


CRITERION



la sierra loved me



V&I W.I
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What's Inside?



09 *5 Things Freshmen Should Know*



11 *Meet Your Salsu Officers*



14

La Sierra Loved Me

And More...

06 *IGNITE Experience*

18 *Atlanta 2010:
GC Report*

22 *My Trip to Greece*

24 *Movie Review:
The Social Network*

27 *Literacy Project:
Hope In El Salvador*

My fellow students...



What an exciting time to be a student here at La Sierra University! With a new state of the art School of Business going up, brand new gated security system, and record numbers of incoming freshmen, a joyful buzz seems to permeate the sidewalks of our campus, making our ears ring with the anticipation of a fantastic year to come.

To the new students on campus--who, for the first time, are experiencing the close-knit community standard that seems to define the coalescence of our student body--you have opened a publication that has not only a rooted tradition here at LSU, but also an elevated standard due to the TLC given it under the able leadership of last year's editor, Israel Carreón.

To the returning students, most of you already realize how far the Criterion has had to come to be the respectable publication that it is today. The Vice-President of Publications for SALSU, Jesse Mella, and I both recognize that the bar has been set high for this coming

2010-2011 school year. But, as Jesse is committed to not only maintaining such standards of excellence set forth by the qualified expertise of Nic Sanchez, but also to producing an improved Perspectives and yearbook, so too am I committed to delivering a refined Criterion magazine to your hands.

Now, as you thumb through the pages of our first issue, enjoy the feeling of how these gloss pages feel on your fingertips. Touch it. Massage it. Love it. Put it under your pillow and use it to firm your mattress. But above all this, I encourage you, the reader, to fulfill your calling as such and read through the articles, written by students for students, for your enjoyment. And as I cross the t's and dot the i's on this premiere issue, I intend for you to do just that.

Nick Smith
Chief Editor

It is an honor and pleasure on the behalf of your SALSU officers, to officially welcome all of you to the 2010-2011 school year. I hope that this past summer, you have traveled, tanned yourself for a new California look, and enjoyed the last few warm or cold summer days of your hometown. This year SALSU has a lot in store for you from exciting social events, to a newly improved publications, and opportunities for ministry work. SALSU has 4 goals for this year:

- 1) To make sure that commuter students are part of the SALSU experience on campus and networking is a must.
- 2) To share our Adventist belief of service to the community through ministry works with your Religious VP—Pono,
- 3) To fundraise \$3,000 and more toward the El Salvador Literacy Project, and
- 4) To become more than just a voice for the students and to be of service to students.

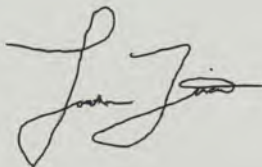
As officers we are here to serve the students and make sure that every SALSU event benefits your spiritual, physical, and social needs.

A new thing that SALSU is bringing you this year is SALSU Radio. We will be broadcasting live news, upcoming events, music, and advertisements for other clubs

and departments on our website. This is an opportunity for students off/on campus, missionaries, and study abroad students to be involved in our SALSU events by watching and listening to our SALSU Radio. Networking is crucial as students of learning Higher education and SALSU encourages it.

With networking comes participation and our events needs you to participate. For example, CABL Run, 4th Down, Midnight Café, Social Night (Thursday night), Open Gym Night and more. We planned these events for you, the students and we want you to JOIN US.

However, as we become of service to you, never forget to serve the Lord that loves you unconditionally. Trust full in him and anything in your college life will be possible just like how the book of Philippians' is a witness for it.



Jon Finau
SALSU President

President's message



IGNITE Reflections

by Sylvie Haber

Has anyone noticed all the new faces, full of excitement and ready to start a new chapter in their lives? Yes, they are our new freshmen and they just experienced IGNITE!

At the end of every summer, in preparation for the new school year, faculty, staff, and volunteer students dedicate a few days to the incoming freshman class. This year should have been no different, but it is! In the history of La Sierra University, there has never been so numerous a class. The campus is buzzing with over 400 new freshmen, anticipating all that lies ahead for them.

The students were welcomed by IGNITE, which does exactly as its name implies—ignite the spirit of excitement by awakening feelings of elation and exhilaration, and to bring together the freshmen class as one family by assisting them in the bonding process. At IGNITE, many friendships form and many people reunite after a long summer.

One of the more notable events was the "Blessings" ceremony, where, after sharing a beautiful blessings service, the parents were cordially asked to "let go". The speakers that highlighted the Blessings Ceremony were the President of the University, Randall Wisbey, La Sierra University Church Senior Pastor, Chris Oberg, and from the School of Religion, Dr. Maurey Jackson. According to many of the freshmen, this program was one of the most powerful of the week. Packets of flower seeds were distributed to the parents, a reminder of their child's spiritual and intellectual growth and need for prayer. The moment, full of grace, was a moment to be remembered as the parents were notably moved by the gesture. Over the course of the year, they will witness the growth of these plants and be reminded

that as the flowers need nurturing to grow, so will their children in this phase of their lives. Their prayers will aid in this transition into the world of adults.

Appropriately, diversity was celebrated by the "Path of The Just", where everyone was able to identify their heritage by placing a fan on the respective continent of their ancestry. This event allows for barriers to be brought down instantaneously and the bridges of communication to be erected with a smile. One of the most beautiful landscaping designs that exists is the Earth and here it is on a smaller scale. Right here, on the campus of La Sierra University, populated by its students, standing proudly and welcoming each other.

