love to far-away Gakoni Orphanage in Rwanda. While the recipients of this year’s efforts may be distant, they are close to many LSU students’ hearts. Last year two of our own students, Emily Gifford and Michelle Allison Jacobsen, went to the orphanage as student missionaries. They are continuing their service there and Michelle is in training for the position of director of the orphanage. Founded in 1979, the orphanage is home to approximately 75 children and has basic needs to be met, such as water filtration systems, mosquito nets, and building repairs.

To meet these needs, REVO La Sierra is putting on a fundraising event on April 18 on the Founder’s Green. The event will run from 4 to 10 in the evening and will include an art show, a fashion show, and a concert. The art show will feature works by students, faculty, and local artists. The concert will feature several bands from different genres, one of which will be the La Sierra Jazz Band. The fashion show will be put on by 6 student designers and about 30 models, some of whom are professors (come to the event to find out who they are!). The goal is to raise at least \$5,000 for the orphanage. The event itself will be free, though there will be a suggested donation. There will also be REVO La Sierra merchandise for sale, such as T-shirts and buttons, with all proceeds going towards the orphanage.

REVO La Sierra was conceived almost by pure chance. When PUC graduate and current La Sierra student Jaylene Chung wore her REVO PUC shirt to school, La Sierra senior Nina Park recognized the shirt and suggested the idea of starting up a local REVO branch. After some brainstorming, they had picked a cause and

put together a team. When asked why she felt a need to “start a REVO,” Jaylene, the head of the La Sierra branch, answered simply, “I like helping people, and I like loving people.” That sums up what REVO is all about.

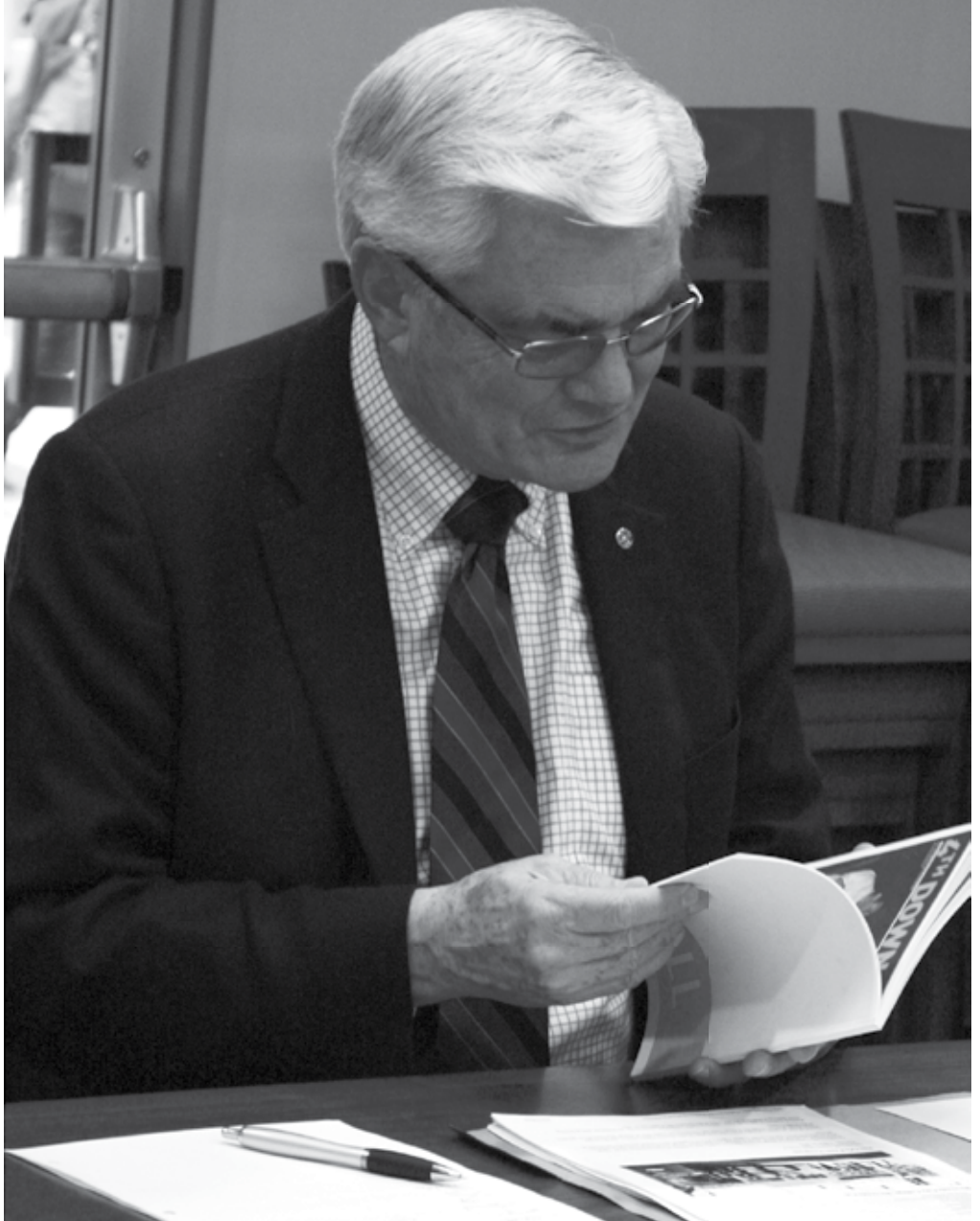
REVO is touted as a grassroots movement, as an engine for change, but what it really all boils down to is helping and loving people. That is not only what REVO is about, but also what Christ is about. Christ calls us to serve those less fortunate than us in Matthew 25 and to love our neighbor in Luke 10. The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us that our neighbor is anyone in need of help. Surely, then, the children in Gakoni are our neighbors. The REVO team is dedicated to making this event a success, but we cannot do so without the La Sierra community’s help. We are still in need of funds and volunteers. There will be much to do the day of the event: set-up, donation taking, cleaning, sound and lighting, etc. If anyone is willing to help, please contact revolasierra@gmail.com, the REVO La Sierra Facebook group, or speak to any member of the REVO team. Whatever help you can give will be greatly appreciated, not only by your fellow students, but also by the Gakoni community in Rwanda.

REVO La Sierra Members: Jaylene Chung, Nina Park, Patrick Garrett York, Kelli Kam, Angela Mae Payaban, Rebecca Barcelo, and Caleb Walker.



RIVERSIDE AND LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH
MAYOR RONALD LOVERIDGE





Every year, Riverside Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge pays a visit to the colleges and universities across the Inland Empire with his administration. This year, La Sierra University hosted a luncheon in honor of his visit. Serving as Riverside's mayor since 1994, Loveridge is a strong believer in education and community service within the city. In talking about the importance of higher education, Mayor Loveridge also explained the many advantages La Sierra University has compared to other local colleges.

What is the purpose of your administration visiting universities? To open up a line of communication with the students?

It's to try and get some measure of kind the agenda, perception, and views of the university students. One of our most distinguishing characteristics of Riverside is that we're a city that has three universities and community colleges. All of Orange County only has three universities. In my judgment, the students' views, of place, what you like, what you like to see more of or less of are important views. They should be important views to the mayor. You are the reason for universities. It's to get some intelligence of your own concerns and needs.

I've spent much of my life talking to university students and I think that I feel really comfortable doing that. I still teach a class at UCR.

Since you have a PhD in Political Science, are teaching at UCR and have raised two children who are now graduating from college, you of all people know the importance of a college education. What message would you like to send out to the youth who are attending or thinking about attending La Sierra University?

That question has two directions. One: It's important for the city to underscore that and it's also in terms of choices you have in life. Second: With education doors are open and without education doors are closed to the things you would like to do, want to do, or can do.

It seems to me that you (the student) are going to spend a lot of time after you graduate from school that you'll want to have fun. Do something that's engaging and interesting.

When I've listened to people talk who've gotten awards from university alumni awards, most go up and say "I have fun every day." How are you going to have fun? One of the ways you get to have fun is through the education you have. There's no question about the doors that are opened and some of the doors you have to take advantage of.

What makes La Sierra University different from other colleges?

Students have a couple of opportunities here at La Sierra. Where

I taught at UCR, the class average, in a Political Science class, you don't find a class smaller than 75 students. That's a much bigger class circumstance than students here find themselves in. I've often asked UCR students, "If you walk down the hallway, how many faculty members would say, 'Good morning' with your name and know something about you?" At UCR, not too many people know who you are, but one of the things here at La Sierra is that faculty can be a major resource. You have the opportunity. The other just obvious one is that you have is the Service Learning, which I think is very important. Connected to that are community opportunities that are much easier found and encouraged here than at a place where they have as many students at UCR does.

What is your plan in increasing college enrollment in the Inland Empire?

Enrollment is not the problem; it's getting the resources when students are here. Speaking toward public universities, talking about the UCR students, when I first came to UCR education was virtually free. Now we're privatizing universities and life is getting more complicated.