The "Hello Walk" event was specific for introducing the students to their professors and making sure that the stu-

"The Campus is buzzing with over 400 new freshmen, anticipating all that lies ahead for them."

dents could see a different side of the faculty and start building relationships with their prospective mentors. I implore the freshmen to take advantage of what we have here at La Sierra University. Our faculty cares and wants to see us succeed, but they would also like to see us become productive people serving the Lord and doing as He would. Getting to know them would open up your eyes to how selfless your instructors are and how serving and giving back has enriched their lives and hopefully become an inspiration to you to give back.



The talent show was a time for fun, putting a smile on the faces of students in this time of uncertainty. During the talent show, many students got to show off their talents to their peers and really step out of their comfort zone. Of all the events during IGNITE, the talent show consistently draws the most response from students as far as enjoyment. Of course this is not to say that the enjoyment during IGNITE is limited to

“The whole essence of IGNITE is being in family groups and getting to know people that are in your shoes”

the talent show. But this is the part of the event where people let go and allow their talents to speak for them. Many of the acts included saxophone playing, a creative and entertaining way to play the piano with three people, and a lot of dancing. But congratulations to the winner, Nolan Wang-

nes, for demonstrating his outstanding skills with the Chinese yo-yo!

But what is IGNITE without family groups? The whole essence of IGNITE is being in family groups and getting to know people that are in your shoes. During the time with family groups, everyone participated in activities that brought everyone out of their comfort zone. By the end of IGNITE these family groups actually turned into actual “families”; they shook off all that uncertainty and bonds were strengthened.

Overall, the event went off without a hitch. Another year marked with an “igniting” start, it was a successful beginning to an exciting year for all and an amazing experience at La Sierra University.

Welcome, freshmen!



Natani Vigna Photography

5 Things Freshmen should know!

by Kendra Kravig

1 Link+

Looking for a way around purchasing textbooks? This is it. Go to lasierra.edu/library, click "Get book from another library" click the Link+ link and type in what you need. The books are delivered to the LSU library usually between 3-5 business days. Want a fun book to read? You can get that there too! You can also request music cds and dvds through Link+, and the best part is that it's all FREE!

Link+ items are checked out for three weeks at a time, and can be renewed once for another two weeks. Although it seems like every book in the universe is in the Link+ system, be assured that is not the case. If you want to search for a textbook through Link+, be sure to do it early in the quarter because there's no guarantee that it will be available. You cannot check out Link+ items (or any books from our library too) if you have a library fine. So please, return all books on time!

Your spiffy student ID is more useful than you think. In addition to being able to get in/out of dorm parking lots or buy food in the caf, you can use it to get discounts at the following places:

- AMC Tyler Galleria 16 offers student discounts all day Thursdays. You can watch any movie for \$8. Regal cinemas also offer up to 25% off of ticket prices if you show your student ID.
- Need a new laptop? Apple, HP, and Dell all offer discounted computers for college students. (If you go to the Student Life page on the LSU website, there is a special link to the Apple store, which will get you all kinds of awesome discounts).
- Shopping for a new car? Some dealerships (and insurance companies) offer discounts to college students.
- Going abroad? Consider getting an ISIC card (available in the office of International Students). ISIC cards can get you cheaper flights, hostels, and Eurail passes.

2 Student Discounts

3

Computer Labs

There are a number of computer labs on campus to fulfill your technological needs. The largest on-campus computer lab is MICOL, located in Ambs hall across from the Psychology Department (the lab has both Macs and PCs so you never have to settle). Also the library has a brand new computer lab by the reference section, where you can write papers, print, or use Facebook. Most departments also have their own computer labs, for example the School of Business has a lab on the lower level where color printing is available.

Having trouble with a paper? Schedule an appointment with a writing coach or drop by the Writing Center in Ambs Hall. Writing coaches can help you brainstorm topics, develop a thesis, create an outline, and even help you brush up on your grammar. Not certain about your MLA or APA skills? They can help with that too.

4

Papers

5

Security

Let's face it—our campus can get a bit creepy after nightfall. If you happen to be studying at the library til midnight and you don't want to walk back to the dorm or to your car alone, you can call the Security office (x2222) and ask for an officer to escort you.



Nalan Vigna Photography

by Natalie Romero

Meet Your SALSU Officers!

Jonathan Finau - President



Jonathan has held several important positions in the past, including class president, Homebase Ministries Coordinator, and roles as a church deacon and youth director. These responsibilities helped him learn that God always comes first, to let others see Jesus through your work, and to be passionate about school and life. As President, he is prepared to offer our student body a voice and a helping hand. He and the other officers are here to “walk the extra miles to find solutions that will help both the students and the faculty.”

John Yousry - Executive Vice President



John, formerly the Parliamentarian, is now Executive Vice President. During his previous period, he was able to learn how to be on top of things as well as how to work hard for the students. This year he is very happy with the supportive network he's found in Dr. Wisbey and the rest of the SALSU team. John loves our campus because of how easy it is to find God here. He's an international student from Egypt, but says that the most interesting place he's ever visited is Lebanon, where he saw snow for the first time in his life.

Brianna Jones - Social Vice President



During Brianna's first year at LSU, she held a seat on the Senate, where she learned how to balance leadership and being a student, as well as how to have authority without abusing it. A change that she would like to help implement is to make sure that the students are pleased on weekdays as well as weekends. SALSU has events about 3 times a week, not just on Thursday nights. Brianna wants to take advantage of her hands-on opportunity to make LSU a real community, and to show students how much fun it can be to be involved.

Pono Lopez - Religious Vice President



Before coming to LSU, Pono had no interest in student government. But now, he's ready to see some changes implemented, such as more student involvement in worship and other spiritual events. His favorite part about our university is the spirituality and community he's witnessed here. One of the best classes he's taken is Sacred Text: Theory and Practice. If he were ever stuck on an island, he's decided the best movie to have with him would be *Cast Away* or *Swiss Family Robinson*, so that he could learn from them!

Aubrey Ferguson - Financial Vice President



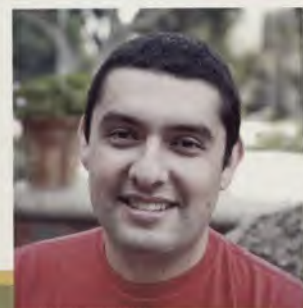
This is Aubrey's first time being a college-level officer. She has several ideas for changes at La Sierra, one of which is strengthening the communication between SALSU and the graduate students in order to promote participation among everyone, not just the undergrads. She is open to other suggestions for SALSU, and for our campus. So far, Aubrey thinks that the best thing about working with SALSU is getting to meet a ton of people that she never would have were it not for her position.

Kendall Hester - Public Relations Director



Kendall has served as a Senator at Oakwood University, and was SALSU's Social Vice President last year. These positions proved that one must work hard to achieve the desired results, and that the best thing is to trust God. There are a few things that Kendall would like to see changed on our campus, such as the way that class schedules are coordinated. One of the classes that she has loved the most was Persuasion and Rhetoric. Kendall learned lots of valuable things in that class, and recommends that more people take it!

Jesse Mella- Publications Vice President



Jesse Mella believes that he can help encourage participation from students, promote everyone's talents, and give more opportunities to all by offering us his new ideas and creativity. Since beginning work with SALSU, he's had the chance to meet a lot of new people, and the best part is that he gets to help our university. The most interesting place he's ever visited was Easter Island, a place that looks like it was "stopped in time." Jesse's favorite book is *The Count of Monte Cristo* and he loves to cook and create desserts!

Cindy Sihotang - CABL Director

Cindy has served our campus as Financial Vice-President for two years prior to her current post. One of her biggest goals this year is to provide the student body with a variety of choices and opportunities in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle. If you want to take an entertaining class, Cindy recommends Christian Understanding of Sexuality. There were some interesting conversations there, but they were still able to get serious. What would she choose to read if she were locked in the library one night? Anything by Nicholas Sparks!



Cyndi Maravilla - Secretary

Cyndi would like to implement more school spirit at LSU. She wishes for each of us to support each other, support our sports teams, and grow together in God. In SALSU, she gets to see each person work passionately towards their goals for this school year. Her favorite part about our university is that no matter how much our school is the topic of conversations at other universities, we stand for what we believe in. We express our love for God through our worship, praise and our service to others with perpetual passion.



Carl Nolasco - Parliamentarian

Although Carl has never had officer experience before, he is ready to offer our student body an open ear and an open mind. He's prepared to hear our concerns and desires for this campus. He loves the friendly atmosphere here, where one is lifted both spiritually and socially, and wants to make sure that everyone else feels the same way! One of the most interesting places Carl has ever visited was his family's motherland, the Philippines.



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La Sierra Loved Me

by Nick Smith

If La Sierra University has loved you, then keep reading; the following will be of some interest to you. Everyone knows now about the contention involving the Biology Department at our school. In fact, the “creation vs. evolution controversy” seems redundant now when brought up in conversation. But a fairly recent development has been the Michigan Conference’s blazoned declaration of LSU’s apparent “apostasy”. It has only added to the sticks and stones being hurled at our school for some time now. From a PR standpoint, LSU has done what it could to counter the attacks, but someone needed to stand up for the school. And someone has. It was all of you! Geoff Blake, an associate pastor at Paradise Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church in San Diego, started up a Facebook page called “La Sierra Loved Me (Testify)” back in late May of this year. And the positive responses have been filling its wall with testimonies of changed lives. With this Facebook page taking off, creating a perfect platform for people to voice their appreciation for LSU and its faculty, *Criterion* gotten a chance to sit down with its creator, Pastor Blake, and talk about what has made him so passionate about doing this.

CRITERION: What have you heard about what has been happening on the LSU campus regarding creation versus evolution? What have you heard people say regarding this issue?

GEOFF BLAKE: From what I understand, a small group of individuals have disagreed with how the topic of origins has been dealt with in certain science classes at LSU. Consequently, this group has organized an extensive PR campaign broadcasting their disapproval and trying to attract supporters.

I actually think people can learn a lot from this group’s efforts. The campaign that they have put on has been very organized and well orchestrated. Furthermore, this group has come up with really effective ways to motivate people to support their message. For example, on their main website, the “Purpose and Goals” section ends with a note about certain LSU professors: “These men are free to believe and teach whatever they want, just not at our university with our money.” Notice the last word: money.

Is there a better word to get to the core of people’s self-interest and really motivate them? I can’t think of one. So, you have to give this group a lot of credit—they’ve run an extremely intentional and well-organized campaign. Unfortunately, it’s a campaign that’s fundamentally misguided.

CR: Do you want to weigh in?

GB: No. Next question? (laughs...)