Campuses differ. La Sierra and Cal Baptist differ from RCC, which differs from UCR. Public universities are really about resources.

In terms of access, it's not only that you want to work hard for

your degree, a culture that supports higher education in high school that obviously increases enrollment. There's just so many advantages that come one gets a degree beyond high school.

We're working with something called a "Clip Grant" (Communities Learning in Partnership), which is a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which will try to raise the people that go into some kind of post-secondary work. We're one of the seven cities selected in the country to be among the finalists. Cities include: San Francisco, New York, Phoenix, Mesa, Jacksonville, and Dayton. The effort is to try to get those going into post-secondary work.

Any last statement that you would like to leave with the La Sierra students?

You have opportunities as students that are really quite extraordinary that one needs to take advantage of. You have summers, which you'll never have again. You need to have summers that are worthwhile. You have faculty members who actually talk with you. Take advantage of that. I'm a strong advocate for internships. Service Learning has so many benefits. You also have so many programs that connect to overseas opportunities. You have opportunities and choices that as a student you need to take. This campus provides them, but you have to embrace them, take advantage of. Unlike a class of 75, which is hard to surface in, you have a chance to surface in your own classes. That's the great asset and resource of this place.



LOCK AND LOAD, LA SIERRA

by John Roach

Lock and load your life in the career chance of a lifetime that will be knocking at your door this summer at LSU.

If you have ever been interested in law enforcement, CSI, forensic science, or the FBI, then suit up and jump into action by applying your mental, physical, and social skills in a whole new environment. This program will be led by faculty that have had years of experience in each of the previously listed fields. Learn the real reasons behind why people commit crimes, how blood pattern analysis at a crime scene can find unseen evidence, and explore the complex science behind criminal justice.

The new Criminal Justice major here at LSU is a four-year B.S. degree that will kick-start this summer and set the foundation for a career that can land you anywhere you like. This is not a major that will be centered on preparing you to be a police officer, because this major will facilitate your growth in many diverse career paths that won't require you to holster a gun.

Not only is La Sierra bringing you very experienced and skilled professors such as former judges and FBI agents, but a state-of-the-art training facility complete with a fully operational crime lab which will be closely located off-campus. While at the training facility, you will have the unique opportunity to take your pick of Criminal Justice tactics ranging from weaponless defense and ballistics to fingerprinting and crime scene processing.

Surrounding schools will be highly envious of the level of expertise, quality of teaching, and demonstrations that these professors will bring to the classroom.

I was lucky enough to sit in on the inaugural presentation for the Criminal Justice major and was amazed by what each professor presented. One of the presenters was a former CSI who introduced us to a crime scene of a murder, supplying minimal information about what occurred. He then proceeded to methodically break down the evidence that each photo of the crime scene presented until he constructed an intelligent case of what had happened. After leaving us in awe, he finished by saying that his case proved to be successful in a court of law, which left no one surprised after hearing his thorough lecture.

A real-life situation being proctored by a real-life expert is what is so intriguing about this field of study. What may fascinate most people is that once they plunge into the realm of thought for how to analyze a case, they must learn the processes and characteristics of the criminal mind as well. You may think all criminals are bad criminals, but after analyzing and discussing the circumstances that led to the crime committed, you might see why the world is how it is.

The leaders of this program have seen many programs that teach using only class studies and discussions, which limit your mind to just the four walls surrounding you. This program is going to fill you with the knowledge to succeed, and more importantly, give you hands-on experience and simulations so you can apply them in action, which is what actually matters in the real world. After four years or less, you will more than ready for the challenges that await you. If you are worried that one of those challenges will be finding a job in a country with a struggling economy, most of the students majoring in Criminal Justice will already have a job reserved before they graduate.

Don't let this opportunity pass you up. The future is calling for those of you who are interested, and I highly suggest you open the door this summer or following school year to what could really teach you about life.



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GOD'S TROMBONES

—
by Anusha Sivalingham



When you think of the title *God's Trombones*, what comes to mind? Do you think of a play about a heavenly trombone that performs godly music? Or maybe even a play about God and His trombone? Well, surprisingly, this play has nothing to do with either. James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), the author of *God's Trombones* (1927), came up with this title in a very intelligent and powerful way. The trombone is defined as the brass instrument that most resembles the range and sound of a human's voice. As a young man who grew up listening to folk preachers and their sermons, Johnson could remember the vocal nature of a preacher and recalled his voice as being like a trombone—evoking all the emotions of a human's voice, but with less intensity than an actual trombone. This fact enables us to see that God's voice surpasses all of the others with greater intensity and meaning, and the La Sierra University's Drama Department did a great job portraying that message by making it real for the audience.

Johnson's book *God's Trombones* contains eight Negro sermons in verse, with each verse having its own significant story to tell. Marilyn Loveless led the La Sierra Drama Department to another successful performance by using Johnson's sermons and putting them into action. Eight different student directors were each assigned to direct a sermon—Edgar Hernandez (*The Prodigal Son*), Darren Thomas (*Creation*), Rebecca Kern (*Listen Lord—A Prayer*), Daniel Skoretz (*Go Down Death*), Patrick Garrett York (*The Crucifixion*), Will Appiah (*The Judgment Day*), Will Williams (*Let My People Go*), and Denby Rasmussen (*Noah Built the Ark*)—and were given the freedom to select their own cast and orchestrate the message the way they personally viewed it. "I wanted to make sure that I was able to evoke all the emotions that I felt while reading the piece," said Will Appiah, "and it was good seeing all the pieces fall into place during the performance." After watching the play myself, I saw that the individuality of each director was properly displayed. Each sermon elicited unique emotions, and the passion shown through each cast member's words and actions made the performance unforgettable.

The first sermon, "Listen, Lord—A Prayer," started the production off on the right foot. The scene began with the cast members moving to the beat of a steady drum, and as they moved to the front of the stage, they recited a prayer. The prayer consisted of a man's plea for God's protection from the devil and of his desire to walk in the holy path. Between each sermon, a trombone player, Art Kharns, came out and stood under the spotlight and played a song that corresponded perfectly with the next sermon; as the play progressed, so did the songs' power.

The "Creation" story showed the Trinity creating our world, from the stars in the sky and the grass on the ground to human life. Not only was this sermon an intimate portrait of our Creator, it also contained humor,

giving the play diversity. The story of "The Prodigal Son" portrayed the compassion of our Savior and the selfishness of our desires. It also gave hope to those who stray away, because it showed our Father waiting to embrace us despite our sins. "Go Down Death" was somewhat of an abstract picture to me, showing that we can find peace and rest in God's presence. "Noah Built the Ark" began by showing the sin of man from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It then led to Noah building the ark and warning everyone of the flood. This sermon ended with a comical line, "No longer will I destroy the earth with a flood. Next time I'll rain down fire!" The following sermon, "Let My People Go," began with Moses and the burning bush, which was a powerful scene. Through the story of Moses demanding Pharaoh to let his people be free and the plagues falling on Egypt, the message that God will never forsake his children was clearly portrayed. The last two sermons, "The Judgment Day" and "The Crucifixion," were very emotional for me. The acting in all the sermons was amazing, but because most of the cast had a part in the last two scenes, the performance seemed overpowering. "The Judgment Day" was set up to look like a courtroom, and the words spoken were very descriptive of the end times. "Sinner! Where will you stand when God rains down fire?" This question played in my head throughout the whole sermon, making me think of my own personal life. "Crucifixion" was intense. The emotion and anger in the cast's voice as they screamed "Crucify him!" made me feel like I was there. The production ended by the cast coming out and singing "When the Saints Go Marching In," and they marched right out the door! Each of these sermons portrayed a different emotion, and the play was not just poetry but a presentation of our struggle and journey as Christians.

This production was better than what I had expected. The hard work and enthusiasm of the cast and directors were clearly shown through the production. "It got stressful some days, but it was a lot more rewarding. One good rehearsal outweighed 5 bad ones!" says Denby Rasmussen.

"The play itself is absolutely moving and captivating, and each director made it their own!" Rebecca Kern says. "It extends passion of what people feel towards Christ, and the safest place to express it is in the La Sierra Theater." The meaning of the title *God's Trombones* was shown to the audience by the sheer talent of our La Sierra students. Every sense was reached and every heart was touched, and surely God's voice was heard through His trombones!

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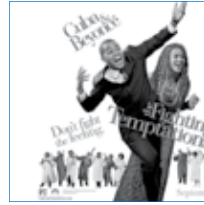
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“Hometown Glory” by Adele – For a young artist like Adele (21), her voice—especially in this song—gives listeners a deep appreciation of her as an old soul with soul.



“Swing Low Swing Chariot” by Beyoncé – Arguably one of the greatest vocalists of our day, Beyoncé proved that she wasn’t a girl group cliché when she performed this song in the movie *Fighting Temptations*. We all knew that she could sing; we just didn’t know she could sang.



“Photographs” (feat. will.i.am) by Rihanna – Consistent with the darker vibe of Rihanna’s fourth studio album, *Rated R*, this is a classic break-up song. What makes this song great is the collaboration; anything will.i.am touches these days is gold.