Well, I’m a pastor and not a scientist, so I won’t attempt to compare and contrast the details of various theories of origin. However, being an Adventist pastor, I can’t help but look at how our Fundamental Beliefs start: “Seventh-day Adventists accept the Bible as their only creed...” Now, if you take that to heart and believe the Adventist founders’ concept of “present truth,” then it seems like an ideal, faithful Adventist academic community would take present-known findings and realities (i.e., science), hold them next to the Bible in a back-and-forth kind of conversation, and explore the implications.

The problem with this idea of “present truth” that our church founders’ put forth is that it’s a really dangerous and difficult task, full of disagreements and wrong turns. Searching for “present truth” means there is always more to find, and there’s always more to learn. It would be much easier to just spoon-feed concrete truths and amazingly simplistic facts to students. Just “educate truth”? For that matter, why can’t we just have church leaders come in and have all LSU professors sign off on what they can and cannot teach, then have the professors transmit the pre-determined information to students?

Well, for one, if that kind of thing was happening, our Bible wouldn’t be our church’s only creed anymore, and two, our search for present truth would be over. Luckily, those aren’t the kinds of principles our church was founded on, and that’s not what LSU is doing. La Sierra isn’t supposed to “educate truth,” it’s supposed to educate a process of searching for present truth.

CRI: What was your experience as a student at LSU? How has LSU loved YOU?

GB: In a word: Epic. I loved my time at LSU. Through the classes, spiritual life opportunities (shout out to Pastor Sam!), and social events, my mind, heart, and soul were opened at LSU like they had never been before.

The greatest thing for my faith and my growth as a student at La Sierra was taking classes from professors whom I didn’t agree with. LSU loved me most by opening my ears and eyes to a variety of voices, perspectives and ideas. At La Sierra, I learned how to think for myself and how to search for a meaningful, relevant understanding of truth.

CRI: What was your motivation for starting the FB page?

I actually had the same purpose in mind that the main website for the negative LSU campaign states as one of its purposes: “So potential students and their parents could make informed decisions.” That’s what the LSU Loved Me Facebook page is all about--informing future students and parents. (So, in actuality, I was aiding in their purpose!) I wanted kids and parents in Michigan (for example) that might be thinking of attending LSU to have an informed decision. And they’re not going to have an informed decision if the only voices they’re able to hear are a couple of loud and disgruntled ones. They need to have the opportunity to hear a broad range of stories from real students that have attended or are attending LSU. So now, potential students and parents have the opportunity to balance the few fearful stories they might have heard with the hundreds of testimonies on the LSU Loved Me page.

CRI: What has been the response?

GB: The response has been absolutely incredible. It’s really taken on a life of its own, with hundreds of current and former students, parents, faculty and staff all contributing.

CRI: As a pastor, you have given your opinion on some controversial issues like gay rights and immigration reform, and have seen firsthand the divisive effects that these issues have in this country and, more specifically, the Adventist Church. And with the Michigan Conference’s declaration of apostasy, it seems as though this LSU issue is having a similar affect on our church. How do you think we can counteract the disruptive effect that this issue brings to Adventism today?

GB: We need to continue to create opportunities where people can share their stories. In my experience, fighting dogma with dogma is often less than helpful. But, if you get someone that says, "This is my story; this is how things went down for me," it's hard to argue with that. People in power are often afraid to create vulnerable situations where stories of the powerless can be heard, but I believe part of our calling as Adventist Christians is to initiate those kinds of moments, inside and outside of our church.

CRI: What words of encouragement would you give to the faculty and staff at LSU? To the SDA church?

GB: To the faculty and staff of LSU: Keep up the good work! I have met people from all over who say they're still Adventist because of LSU. I have met people from all over who say they're still Christian because of LSU. I have met people from all over who say their life has a purpose because of LSU. In my view, La Sierra has become a launching pad for world service, and that's something really special.



To the SDA church: Let's go back to our roots to move forward! We need to continue to keep our founders' principles in mind and encourage our colleges and universities to have the freedom to search for present truth and educate that process.

CRI: What would you say to current students and those who might be considering LSU for their college experience?

GB: No school is for everyone, not even La Sierra. But for someone wanting to take a look at La Sierra (which obviously, I highly recommend), check out the LSU Loved Me page on Facebook, read the stories of former and current LSU students, and then decide for yourself. After all, it's all about making an informed decision, right?

"LSU loved me most by opening my ears and eyes to a variety of voices, perspectives and ideas... I learned how to think for myself and how to search for a meaningful, relevant understanding of truth."

Geoff Blake

Atlanta 2010: GC Report

This year marked the 59th General Conference session in Atlanta, Georgia, which was held from June 23rd to July 3rd. Every five years, this event brings together representatives from every corner of the world-wide church to “give thanks, plan, and recommit.” This year, many faculty members and students from La Sierra University were able to attend, and they had the opportunity to teach, learn, participate, and show the General Conference what we, as a school and community, have to offer.

When Pastor Sam Leonor was asked what he felt others gained from La Sierra University’s presence at the conference, he replied, “My prayer is that many people were able to see us for who we are: real people who are wholly committed to the mission of the Adventist church.”

The Good: The students and faculty had an amazing experience that really helped bring something new to the table.

Dr. Maury Jackson, who is a professor in our School of Religion here at La Sierra University, taught a course with the hopes of maximizing the students’ understanding of Church Policy and to help them see the roots of the Adventist Church. They read many riveting books including *Organizing for Mission and Growth: The Development of Adventist Church Structure* by George R. Knight, who is a world-renowned Seventh-day Adventist historian and educator.