“This Land Is Your Land” by Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings – Jones and her band, The Dap-Kings, are a throwback group to 1960s R&B with perhaps a hint of funk in the mixture. In this song, Jones belts out a refreshing rendition of a classic American tune.



“Lights Out” by Santigold – This song comes off Santigold’s self-titled debut album. If you listen to it straight through, you can easily tell that her artistry has been influenced by a conglomerate of different sounds—most notably, M.I.A.



“Lump Sum” by Bon Iver – The genius that is Justin Vernon is showcased beautifully in this song. The overall somber vibe of the album is perfect for rainy days or the occasional depressed heart.



“Electric Feel” by MGMT – A perfect tune to bob your head to. Like ogres, this song has so many layers of electronic awesomeness that it’s hard to move on to the next song.



“Sweet Disposition” by Temper Trap – This song contains amazing melodies that eventually put the Australian group on the map when it was featured in the movie *500 Days of Summer* (2009).

PLAYLIST *by Nick Smith*



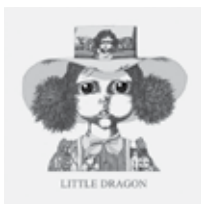
“Honey Honey” by Feist – Many of the songs on Feist’s album *The Reminder* are minimalist in nature, and this song is no different. A lone keyboard laced with guitar riffs, along with psychedelic background vocals, do well to showcase Feist’s pure tone.



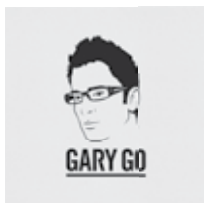
“Violent Stars Happy Hunting” (feat. The Skunks) by Janelle Monáe – The female protégé of rap group Outkast, Janelle Monáe truly delivers. This retro hip-hop track was included in an EP she released in 2008.



“Morning After Dark” (feat. Nelly Furtado & SoShy) by Timbaland – From a small-town DJ known as “Timmy Tim” to the Grammy Award-winning record producer and rapper that Timbaland is today, credit must be given for the success of a producer who has worked with the biggest names in the business, including Beyoncé, Mariah Carey, and Jay-Z.



“Twice” by Little Dragon – This whimsical ballad accompanied only by piano leaves me perplexed every time I listen to it—but in a good way.



“Wonderful” by Gary Go – This is a “wonderfully” inspirational track off Gary Go’s debut album that never fails to put me a good mood and feel better about myself; the lyrics just drip with positive thinking.



“Washed By the Water” by Needtobreathe – If you have been craving some John Mayer but without a side of “douchebag,” Needtobreathe is your fix. This is a soulful song from a Christian group of musicians. It’s a fine tune to add to your Sabbath playlist and will most likely make you look like an idiot as you sing your heart out in the car.



“La Vie en Rose” by Louis Armstrong – A delightful American jazz rendition of French singer Edith Piaf’s immensely popular tune.



“Til Enda” by Ólafur Arnalds – At 22, Icelandic native Ólafur Arnalds is the Yanni for today’s generation. He is best known for his heavily synthesized songs. The song’s violins and various stringed instruments are intertwined with a ridiculous beat.

THE WINGTIP FASHION BLOG: COOKIES & MILK

by Charles Dickerson

It's the bitterly cold winter back with his old bag of tricks. Dreary clouds, gusty winds, and hassling raindrops back to make your lunch bags soggy. After juggling my art supplies to my trunk, I visit the local Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf to pick up a hot vanilla on my way home after another busy day on campus. I throw open my front door and post on the couch in silence.

In front of me sit several of my favorite things: the latest issue of *Surface* magazine, photos of some friends of mine taken in strategic spontaneity, a candle and a few ripe matches. Pinching a single match I strike its box with a swift outward delivery and put it to the candle's wick. No man should take lightly the value of candles in the wintertime. There is something mellowing about the hue that only a natural flame can project. I not only stand by it, but I work by it, I eat by it, I sip coffee by it, I bathe by it, I sleep by it, and occasionally in times like these, I do nothing by it. I lay across my leather sofa and watch the flame turn from an electric blue to a Pittsburgh yellow transforming the scented wax into a milky liquid.

Waking from my daze I hop up and head to my bedroom dragging my messenger behind. I then begin to wonder what makes us look forward to this season despite incessant rain drops pouring through thick fog. Our beds seemingly cry out our names in agony, longing to cradle us past our every obligation. I question what carries us past this lagging attitude. Then it hits me.

Tossing my scarf across my bed I am suddenly reminded of the unique opportunity winter provides for those who think twice about how they dress. It's the appropriate time to layer random pieces and not risk posing as an over achiever.

Winter is all about combinations and accessories.

These combinations give us satisfaction in ways like nothing else. Some of the best examples of these pairs come from foods we eat. Consider the fact that peanut butter tastes much better in a sandwich with jelly. And we all know that macaroni tastes ridiculously better with cheese, right? You see, having the freedom to take control of your wardrobe and mix and match to your heart's content, well, that's as sweet as cookies and milk.

The key to conquering winter is to stay warm while looking cool. So let's go through the essential

combination pieces that no man should leave home without during the season.

Keeping your dome warm with a cozy beanie is a must, making it the number one piece in any man's closet this winter. Note that a beanie should be as much about style as it is about function. So get in the habit of keeping one in your back pocket or in your book bag. They are what I call the man's umbrella.

The most stylish gear this season happens to be the most rugged. Boots take you from Ambs to Price through the most brutal conditions. Though we don't get much snow we surely get our share of mud puddles. Don't risk getting caught in one without being laced into a sturdy pair with a sturdy sole. And guys, don't be afraid to roll up those jeans and show off your boots. They're made to make statements, let them speak. In addition, fellas, don't be cheap when it comes to your boot selection. Keep in mind that the right pair of boots can last a lifetime. So making the investment now will be well worth the cash while keeping your feet dry and pleasant.

Now, when it comes to battling the cold, the most important layer is the one against your skin. This is the time when a simple pair of briefs and tank top won't cut it. Recently many designers have taken long underwear and reinvented its function. Not only do waffle-knit thermals keep you warm, but now they keep you looking stylish as well. Roll them up or leave them down, either way you'll be glad you decided not to go commando that day.

Moving on to a piece of timeless style and construction that defines the essence of the winter season, we reach the sweater. Sweaters are meant to be fitted and comfortable while keeping the body warm. Do not compromise these things. Cardigans offer a stylish alternative to sweaters though they are essentially the same in design and function. Stick to dark wool or cotton pieces with minimal patterns and you'll be the happiest camper on campus.

Scarves are for the more confident man. They are one of my favorite pieces because they offer such great versatility. One can dress them up or down according to the occasion. Ribbed-knit scarves are the happy medium when searching for one to throw over your suit or sports jacket. Also, knotting one tightly beneath your overcoat offers a dash of cold-weather panache that will cheer up the worst of them.



MIKE

Junior, Business

Colton, California

Flannel by The Hundreds

Tank Top by Active

Jeans by Billionaire Boys Club

Sneakers by The Hundreds

Fitted Cap by The Hundreds

Specs by Dolce & Gabbana

What inspires your style?

To stand out, be different, & turn heads

What do you collect?

Phone numbers.

What do chicks dig about your style?

They dig that I am versatile and can fit all different styles.

Favorite food?

Mexican.

Most favorite kicks?

Ice Cream sneakers.

Item in your closet you regret buying.

My G-Unit sneakers.

Fashion secret.

Take some time in the morning perfecting your look, girls really notice.

What sneaks are you pulling out this season?

TOMS

Favorite winter trend.

When girls wear UGG boots with tights.

What item can you not live without.

My glasses.

What cologne do you wear?

Diesel Fuel For Life.

Favorite class.

Service Marketing.

Winter don't.

Sweats

Favorite vacation spot.

Mammoth.

Favorite dessert.

Cheesecake.

What piece of clothing says the most about one's style?

T-shirts. The company, how it fits, etc.

Favorite artist.

Johnny Cupcakes

Love is?

Hard and Complicated.

Favorite winter item.

Hoodies.

What's the next big trend?
Thrifting.

What do you collect?
Old keys.

Last book read?
Tess of the d'Urbervilles.

What do dudes dig about your style?
It's my own natural, authentic style.

What trend should die?
Long jean skirts.

Favorite food?
Chips & Salsa.

Most common statement about your style?
Oh you look cute... Today.

Most favorite kicks ever?
Gladiators!

Trend-proof advice?
Underwear... don't forget them.

Winter don't?
Belly shirt & booty shorts... Brrr!

After which celeb do you pattern your style?
Silver from 90210.

Favorite online shop?
I'm old fashioned, I go to stores.

Where are you in 10 years?
Another country, possibly South Africa.

Favorite sport?
Baseball.

Describe your winter style.
Like an onion, it has several layers.

Favorite designer?
"Tarrjeeze" (Target).

Hobbies?
Painting & drawing.

Winter/spring essential?
Jacket In A Packet.