The tour was well-planned, considering the short amount of time in which it was organized; they managed to reduce the costs enough so that they could offer this experience at tuition cost. They did this by staying at Georgia-Cumberland Academy; it was about a 70 mile commute. Dr. Jackson stated that they want to be able to go again next time around, which will be even better, because they have five years to plan.





Robert Roth was the brain child behind the whole idea for a class. Roth came to Dr. Jackson and told him that he needed to do a guided study tour to the General Conference. "I said, 'Okay.' But I didn't think anything of it." However Roth put together a makeshift syllabus and sent it to Dr. Jackson, really solidifying the deal.

The Bad: La Sierra University experienced a few bumps in the road during their trip. Dr. Jackson explained that there were challenging times. "Our rental van was broken into and our food was stolen. So we had to juggle around for awhile, but that's okay because we got to spend a lot of time together," he said after contemplating for awhile.

"We learned to be patient with the overall church." The students had been a little disappointed in some of the behavior they saw from various delegates and didn't feel that the event was getting the full attention that it called for. This was exhibited in sparse turnouts in some of the sessions for voting, especially since the General Conference is meant to be a gathering to deal with the business of the church. "Some were

disappointed to see that," he stated.

When asked about the negative experience Pastor Sam had this to say: "For the most part it was a positive experience. But, like in any family, there are people that behave a little crazy. I made up my mind to not let them define what it means to be an Adventist. The Starbucks (100 feet from the La Sierra booth) being shut down for the week was a bit of a disappointment. The nearest one was a half mile away!"

The Life Changing: This experience will be sure to leave an impact on all those who attended. When asked whether they were excited for the next General Conference I was always met with a resounding, "Yes!" Pastor Sam Leonor expressed that one of the most important things he gained from the experience was being reminded how diverse the Seventh-day Adventist Church is.

"Our Pastor, Pastor Chris Oberg, preached one of the best sermons in the whole session; her sermon was delivered with profundity, grace, biblical wisdom, and theological soundness. And we are just grateful; it gave us a reason to be proud,"

Dr. Jackson emphasized when speaking about our attendance. He also thanked Mrs. Thompson, Larry Becker, Dr. Wisbey, and all who helped at our school's booth. They really worked hard to show the best La Sierra University had to offer.

President Wisbey's presence was a source of inspiration and encouragement which everyone appreciated, as well as the support that was shown for our institution from our sister colleges that visited our booth.

The 60th General Conference Session is currently slated to be held in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Jackson hopes to take an important religious figure from that city and integrate that into the message, like he did with this Conference by referencing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I came away with a renewed appreciation for what we have at LSU, specifically, our understanding of grace and our commitment to searching for truth."

A special message from the interviewees:

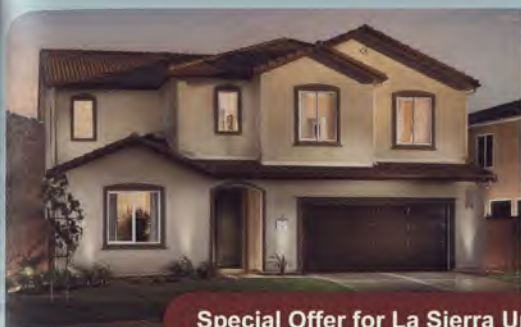
"They should be proud of La Sierra [University] and the people who represented us there. They worked very hard to put on display all of the amazing reasons we love LSU: academic excellence, diversity, commitment to service and loyalty to the Adventist church. I couldn't have been prouder to be a part of this institution."

– *Pastor Sam Leonor.*

"We are sure that next time we will get people from other universities as well as lay people who aren't even in college but would like to take the class. And here's the kicker. Other college presidents were coming to our students inquiring about the class. Asking, 'Whose idea was this? What are you guys studying? How did you pay for it?' So we have a pretty good hunch, even though we were the first ones to do something like this in the history of the denomination, we're going to have some copycats that are going to try it the next time. But we are five years ahead of them."

– *Dr. Maury Jackson*





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My Trip to Greece

by Mindy Bielas

The air was stuffy, my legs were sore, and I was freezing. I had been on this plane for 12 hours, and I was second-guessing my decision to get on it in the first place. I stepped into the airport to find signs in a language I didn't understand, and met people I had never seen before. The idea of leaving for another country may have been daunting, but it turned into an experience to remember. When it came time to go home and leave my six-week stay in Greece, the only things I could think of were the people, food, and places I'd be missing when I got back to California. I brought back with me all that I could fit in my suitcase, but it wasn't the same as living in the Grecian culture.

When you are being introduced to a new culture and language, it takes a little time to find your bearings. The first thing I noticed in Greece was that the people were very interested in my welfare. The man who picked me up from the airport and took me to my hotel was very courteous, as was all of the hotel staff. Sure, it was their job to make us happy, but they went beyond doing their job by taking time to talk to us about the best places to visit and teaching us Greek sayings. When we would travel on the metro, it was not difficult to start a conversation, and once the locals found out our group was from the States, they would become that much more interested in making sure we knew which cities were dangerous and

where the best restaurants were. It was almost like a treasure hunt trying to figure out what the locals valued in their society. Once we learned what the evil eye meant, our eyes were not only opened to how they picked their jewelry (which we found is very important) but also to the many superstitions held. It was a great joy to become close friends with such happy, relaxed people.