Last words?
"A dream is a wish your heart makes."



HEATHER

Freshman, Business & Society

Fresno, California

Vest by Forever 21
Shirt by American Eagle
Shorts & Tights from Target
Boots by Bearpaw
Bracelets & Ring by Vintage Made Modern

Lastly, we have the winter coat. My personal favorite is the cotton trench because it offers a range of wearability and is always stylish. So hey New Yorkers, ditch the bubble North Faces and slip into something more fitting this winter. You'll thank me and we'll all be thanking you for it.

Now that we've covered men's winter fashion essentials, ladies, let's talk about what combination pieces you need for your cold-weather wardrobes.

This season's most popular combination piece begins and ends with tights. These fun, multifunctional pieces offer something more substantial underneath your skirts than pantyhose. Go nuts this season and stock up on a variety of colors from your basic black and gray to red, royal blue, or dark purple. The daring will even wear their tights with flats this winter. Go for it!

I am proud to say the ladies on campus have already got the boot thing down. But if you don't already own a pair of flat boots, save your lunch money this week and go get a pair. Aside from their stylish design they deliver unparalleled comfort. Once you have a pair or two of the flats, graduate to some three-inch heel boots when you want to add a dash of sexy to your look. But ladies, make sure you look for soles with traction to keep you on your feet while traveling the wet winter pavement. Safety first!

Even in this chilly season less remains more. This winter, use light layers to keep warm. Leave the turtleneck in its drawer and break out the thin V-neck sweaters or cardigans that you can layer with blouses and T-shirts. Throw a long-sleeved shirt under a spring dress to stretch it into a second season of wearability.

Guys aren't the only ones who must protect their skulls from the elements; ladies too must keep their thinkers warm. Give your hair some refuge this winter with a fashionable hat. Check local department or antique stores for a wide variety of hats that match your style. Remember that all hats must be as much about style as they are about function. And if you must wear a ball cap, do so tastefully, not as if you are playing an extremely deep center field.

Finally, ladies it's time to dig back into your box of scarves and relearn how to wrap yourselves senseless. It wouldn't be winter if you didn't need to also relocate those natural-fiber gloves your friend made you years ago. If you don't have a box of past years winter scarves and gloves go out and stock up on a variety of inexpensive goodies to keep your neck and fingers warm. You may try several department stores' accessory department and look for items that are versatile and will remain comfortable for years to come.

We often get stuck in the dreary daze that comes with the approaching of winter. Keeping in mind the

opportunities that winter brings we ought to continue to rejoice even past the holidays full with excitement of boots to be laced and scarves to be wrapped. This winter, taste the flavors of the season and find what sweet fashion combinations emerge that satisfy your fashion driven cravings.

With spring peeking around the corner, I figure it is best I leave you with a bit of spring fashion know-how as well. After talking with a wide variety of you throughout campus I have learned these spring accessories are valued as the most essential amongst your peers. So until next time, in no particular order, they're all yours:

Women's

- Lip gloss
- Several pair of sunglasses
- Comfortable sandals
- A variety of comfortable flats
- Several sun dresses
- A cute hand bag
- Bottled water
- A variety of nail polish
- A new lighter hair color
- A pair of open toed heels

Men's

- Several new tank tops
- A pair of leather sandals
- Few pair of shorts
- A light fragrant cologne
- A sturdy everyday watch
- Several pair of sunglasses
- Few pair of nice jeans
- An iPod
- A stack of white V-neck T-shirts
- A job

What trend should die?

Button down shirts with basketball shorts

Trend-proof advice.

Solid colored V-neck T-shirts

What's the next big trend?

Underwear over pants!

Winter don't.

Leg warmers

Favorite shop.

Hollister

Style essential.

Designer jeans

Favorite pets.

Leopard cats

Favorite artist.

Picasso

Favorite winter activity.

Snowboarding

What perfume do you wear?

Victoria's Secret

Favorite movie.

A Walk to Remember

Favorite accessory.

Purses!

Favorite food. California rolls!

Or Spring rolls! Any rolls!!

Ideal vacation spot.

Hawaii

Essential winter item.

My Abercrombie & Fitch jacket & beanies

Describe your winter style.

A hat, comfy sweats, puffy jacket, & some boots

What inspires your style.

I take a bit of everything and customize it according to how I feel

Favorite kicks.

Vans

Loves.

Boys & purses!

Who has wack style?

Lady Gaga



RACHEL

Freshman, Graphic Design / Pre-Dent

Sacramento, California

T-Shirt by Stussy
Jeans by Hollister
Slippers by Massimo



MOHIT

Junior, Business Management

Burtonsville, Maryland

Vest by Polo Ralph Lauren
Jeans by Hollister
Boat Shoes by L.L.Bean

What inspires your style?

The ladies

Favorite brand.

Burberry

What trend should die?

Bumpits

Most cash you've spent on a piece of clothing and what.

\$600 on a Burberry jacket

Favorites accessories.

Watches

Style essential.

A belt to match your shoes

How do you feel about text messaging?

Sometimes it's the best way to communicate

Favorite things about La Sierra University.

The diversity of the students and the friendly staff

Item in your closet you regret buying.

A Lacoste belt

How do you feel about scarves?

Only if it's extremely cold

Favorite fashion season.

Winter

What cologne do you wear?

Polo Black

Favorite vacation spot.

Bahamas

Why LSU?

The Business program

Favorite winter brand.

The North Face

Hobbies.

Drawing and girls

Favorite class.

Spanish

Describe your winter style.

Warm

Trend-proof advice.

Wear what's comfortable

SPORTS



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OLYMPICS REVIEW

by Chancellor Cochran



The Olympic Games have started in the same fashion for 74 years. They begin with the marching in of the countries' athletes, who hold the flags of the countries they represent, starting with Greece and ending with the host country (in this case, Canada). This is followed by a brief speech made by the president of the organizing committee, the hoisting of the Olympic flag, and finally the lighting of the Olympic torch. The 2010 Winter Olympics consisted of the same ceremony, but it had a different feeling to it. The reason for this is because this Olympic ceremony was dedicated to Nodar Kumaritashvili, a 21-year-old Georgian luger who died during a practice run hours before the opening ceremony. Kumaritashvili lost control of his sled and crashed into an unpadding steel pole at 88 miles an hour. This accident brought much scrutiny to Olympic officials and was the beginning of many Canadian follies.

Canada encountered many problems during these Olympic games, some of which ended up costing athletes medals. Some of their problems consisted of mechanical malfunctions, weather anomalies, safety concerns and biased judges. The problem concerning the mechanical malfunctions pertained to the sport of speed skating. The dilemma was that the Olympia ice surfacing product had an operator error, which means that the person operating the machine wasn't using it correctly. The result of this problem was that Olympic officials had to use a regular Zamboni. This may not seem like a big deal, but when it comes down to athletes who are practicing under the same conditions day in and day out, this may be a big problem. The ice being groomed differently on the day of the Olympics, a day for which people have been training their whole lives, may cause a slight surface difference that skaters would not be accustomed to. This might cause a world-class skater to lose a round and not be able to compete for a gold medal.

The second big problem that Canada had was that the weather wasn't conducive to the snowboarders and skiers. This caused many problems over the whole course of the Olympics. A clear example of this problem was in the Women's Giant Slalom, when Canadian officials were forced to send skiers down the hill before other skiers had finished their runs. Lindsay Vonn was sent down and fell before she was able to finish the run. Just before she fell, Julia Mancuso was sent down for her run. Mancuso was then stopped because Vonn had not gotten off of the course. Apparently, Vonn had been injured during her crash, so Mancuso had to redo her run, which caused Mancuso to finish in eighth place. This controversial instance sparked a media-provoked feud between Mancuso and Vonn. Mancuso felt as if her being stopped hindered her performance in the second run.

The third problem Canada faced was the safety concerns. These were primarily directed towards the outside and sledding sports. There were concerns about the outside sports because of the weather, but the sledding sports' concerns were for a completely different reason. The concerns for the lugers came during the practice runs, because lugers were falling left and right; one of these falls had resulted in the death of Nodar Kumaritashvili. Vancouver's sledding track is notorious for being exceptionally fast and is criticized for being unsafe. After Kumaritashvili was pronounced dead, officials closed the track to see if the decision should be reconsidered on whether or not it was too unsafe. Officials ultimately deemed the track safe and allowed the games to be continued.

The final problem that came up at the 2010 Winter Olympics was in the Men's 500-meter speed skating when Apolo Anton Ohno was disqualified for an illegal push. The problem was that of biased judging. Ohno, an



eight-time American medalist, hinted at the fact that a Canadian official overlooked an almost identical illegal push that Canadian speed skater Charles Hamelin committed. Of course I am being biased when I say this, but I do agree with Ohno when he says that Hamelin got away with the push. I am not saying that Ohno's push isn't illegal, but I am saying that if Ohno's was a push, then so was Hamelin's. These setbacks that Canada had may not seem very big, but if you put them all together, they add up to a pretty big problem. In a sport where the difference may be a thousandth of a second, a tiny amount may mean a lot to a winter sport athlete. Despite these disappointments of the Olympics, many good things came this year, especially for the Americans.