I brought snacks with me just in case I started to miss American food, but I soon learned that was not necessary. When

we started traveling and noticed all the small farms littering the countryside, we understood why the food was so good. Everything was fresh! One of my favorite things to do during our free time was to

“When you are being introduced to a new culture and language, it takes a little time to find your bearings.”

walk to town and stop by the bakery. Part of the fun was guessing what desserts were, since I had trouble discussing ingredients with the locals. Oh, and when talking about food, you can't forget the gyros. We would buy gyros whenever we had the chance, even if we had just eaten, they were that good. Since I have gotten back, I have given extra attention to Greek restaurants in the area. While nothing will beat eating ethnic food with the ethnic people, it is good to reminisce by doing the closest alternative.

It is a good thing I brought a camera with me, because I don't know what I would do with myself if I did not have pictures of all the amazing places I got to

see. While I was still with the main group we went on a couple tours. I loved our tour guide. I'm pretty sure she was the best out there. It was nice seeing significant places, but it came to life when she would explain the significance. For instance, the ruins that used to be sculptures decorating the roof of the Temple of Delphi were very nice to look at, they did not become interesting until we found out that it was probably depicting the Battle of Troy. Then all of a sudden the sculptures turned into a story that was so real you could almost see the figures moving in their stone forms. Not having a tour guide did not stop us traveling though. Half the fun was the spontaneity of how we would travel. We had a guidebook to reference, but otherwise we weren't sure where we were going until we would get on the metro. One weekend we decided to go to Agios-Ioannis, a part of the coast with

the most beautiful beaches, one right after the other. It was incredibly beautiful and we loved it, but we also enjoyed the rush that came from last minute decisions and almost missing the last bus out of Volos. I think I had the perfect mixture of interesting facts and history with adventure and excitement.

I will never regret stepping out of my comfort zone and traveling to a completely foreign country. It may sound scary, but once you have met the people, eaten the food, and seen wondrous sights, there is no going back. Travel gives you a chance to not only appreciate another culture, but to enjoy it and live it. I hope everyone takes the chances necessary to experience Greece or anywhere else for that matter. If you don't, you are missing out!



The Social Network: Acceptance at Any Cost

by Jeremy
Caesar

"You're not an [expletive], Mark," junior lawyer Marilyn Delpy tells co-creator of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, "You're just trying so hard to be one." *The Social Network* is a compelling exploration of the desire to be accepted by the social elite and the dehumanizing lengths to which one will go to achieve that acceptance. Director David Fincher and screenwriter Aaron Sorkin masterfully present the founding of the global social networking site with such assurance and style, making this one of the most fascinating films to open in theaters this year.

When Mark's girlfriend, Erica Albright, breaks up with him after he unintentionally insults her social status--he attends Harvard while she goes to Boston University--he retaliates in the only way he knows how: through the internet. With his affinity for computer hacking, Mark creates a website that allows people to rank girls depending on their physical attraction. It receives 22,000 hits within two hours. This attracts the attention of Harvard's high society who asks Zuckerberg to help them with their idea for a social network. Zuckerberg runs with the idea and with his best friend and business partner Eduardo Saverin, Facebook is created.

When legal action is taken against Zuckerberg, blaming him for intellectual property theft and unethical business practices, the film truly begins to shine. *The Social Network* does a great job painting a portrait of the cutthroat ways in which Facebook was created, but that's merely a backdrop for the primary story of friendship and betrayal. Zuckerberg's ambition and success prevent his ability to see people as anything but commodities. These lawsuits force Zuckerberg to consider how

his pretentious endeavor for coolness has negatively affected his relationships with those who truly care about him.

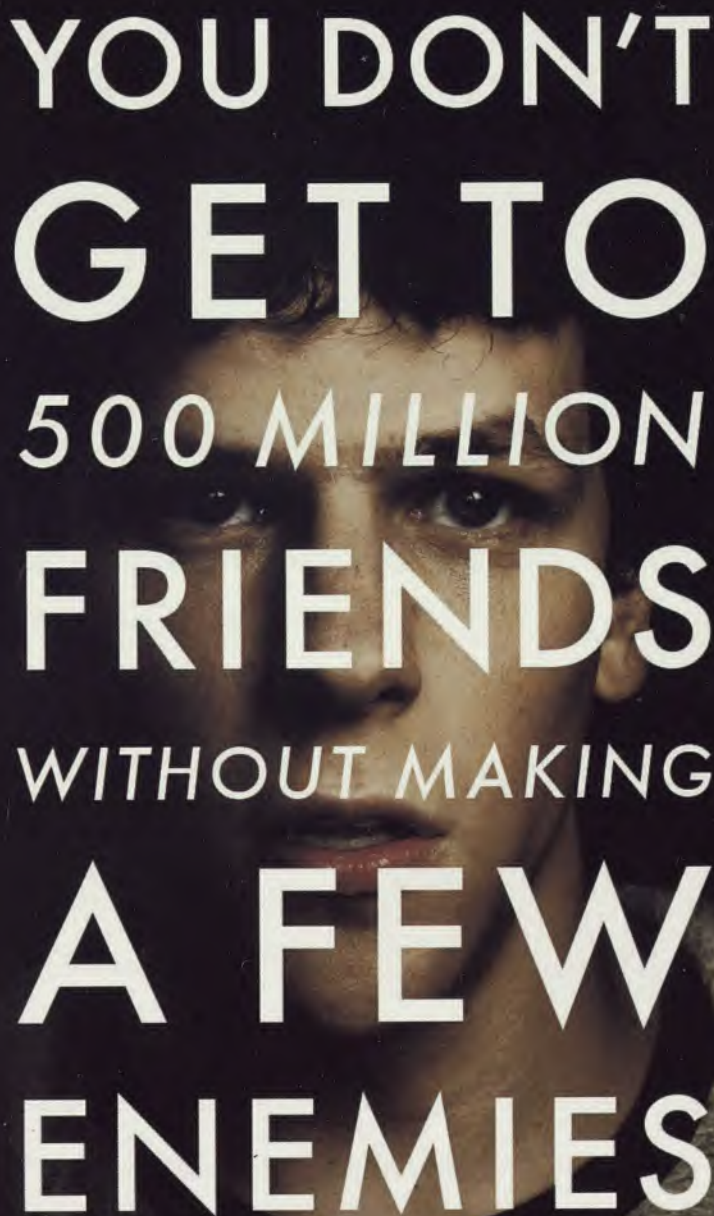
Jesse Eisenberg is flawless as Mark Zuckerberg. His uncanny ability to deliver dialogue with rapid-fire realism serves him best here as he effortlessly fleshes out this wunderkind's flawed genius. Justin Timberlake is charming as the philandering Napster founder Sean Parker. Andrew Garfield stands out by bringing an emotive understanding of human sensitivity as Eduardo Saverin, Zuckerberg's wronged best friend and the most likeable member of the trio. At its heart, the film is a character study about how these polarizing young men clash and these performances believably ground the drama.

David Fincher's direction is as precise and astute as ever. He creates a striking sense of place and his penchant for stylized realism is perfectly complemented by Aaron Sorkin's relentlessly intelligent adaptation of Ben Mezrich's *Accidental Billionaires*. The bold score by Atticus Ross and Nine Inch Nail's Trent Reznor uniquely establishes a synthetic soundscape that amplifies the film's electronically savvy universe. The cinematography by Jeff Cronenweth is brilliant. In one notable scene he shoots a rowing competition using tilt-shift photography, which I've never seen before in film. It's scored to a Wendy Carlos-inspired rendition of Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King" making for an intensely thrilling sequence. It's a beautiful film and an astounding technical achievement.

The Social Network ends with Mark Zuckerberg sitting alone in front of his laptop anticipating a friend request by the girl who dumped him. We see that after all

the notoriety and monetary gain fades into the background, he's still left with the overwhelming need for human connection. It's a powerful scene that brings this character full circle and conveys a message that's entirely relevant to this generation. We des-

perately long for validation. The Social Network shows how the Internet provides us with an outlet to accomplish that and the ways in which our humanity is tested when we do so.




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by Carlos Casiano

Literacy Project: Hope in El Salvador



Since you are reading this, it is safe to say that you are not illiterate. More than likely neither are most of the people around you, since the United States has a literacy rate of around 99 percent. Yet that is not the case in the rest of the world.

In the Central American country of El Salvador, the official literacy rate is around 80 percent, but the statistic is not always representative of some of the poorer communities in the country, where some reports have listed rates as low as 50 percent.

For the second year in a row, the Adventist Intercollegiate Association (AIA), which consists of student association officers from the different Adventist colleges and universities in the North American Division, has voted to be part of a project to help adults in El Salvador learn to read and write in Spanish. The AIA members origi-

nally selected the project, called Partners in Mission, in 2009. The project is a joint effort with Hope for Humanity. However, La Sierra University decided to focus its resources on Haiti following the earthquake on January 12, 2010, and was not as involved in the El Salvador project as some of the other schools.

This year, the Student Association of La Sierra University (SALSU) has decided to once again emphasize the El Salvador literacy project. Jonathan Finau, SALSU president for the 2010-2011 academic year, traveled to El Salvador in July with SALSU secretary Cyndi Maravilla and several student officers from other Adventist colleges and universities to learn more about the literacy project. Led by Hope for Humanity director Maitland Dipinto, the group was able to see firsthand some of the work being done there.

Many of the teachers are young, some still in their teens. There are no formal classes or classrooms. Instead, "learning circles" form where there is available space, whether it is in a church, a house, a school, or a community center. Even when space is available, other resources are still scarce. Project members must bring their own notebooks, and often their own chairs. There are frequently no desks, and writing utensils are in short supply.

Finau said that he visited four learning circles. At one of these circles, he met an 80-year-old man named Juan, who was blind in the left eye. Finau asked him through a translator why he wanted to be able to read. His response was that if he could read the Bible, his eye could be healed.

Other people had different reasons as to why they wanted to be able to read. "I want to learn to read so that I can teach my children," said one person. "I want to read to become a factory worker," noted another.

For some of the illiterate people in El Salvador, learning to read would allow them to travel safely and efficiently, without having to rely on others to provide the names of places and streets. Another significant concern is that at times, businesspeople take advantage of those who cannot read, charging excessive amounts of money because the people cannot interpret the actual prices.

Finau expressed enthusiasm for the project, describing it as an endeavor that has impacted the student leaders who have so far been involved in it. For Finau, the connection to the literacy program is even stronger. He described how his grandmother could not read, and how some of his earliest experiences with reading involved helping her in everyday tasks. Each of the different Adventist schools involved in the project has set a fundraising goal. La Sierra University's goal is \$3,000,

though Finau is optimistic that this goal will be surpassed, "We should be the resources for those students," he said.