The Americans had many bright spots in this year's Winter Olympics. Our athletes performed to their potential, the way that we know they are capable of performing. Athletes that did not perform the way they were expected to in the 2006 Torino Olympics were given an opportunity to redeem themselves, even though we had a couple of athletes that still did not perform to their potentials. One athlete that

comes to mind when the topic of disappointments comes up is snowboarder Lindsay Jacobellis. Jacobellis is infamous for her 2006 gold medal flop. She had a three-second lead approaching the final jump and attempted a method grab in which she landed on her edge. Tanja Frieden of Switzerland passed her for gold, and Jacobellis ended up with a silver medal. This was Jacobellis's year to fulfill her dreams of a gold medal and to wipe away all of the previous disappointments. However, this was not the year she was going to be able to do it. In fact, she didn't even make it to the finals: she was disqualified in the semifinals for missing a gate early in the race. Luckily she is only 24 years old and has plenty of time to regain America's trust in her.

USA simply dominated in almost every sport that was offered in the 2010 Winter Olympics. Athletes that were expected to get gold performed in that manner, and other athletes provided surprises in which they won medals when they were not even expected to place. The list of American athletes that lived up to their potential was endless. Shaun White (snowboarder) repeated his expected half-pipe gold medal run, Bode Miller (skier)



redeemed himself after a disappointing 2006 Winter Olympics, Lindsay Vonn (skier) lived up to the title of “world’s best female skier” by winning two medals, Apolo Anton Ohno (speed skater) became the most decorated winter athlete of all time with 8 medals, and Shani Davis (speed skater) won 2 medals and also became the first black athlete from any nation to win a gold medal in an individual winter games sport. There were also those athletes who surprised their nations by bringing back a medal or by gallantly competing for their country. The men’s hockey team had flashbacks of the 1980s USA hockey team that was composed of amateurs who overtook the Soviet team, which was considered the best in the world at the time. Although the “Miracle on Ice” wasn’t able to happen again, the USA men gave the Canadians a run for their money by taking them into overtime in the medal game. Another pleasant surprise came from the USA bobsled team, who won their first gold medal since 1948, and Evan Lysacek (figure skating), who pulled off the surprise upset over Evgeni Plushenko from Russia. One of the greatest surprises this year at the 2010 Olympics was by J.R. Celski (speed skater). He

had sustained a horrific injury in 2009, which left people asking if he was going to be able to walk again. Not only did he walk again, but he competed in the 2010 Winter Olympics and is a bright spot for the future of USA Winter Sports.

Overall, this Olympics was a great success, especially for an American because USA brought home a record 37 medals, more than any other country has won in the history of the Winter Olympics. If you can overlook the problems that Canada had in maintaining the terrain and keeping up with the demands of the athletes and their courses, this Olympics was a great and historical step. I love and enjoy watching the Olympics and cannot wait until the next time the Olympic Games come around.

LA SIERRA BASEBALL

by Steve Wilson





At the beginning of the 2009-2010 season, it was under question whether or not La Sierra University would have a baseball team adequate enough to compete in a 20 games or more season. However, Athletics managed to recruit enough players and formed a team ready to contend for a tough season ahead. I spoke with Baseball Coach Lance Hallberg about the different struggles that our team has faced over the past few years due to the amount of players on an active roster.

An average baseball team has between 24-28 players listed on the roster, with 9 out on the field. The LSU Men's Baseball team is comprised of 11 players. This gives our boys in blue a cushion of 2 substitutes to go the duration of a 20-plus game season against teams whose average rosters have around 25 active players. With such a small amount on our roster, this means that the extra effort has been evenly distributed to the team. Multiple pitchers have been trained within the squad so the team can be as even and well rounded as possible.

The team even now has a squad at less than 100%. We are playing with a team that has light injuries and players who have picked up knocks since the start of the season matched up against opposition who constantly rotate and keep their injury woes to a minimum. This obviously leads to concern for our team. Having to play pitchers on third base and infielders in the outfield is not a glorious sight. This, I believe, is the main reason why our baseball team's record is less than pristine.

Our highest attendance of an active roster was 17; this was a number of seasons back. In the 2008-2009 term, our team began with over 20 players and by midseason numbered 14 players. Two years ago our team had to sign out of the season because too many players had dropped out.

There will be sports cuts in the athletics department next year, as we all are aware. Luckily, our men's baseball team will be exempt from the cuts next year. Another addition to the cuts of some of the teams is the demotion from NCAA Division 3 to NAIA. But despite what appears to be "dark times," we see light at the other end of the tunnel. A university in NAIA is eligible to begin a sports scholarship program. With financial aid available through sports involvement at La Sierra, we can only hope that more players will sign up and take our LSU Golden Eagles into a new era of sports competitiveness, turning the fortunes of not only our baseball team but of our other sports teams as well.

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SALSU ELECTIONS

by David Harris and Carlos Casiano



The student body of La Sierra University elected its SALSU officers for the 2010-2011 academic year on February 23, 2010.

Several hundred students gathered in the Alumni Pavilion at 11:00 a.m. for the general election. There was a murmur throughout the gym, with students discussing the particulars of the election, school, or life. While some students showed genuine interest in the election, many were disinterested.

The candidates had begun arriving around 10:30 that morning, forming small groups around the gym while the media crew made final preparations. The candidates were visibly nervous, though only three of the offices were contested. Some softly conversed, doing what they could to pass the time, while others did their best to control their panic. One or two sang and danced to the entertainment of all.

“I’m nervous,” said presidential candidate Jonathan Finau. “I think it’s going to be a fantastic election, not because I’m running for president, but because I think that this team is a really, really, really good team, because we have to step up our game for next year.”

We have to step up our game for next year.

At a quarter to eleven, Samuel Limbong, the SALSU president for the 2009-2010 academic year, called the candidates backstage for a briefing. The candidates trickled into the back room, gathering quietly in a circle for final directions and prayer. After President Limbong had finished talking with the group, the candidates reverted back their various coping mechanisms. There were those who tried to keep everyone laughing by incessantly joking around, while others went off by themselves to make last adjustments to their speeches. Some continued to make nervous conversation to pass the time and tried to comfort those who were struggling to keep their composure.

Kim Canine, Fain Nahab, and Deans Vilchez and Olivarria joined the candidates to offer last-minute encouragement and a second word of prayer. Moments later, President Limbong stepped onto the stage and welcomed the students to the assembly.

The SALSU officer currently holding each position interviewed the candidates for the respective office.





They were asked a question prepared by the SALSU officer, followed by a video question from a university student. The candidates were then given one minute to speak about their goals, ideas, and qualifications.

I feel awesome!

The lone candidate for CABL (Collegiate Advocates for Better Living) Director, Cindy Sihotang, was the first to be interviewed. She answered questions from Christina Thompson.

When asked about going from being Financial Vice President to being CABL director, Sihotang said, "Some may say it is a step down the ladder, but SALSU is really a team. We work as a cohesive unit, and we don't bother to focus much on the hierarchal stereotype."

Francisco Grant and Kendall Hester, the candidates for Public Relations Director, were the next to be interviewed. Alexandra Lopez provided the questions. The candidates discussed ideas such as SALSU officers in body suits, video promotions, and water fountains that spew root beer.

Cindy Sihotang then interviewed the candidates for the position of Financial Vice President, Amanda Alonso and Aubrey Ferguson, and Publications Vice President Nic Sanchez interviewed candidate Jesse Mella. Jesse was appointed by the nominating committee to fill the position after no one submitted an application for the office.

President Samuel Limbong then interviewed the candidates for Religious Vice President. The candidates were Pono Lopez and the incumbent, J. Murdock. This race was unique due to the friendly relationship between the two. Backstage, Lopez and Murdock were joking with, encouraging, and openly exchanging ideas about the upcoming year minutes before walking on stage together to address the student body.

Kendall Hester then interviewed the candidate for Social Vice President, Brianna Jones, and was followed by Jonathan Finau's interview of the candidate for Executive Vice President, John Yousry.

The final candidate to be interviewed was Jonathan Finau, who was running for the office of SALSU President. In addition to answering the questions provided, Finau, aided by some friends, provided a musical number for the students.



On exiting the stage, Finau was asked how he felt.

“I feel awesome!” he replied.

As the candidates gathered backstage after their public interviews, a sense of relief spread throughout the room, though many of the candidates remained apprehensive about the results.

“I’m nervous, but I think it went great,” Kendall Hester said.

John Yousry shared similar thoughts.

“I’ve done my part, and it’s all in the hands of the students right now,” he said. “It’s over, so now it’s time for me to chill and wait to see what the students say.”

Once the interviews and speeches had concluded, the students cast their ballots. Students who were not present at the election were able to cast their votes until 5:00 that afternoon.

By 6:00, the results of the election were known, and within an hour the candidates had received phone calls informing them of the results.

All of the candidates who ran unopposed were affirmed. Jonathan Finau, a junior who is serving as SALSU Executive Vice President for this academic year, was elected as president.

President Limbong gave the president-elect some advice: “One challenge is definitely finding a way to combine all the different personalities on the team and somehow blending them together into one, bent and focused on one thing only: serving the students.”

John Yousry was elected as SALSU Executive Vice President. He is a sophomore who served on SALSU as a Social Senator from 2008-2009 and is currently serving as Parliamentarian. Finau, in reference to the office of Executive Vice President, advised Yousry to have fun but to also encourage and support the senators.

Brianna Jones, a freshman who is currently serving as a Social Committee senator in the SALSU Senate, was elected Social Vice President.

Jesse Mella, a graduate student, was elected Publications Vice president. Prior to coming to La Sierra University, Mella had worked for Kraft’s Foods, Inc. in Brazil from 2004-2009.

Cindy Sihotang, a junior, was elected CABL Director. She has served as Financial Vice President from 2008-2010, and was a judicial senator from 2007-2008.

Pono Lopez won the race for Religious Vice President. Lopez is a junior and is working as a resident assistant in Sierra Towers for this academic year.

The position of Financial Vice President went to Aubrey Ferguson. Ferguson is a junior and is currently serving as a Social Committee senator.

Junior Kendall Hester, the current SALSU Social Vice President, won the race for Public Relations Director.

Some members of SALSU had expressed concern before the election about the low number of candidates. Some officers acknowledged that being part of SALSU requires a fair amount of commitment and responsibility, though they also pointed out that there are numerous benefits to serving and that it is possible with proper time-management. Despite the low number of candidates, President Limbong said that it is quality, rather than quantity, that counts. However, increasing student interest and participation should be of concern to the incoming SALSU administration.

The newly elected officers will be working closely with the current officers to learn the responsibilities of their positions. Some will also be attending conferences with Student Association officers from other Adventist colleges and universities. They will assume their offices in summer to begin their work to serve La Sierra University.

I’ve done my part,
and it’s all in the
hands of the students
right now.

PEACE WEEK

by Shantal Gonzalez

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”

— *Mother Teresa*

The week of January 25-30, 2010 on the La Sierra campus was one set to revitalize and invigorate every LSU student, staff and community member as they participated in the set of planned activities. Peace Week hit the La Sierra campus and engaged the LSU community in redefining their actions and attitudes to promote peace, God's peace. Through the many speakers and events, each attendee was invited to reinstate a peace towards humanity that has long been forgotten.

“PEACE IS A CHAIN REACTION OF LOVE.”

— A FIRST GRADER

Monday night's worship at Sierra Towers brought up a need for action. The End It Now campaign is an Adventist movement to end violence against women. With a video clip expressing appalling statistics of injustice towards women, the problem was clear: “1 out of every 6 American women have been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime... It is estimated that at least 1 of every 3 women globally will be beaten, raped, or otherwise abused during her lifetime...UNICEF estimates that one million children, mostly girls, enter the sex trade each year.” By signing the banner provided, the students of La Sierra University were allowed to express their support in the campaign's endeavor to collect 1 million signatures from people in 200 countries. According to the campaign's website, this will then be delivered to the “United Nations to raise additional awareness about the issue and advocate for the creation of effective new policies that protect women and girls.”

“Keep thyself first in peace, and then thou wilt be able to bring others to peace.”

— *Thomas a Kempis*

Tuesday night's worship at Angwin focused on being at peace with oneself. A short skit commenced the evening in which a man felt that God, and thus peace, is absent from his life. When everything goes wrong, of course his mind is at unrest. Will (*last name?) led the audience in realizing that peace with oneself is the first step to be able to spread the love and peace of God. If we ourselves are uneasy because of all our problems that are occupying our time and attention, the peace of God that we are supposed to reflect will be absent. Peace of mind comes from trusting God above everything else, even when this world tries to prove the contrary.

La Sierra's Speech and Debate team also had something to discuss about this issue of peace. Arguing, “peace is more important than freedom,” the government team supported this argument while the opposition team did everything in their power to disprove it. While the purpose of the debate was not to sway the audience to believe or disbelieve this statement, the debating skills of the members were exemplified. However, the audience was able to take into account the topic being discussed: “Is peace more important than freedom?” “Would my lack of freedom cause the peace I feel in my heart to cease?”

“THERE IS NO WAY TO PEACE. PEACE IS THE WAY.”

— A.J. MUSTE

Kyle Dever was the speaker for Wednesday night's worship in HMA and introduced how peace is woven into the month's theme of the four elements of Christian faith: Peace, Love, Unity, and Respect, or PLUR. He explained that as much as we try to give definitions for peace as an end to violence, an absence of stress, a hippie attitude where we need to “give peace a chance, mon,” peace is our relationship with God. “It is our responsibility to make peace in our lives so that we may be called the children of God.” As peace is interchangeable with humility, Kyle reminded us that Christians are supposed to make peace. WE are supposed to make peace for as stated in Matthew



5, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

"WHERE THERE IS PEACE, GOD IS."

— GEORGE HERBERT

Ryan Bell, pastor of Hollywood Adventist Church, was the guest speaker for Thursday's University Worship. He entertained the audience with clips of TV idols such as the regular American hero Angus Macgyver along with 24's Jack Bauer, who has defied death countless of times. He explained that in a land where terror and violence strikes not only on the television screen, Macgyver and Bauer are the sorts of characters that "we want to have around." By then juxtaposing our true hero, Jesus, alongside these crime fighters, Bell shows us how society has depicted our Savior more as a wimp, a "Mister Rogers" character. Because "we have failed to hear the radical message of Jesus and live it out courageously," Pastor Ryan Bell asserted that Christianity must find its voice once again. As Christians, Bell showed how being schooled in the "counterterrorism of the gospel" is to rediscover the nonviolent ways of Jesus. Just as the narrative of Jesus teaches peace through justice and self-sacrificing love, Pastor Bell exclaimed that Christians must now live courageously for God's peace.

One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

LSU Master of Divinity student Jared Wright was the speaker for Friday night's First Service program. A time when speakers usually sermonize to their audience, Wright took a more creative approach. Through an original poem, he discussed many of the ways people separate themselves from one another. He declared that humanity find the faults in others, ostracizing everyone else for their wrongdoings: "On this side are the righteous ones on that side are the damned." In a sense, this is how wars and conflicts are begun: by recognizing differences and thus trying to prove oneself better than someone else. However, it isn't until people end this waging of wars, Wright shared, that humanity will be able to live in harmony with one's fellow humans. By seeing the world with a "new set of eyes," this poem enforced how humanity will be made anew: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called/A peaceable kin-

dom, the kin-dom of God." No longer seeing others as our foes, the world will grow in unity as each individual realizes "where I had perceived my enemies I recognized my kin."

"PEACE IS ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL."

— WALT WHITMAN

Saturday's church ceremony was no exception to this week-long endeavor to promote peace to all. Beginning with a flag ceremony, each and every country was represented as the congregation was encouraged to come up and choose to hold a flag from a region that they could not claim as their home. The sanctuary was truly a magnificently beautiful sight as so many different flags were held high by people of all nationalities and origins. Pastor Chris Oberg led the congregation in understanding how to "fight for peace when our story is controversy." She helped the church family understand that the controversy between peace and violence is because of the battle between God and Satan. God's character is apparent in passages like "Love your enemies... Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." From these passages, God's love is illuminated. True Christians cannot construct words, imagery and ideas that are contrary to the character of God, for those of violence and war belong to Satan. Christians serve a God of love...all the time!

Through the many sermons, plays, poems, activities, songs, skits, video clips, and speeches that were made during this week-long movement, the La Sierra campus learned to acquire and thus share the peace found in God's love. (Expound on this...)

"LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR HEARTS..."

— COLOSSIANS 3:15

RELIGION

An aerial, black and white photograph of a city in ruins. The central focus is a large, multi-story building that appears to be a school or institutional building, with its structure partially intact but surrounded by a sea of rubble. To the right, a large sign with the letters 'LE' is visible amidst the debris. The surrounding area is filled with destroyed residential buildings, some with collapsed roofs. The overall scene conveys a sense of devastation and loss.

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A black and white photograph of a destroyed urban area, likely a slum or informal settlement, with extensive rubble and damaged buildings. The scene is filled with debris, including twisted metal, broken wood, and collapsed structures. In the background, a few more intact but damaged buildings are visible, including one with a curved roofline. The overall atmosphere is one of devastation and loss.

A DISASTER OPENS PEOPLES' EYES

by Natalie Sayegh





For hundreds of years, hard times have plagued the world. The terrible tragedy in Haiti has assuredly caused damage beyond repair on its people. Uncertainty and worry about what the future holds for the country have been voiced, relief efforts have been organized, and people have come together to raise money and support the country. Even so, Haiti may be rebuilt, but nothing can make up for the lives that have been lost. Mothers, fathers, children, and friends will never see the daylight ever again.

It is sad that it takes a tragedy to bring people together in this fashion. The tremendous humanitarian response has put a spotlight on the ability of nations to cooperate for the sole purpose of bringing aid to the people of Haiti. The awareness of others' suffering gives us the opportunity to refocus our concerns on the things that truly matter. Observing nature's volatility is terrifying. We find that essentially no place is safe from natural disaster, whether it's an earthquake, tsunami, or wildfire. The fact is that all we can do is sit and wait as the world around us crumbles, with the realization that at any given moment there is the possibility that we may lose it all.

This, however, should not give us reason to surrender to nature. The impermanence of everything around us simply prompts us to reassess what is meaningful in our lives. In the same sense I ask, what is it that distinguishes La Sierra University? Is it the new addition to the campus, "Let Justice Flow Like Water;" the teaching of evolution in our biology classes; or the fact that every freshman received an iPhone or an iPod Touch for free? One can be sure that most students are here for different reasons.

On the contrary, our university's identity should derive from the quality of its people. We know we have a special community if we treat others with unfaltering respect, channel our aspirations for humanistic aims, and demonstrate social concern even if it does not guarantee any subsequent return. Through our desire to learn, help others, and grow as human beings, it is evident that we are the thread that holds this campus together. Without a doubt, it all begins with us.

It can be easy to become preoccupied with trivial things. Conversations on campus typically revolve around dissatisfaction with the cafeteria or unpopular courses. But realistically, none of this will matter when we look back at our time spent at La Sierra. With the devastation of natural disaster, unemployment, and the growing political turmoil that surrounds us, we should see ourselves as exceptionally blessed.

Despite this, we do not seem genuinely satisfied. For all the opportunities we are offered, our level of contentment is incomparable with that of other countries. How is it that those of us living in the United States, the Land of Opportunity, can be displeased with what we have while there are people in many other nations who get by with so little? Of course, this is not to say that Americans have it

easy, because we surely do not, but we often have it better than those from other countries.

Does this mean that it is simply the pursuit of unimportant things that drives us? When things are put into perspective, one wonders if life for us is truly better than it was for those living decades before us. But even with all the modern advances in technology, the increased education for people of different backgrounds, and the rise of female participation in the work force, it looks as though our attention has been distracted from what is more valuable—the interpersonal relationships we share with people. We choose to communicate through Facebook chat and text messaging rather than talking to and spending time with people. Our interest is captured by the latest celebrity headlines, and Twitter posts have become valued sources for news updates. All of these things provide little or no return, yet we still place great importance on them when we should be focusing on helping people in need. True satisfaction will only come from putting our efforts into a cause with an actual purpose.

The awareness of others' suffering gives us the opportunity to refocus our concerns on the things that truly matter.

Times of immense tragedy serve to remind people of what is significant to them. However, it should not only be during these times where we come together to help a country and its people; there are numerous causes that can be advocated and people that can be helped. The recent outpouring of physical, financial, and emotional support should not be short-lived. It's true, times like these appear to showcase the best in us, but ultimately we are reminded that the people in our lives are more precious than anything.

HOMOSEXUALITY & THE MISINTERPRETATION OF BIBLICAL TEXT

No credible case against homosexuality or homosexuals can be made from the Bible unless one chooses to read Scripture in a way that sustains the existing prejudice against homosexuality and homosexuals... The “problem,” of course, is not the Bible, it is the Christians who read it...

— Peter Gomes

by Ricky Kim

The highly controversial legislation of Proposition 8 which pronouncedly overturned the former ruling of *In re Marriage Cases* in the November 2008 General Elections has continued to fuel much debate and discussion concerning the inclusion and recognition of gay and lesbian Christians within the church. For many, the pressing inquiry of homosexuality has become increasingly difficult and divisive for people on both sides of the issue. Despite the difficulty that surrounds this delicate subject, many individuals have taken the initiative towards fostering inclusiveness by engaging themselves within constructive discussions on homosexuality. However, this is not without its own sets of risks. As Jeffrey S. Siker, editor of *Homosexuality in the Church*, states:

[...]Participating in constructive discussions means that people must be willing to risk something of themselves, for we are not talking here primarily about some objective issue out there, but about real people: about ourselves, about gay and lesbian people among us, about sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. This is by definition an intensely personal conversation, for we are talking with and about actual people, about matters of personal identity and self understanding, about our relationships with one another [...] To avoid such engaged conversations and encounters is far more dangerous and destructive, for it simply dismisses and ignores people and merely masks our own fears and ignorance.

The purpose of this article then is to engage its readers within the ongoing discussion concerning homosexuality and the implication it has for us today by interpreting scripture within its original context.

The Creation Story

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.

—Genesis 1:26-28

Many Christians today have used the creation story found in the book of Genesis to exert their claim that God created man and woman for a monogamous and heterosexual union and that anything outside of this mandate is a perversion and against God's original plan for humanity. However, when one critically analyzes the account found in Genesis 1 & 2, he or she will find that the text does not lead its readers to advocate the popular Christian notion that homosexuality is a byproduct of original sin.

Ancient Israeli laws and traditions that governed marriage and sexual relations were never derived from the creation story, as most Christians have come to advocate. Rather, it served another purpose. Victor Paul Furnish, author of *The Bible and Homosexuality*,

notes that the account found in Genesis 1 functioned primarily as an illustration to show how man was like and unlike God.

The statement about creation in God's image and "likeness" is meant to emphasize that humankind is set apart from the rest of creation by reason of its special relationship to God. This relationship is shared by all members of the human species, both male and female. Nothing is said about how humankind is like God, only that this "likeness" is what distinguishes humankind from other species.

He also goes on to assert that the Genesis account does not promote monogamy or the institutionalization of marriage. "Old Testament heroes of the faith certainly did not model monogamy but rather followed the patterns of their culture, with multiple wives, concubines, and slaves as sexual partners. The Bible not only approves, but appears to mandate such behavior." In addition, the commandment does not entail that everyone must marry and reproduce, for the passages in Genesis "take no account whatever of the physically or mentally impaired, the celibate, the impotent—or of those who in modern times have come to be described as homosexual". In his closing remarks Furnish goes on to state that "This notion that a model of monogamous, heterosexual marriage is somehow contained in Genesis 1 is simply not true. It appears to be an artificial construct designed to deny the rights of marriage to those who are homosexual".

The Levitical Holiness Code

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

—Leviticus 18:22

The book of Leviticus continues to expand the narrative story of Israel's history as they prepared to transition into the Promised Land God has set aside for them. A predominate and prevailing theme found throughout the book of Leviticus is its strive for "holiness" or "to be set apart". The conditional and intricate nature of the relationship the people of Israel shared with the land God promised them explains the high emphasis of holiness within Israel's ancient culture. John F. Dwyer, an Episcopal priest, explains that "the authors of Leviticus are setting the people of Israel apart from those societies around them...sacrifice and loss of the land will be the result should the conduct that takes place in the land be judged immoral". In order to fully comprehend the biblical text concerning homosexuality in Leviticus (particularly Ch 18:22 & Ch 20:13), it is important to understand the role of both sexuality and the holiness codes within the context of ancient Israel.

Dr. Robert Shores-Goss, a former Jesuit priest, explains the sexuality code that dominated ancient Mediterranean practices in his article *Homosexuality and the Bible: The Practice of Safe Text* by stating:

It is a mistake to identify the modern concept of homosexuality as understood by the Bible... [For sex was] comprehended within the model of active/passive or inserter/insertee or what colloquial language terms top/bottom. Men in the ancient Greco-Roman world were catalogued according to their social status (and thus power). Free men or citizens were expected to play the insertive role in sex with either female or male. Sex is essentially penetration of a person of lesser status—whether it is a female, a lesser male, or a youth. Penetration establishes or expresses a superior status over the penetrated.

It is precisely because this concept of sexuality is an act of asserting one's dominance over another that our present understanding of sexual orientation and identity cannot be applied to the ancient world. Such notions were completely absent in the mind of the ancients, which can be seen in the fact that there are no biblical words that can be translated to the term "homosexual".

The holiness code which dictated the daily conduct of the Israelites was a manifestation of the Levitical priest cult understanding of how the world was conceived. In summary, the priests held the view that God created the world by bringing into order the chaos that was found throughout the universe. The role of man then was to replicate this action of continuing stability by being the world's caretakers. By juxtaposing the ancient world's understanding of sexuality with the priests emphasizes on stability, it was seen that for a male to take the position of a female during sex (and thus betray his masculinity) came as a threat to the Hebrew's understanding of order and is thus defined to be an abomination, for it undermined the society's understanding of gender roles. Hence, the context of Leviticus is not so much concerned about homosexuality as it is with compromising their understanding of gender relations.

Sodom & Gomorra

But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, where are the men who came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

—Genesis 19: 4-5

The prelude to the story of Sodom and Gomorra begins with Abraham and his interaction with the three men passing by his estate. Rather than letting the men pass by, he is seen running out to greet them (even going as far as bowing down before them) and offers them a choice meal. The scenario then shifts towards Lot, Abraham's nephew, who is also portrayed as showing the same act of hospitality towards the three men. The problematic text concerning homosexuality does not arise until later in the passage when the key event begins to unfold. It is clear from reading chapter 19 of Genesis that foreigners are not welcomed within the city, and the citizens of Sodom and Gomorra are exerting that claim through their desire to rape Lot's guests.

Although many have come to interpret this text as an obvious lust for homosexual intercourse, this seems to

not be the case when one understands the concept of rape within the ancient world. Daniel Heminiak, professor of psychology at the University of West Georgia, states that "in the ancient world homosexual rape was a traditional way for victors to accentuate the subjection of captive enemies and foes. In that culture, the most humiliating experience for a man to endure was to be treated like a woman, and raping a man was the most violent way of instilling such a treatment". Many biblical scholars have come to agree that the story of Sodom and Gomorra as well as the divine judgment carried out against them was not due to homosexuality, but rather because of the violent and hostile nature of the cities' inhabitants towards others. Victor Paul Furnish, a New Testament scholar, gives evidence towards this claim when he states:

Significantly, not one of the biblical references to the story makes a point of the homosexual character of the intended rape. For example, in Ezekiel Sodom's sin is described as her greed and her indifference to those in need: "this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy" (16:49). In Matthew 10:12-15 and the parallel in Luke 10:10-12, Sodom's sin is identified with inhospitality in general, without any sexual reference at all; and the reference in Matthew 11:23-24 to the city's destruction serves as a reminder of what happens to those who disobey God's will [which is to show hospitality and exemplify inclusiveness towards others].

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

—1 Corinthians 13: 1-3

Much of the assumptions and positions that we have come to hold in the 21st century concerning sexuality are vastly different from those shared by the inhabitants of the biblical world. Issues regarding sexual conduct arose not over the question of homosexuality but rather social justice and gender role. To utilize these passages as a weapon against certain individuals within our communities not only does a disservice to the biblical text, but also further marginalize others from experiencing inclusiveness. It is important for one to note what really upsets God—more than anything, are not issues of personal morality, sexual sin, or not worshipping on the proper day in the proper way, per se...what really grieves God is when we fail to take care of those around us who really need help and are lacking a sense of dignity and a healthy place in society. It is when we fail to take care of the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized, and the orphans that God reaches the point of breaking his composure and is very capable of unleashing wrath of biblical proportions (Isaiah 1:16-17, Ezekiel 16: 49-51). In today's context we, as Christians, often fail to take care of and include members in our communities and churches the gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders among us. It is time that we realign ourselves with the true essence of Christianity by manifesting the love and acceptance Christ has shown us to others.

MY YEAR IN THE MISSION FIELD: PART TWO

Sueños de una Vida Mejor

by Keith Ybanez



When I was a little kid, I dreamed of being one of three things: A professional athlete, a fighter pilot, or a lawyer. There were various influences in my life then that inspired me to dream of doing those things, namely, watching Michael Jordan dominate the NBA, how cool Tom Cruise made flying planes look in *Top Gun* (back when Tom Cruise used to make things look cool), and watching law movies and listening to the eloquence and mastery of words fictitious lawyers had in the courtroom. Now that I'm just about grown up, have only a handful of classes left to finish when I return to school next year and have a good LSAT score in hand, I'm very close to fulfilling one of those three things. I was recently thinking about how I arrived at such a good position in my life. Before I arrived in Peru, I would have said that it was my own hard work that has gotten me this far. However, after being down here for a couple of months and working in "the chakra" and the jungle alongside Peruvians, my definition of hard work has been redefined (just to let you know, they call it MANual labor because it turns you into a man). I have seen people down here work harder than I ever have in my life just to make 4 or 5 dollars a day, if they're lucky. No, the difference isn't just hard work, although that is very important. What separates the majority of us in the

United States from what I've seen here and most likely from many other developing countries is the numerous opportunities we have.

Yes, it is an age-old cliché that America is the Land of Opportunity and everyone can make something of themselves. We've heard it so many times that it holds no real significance for us. However, here in Pucallpa, Peru, for many people the word opportunity (or *oportunidad*) is just a dream. I can't speak for everyone, but it's easy for me to fall into the line of thinking that going to school, picking a career, being successful, and having a family are rights because that is the norm. But those things are privileges that we are lucky to have. I was fortunate that my parents moved to the United States from the Philippines when I was a baby and worked hard to finance my education, and that there were ample opportunities for me to learn and apply myself to a career of my choice. I'm fulfilling the dreams of my parents for me to have a good job and a better life, as well as my own dreams to have those things for myself. I have had trouble reconciling why for some reason God allowed these opportunities to present themselves in my life when I am no different than anyone here in Peru. Why



did I have every advantage to succeed, while here it's nearly impossible to break out of the cycle of poverty? Everyone of all ages here has dreams they'd like to realize. They're not even as grand as the ones some of us have for ourselves. For some, perhaps all they want is to have a moto-car so they don't have to work in the fields every day. I've even been told that for most women, their life would be set if they married a motocarrista (or moto-car driver). That's not exactly reaching for the stars, according to our standards, but here that's as good as many hope for. Others wish they could have had the chance to finish their basic schooling and go on to college or university, but they had to start working when they were young to help their families scrap together enough money to buy food. A 22-year-old woman that two other missionaries and I have had some Bible studies with dreamed of being a nurse, but now she considers that dream impossible because she gave birth to her daughter a couple years ago before she could start school for that. Most families operate some kind of bodega or stand to sell whatever it is they're planting in their personal chakras, such as yucca, pineapple, and grenadillas. The really enterprising

individuals with large plots of land here in the Pucallpa area use it to grow coca leaves, which are shipped off and their extracts used to make cocaine. This is actually the most profitable but most dangerous way of making money, with the police as well as U.S. officials always on the lookout for coca leaves being transported out of the region in large amounts since it is an illegal plant here. However, because it can potentially make them so much money, it is the desire of most of the Peruvian farmers in our region to grow coca leaves, knowing full well what it's used for. Stories like these are the norm here, and it has forced me to think about what the people of Peru, people that I have come to love, can do to help themselves.

How can they break out and begin to expand the limits of their dreams? It would be arrogant of me to say that they can't be happy unless they think like us and gauge happiness according to a college degree hanging on the wall and the amount written on your paycheck. In addition, I'd be ignorant to think that there aren't similar problems of poverty, early pregnancy, or lack of motivation for self-advancement in the United States



or in other developed countries in the world. I know some people are content and happy with their lives the way they are, and that's a wonderful thing. I admire and envy the simplicity with which the locals here live their lives. But for others, as well as for most Americans, I think there is always that longing for something better. I have racked my brain for a long time, figuring out how people can be happier and live better lives. I'm sure it's something that economists, social workers, philosophers, presidents, and people of every race and type have been pondering for ages. Governments can provide better health care, improved and cheaper education, and a banking infrastructure that allows people the capital and resources to start businesses. These things all fulfill people's needs and dreams to an extent. But in my missionary experience, as our project here works to improve people's lives for this life, I now see that the work we are doing to introduce a new spiritual aspect in their lives through a relationship with Jesus Christ is the only way to really fulfill their dreams of a better life. Of course we want their lives here to be better, but it is even more important that we show them that there is an even better,

eternal life that is free for them to receive. A life where they don't need to do backbreaking work in the hot sun to earn it. The best thing about this life is that everyone can have an opportunity for it, no matter where they are from or how poor they are. It's our job to share this opportunity with anybody who doesn't know about it. In Luke 12:46 it says, "...to those who are given much, more is expected, and to those who are trusted with much, much more is expected." I've grown up my entire life in the Adventist church, blessed with the knowledge of a better and more fulfilling life than we could ever live here, but it's taken 21 years for me to go out and share what I've been given. Hopefully, with what little time I have here in Peru, I can tell as many people about this good life waiting for us, and maybe one day we'll enjoy it together in Heaven.

MY FINGERS ARE FALLING APART

they are flaking and breaking they are bleeding and scaring
I feel bad shaking other people's hands
I don't want them to get my blood on their hands.

I pick at them at night and let the dead skin fall on my carpet
I don't usually clean it up for a few days
I vacuum on sundays so I'll be cleaning it up then

In the time between my mother tells me I should go see a doctor
Sometimes when I'm reaching into a buffet tray to scoop some food onto my plate,
I see a piece of my finger flake off into the broccoli – I can't get it out I can't reach in there!

I have been diagnosed with many different illnesses that could be the reason behind my
fingers falling apart — they even tested me for syphilis

I was nervous that somehow I would be positive, even though it would be impossible
still watching that blood fountain into the sample tube reminded me of communion and
God and the body of Christ

My blood may end up on someone's hands eventually and they might even eat my body
in their broccoli

but they won't do this in remembrance of me.
They probably won't even know who I am.
But they will eat my body, just like Christ's.

We're not so very different me and him.

Except for the fact that he was violently murdered for the sins of man
and my fingers are just falling apart.

— *Patrick Garrett York*

WINTER