SALSU is working on various campus events to raise funds toward the project. Ideas include a University Worship to share information and stories, a coin-gallon fundraiser, and a benefit concert, among others. The fundraising ideas are not limited to on-campus events, however. SALSU is considering activities that involve the community. Some proposed ideas include working with local churches, collaborating with libraries in the area, and a walk-a-thon with the Riverside community.

"I want to learn to read so that I can teach my children"

Finau points out that the goal is not exclusively to raise money. He emphasizes that it is important for La Sierra University students to be able to relate to the literacy project and feel as though they are a part of the experience, much as he and Cindy Maravilla did.

The project has taken as an emblem a fingerprint, representative of the accepted signature for the many who cannot read or write in El Salvador. The fingerprint icon will likely become a common sight around the La Sierra University campus.

SALSU is still working on designing and implementing different aspects of the project, and though various ideas are under consideration, little has been finalized. It is clear, however, that this project will be a major component of this year's SALSU agenda, and one that La Sierra University students will likely hear about for some time to come.

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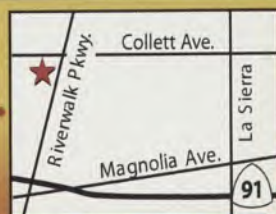
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What's



12 *Orgs and Community in Sync*

Inside...



08

A Gated Community

16

Ability Counts



05 *The Political Statement That Wasn't*

24 *Muslims in America*

10 *The Bored Student Guide to a day in Riverside*

28 *Costume Skate Night & Criterion Playlist*

19 *Ask Deneen*

26 *Critiquing the Critics*

20 *The WingTip Fashion Blog*

Editor's Note



Welcome, one and all! Here it is! Our second issue and Fall Quarter's not even over yet! I've been blessed with a fantastically talented staff. With the sweat of our brow and just a dash of awesome sauce, I believe we've delivered a perfectly satisfactory magazine to function as the student body's source of news; as it pertains to you, the students, and this school.

The numerous compliments my staff and I have received after our "La Sierra Loved Me" issue tells us that we must be doing something right. But that's not to say there isn't room for improvement. There is always room to grow in any organization. I recognize this and I would like to ask you to help Criterion grow and mature as LSU's student publication.

Criterion staff is made up of a hand full of students just like you. And just like you, they don't have classes in every single building on campus, they don't hang out with every single person, and they don't hear every discussion. We do our best to cover interesting and relevant topics to keep you informed, but I

know there are great stories out there just waiting to be heard; stories that inspire, like Sheldon Benjamin's "Ability Counts"; stories that encourage contemplative discussion, like our creation/evolution opinion articles in the last few pages of this issue; and stories, like Geoff Blake's enthusiastic rhetoric in our last issue's feature, that make us proud to be students here at La Sierra University.

Having said that, I invite you to help be the eyes and ears of this magazine. Is there something happening here at LSU that you feel other students should know about? I would love to hear what thoughts and ideas you have for me as I continue to serve this school's student community as best I can.

You can email me at: criterion@lasierra.edu

Nick Smith
Chief Editor

The Political Statement That Wasn't

by Andre Lewis

On September 11, 2001, the lives of Americans, and of people all over the world, were changed forever. The way humans perceived one another based off of their appearance and religion became dramatically altered. Those tragic events spawned a war that took our troops overseas to fight against terrorism and for our freedom in Iraq and, more recently, Afghanistan.

When you think of a city that tries to make a political or social impact in some form or fashion, you may think of melting-pot cities like Los Angeles, New York, or Miami. They're marquee cities, and well known across the globe. But you wouldn't think a statement regarding world affairs would happen in Riverside, California; and even if you did, you probably wouldn't imagine that it would happen at La Sierra University. But

on October 31, a huge statement was made in terms of two countries ignoring the violent and political propaganda between them. La Sierra University played Afghan National Team in a preseason basketball game.

La Sierra University Athletic Director, Javier Krumm, and La Sierra University head mens' basketball coach, Derek Robbins, were the brains behind this game. Robbins got the idea during the offseason, and used his connections within the basketball realm to make the game happen. "[The Afghan team]

tours the United States playing Christian schools," said Robbins. "They're a touring team. They aren't necessarily strong enough to play in FIBA (International Basketball Federation), so they play in these games out here to try and qualify for the Olympics."

"This is a shout-out to all the multi-cultural students at La Sierra. [We're showing] that SDA's are accepting of other cultures," said Krumm.

When I first heard about the game, I immediately thought of the political aspects. Road crowds can be mean and ignorant at sporting events.

Is La Sierra going to do that during the game, saying racially charged things to the visiting team, or will we be respectful? What is the Afghan team's demeanor going to be while our National Anthem is playing? Could this

have any possible impact on the war that our two countries are in? Robbins and Krumm assured me that at least the last two issues shouldn't be cause for concern. "Most, if not all, of the players from the Afghanistan team have dual citizenship, so having respect for our National Anthem shouldn't be a problem for them," said Robbins. "Since some of them identify with being American, anyway."

Politics have always been the oil to society's water. Nothing mixes with it. Church and state had to be separated.

"This was a shout-out to all the multi-cultural students at La Sierra. [We're showing] that SDA's are accepting of other cultures"



Politics and sports don't always go together well, either. For example, the controversial Arizona immigration law had a huge impact on sports. There were protesters calling for the major sports franchises in Arizona (Cardinals, Suns, Diamondbacks, and Coyotes) to use their power to speak out for those affected by the law. All franchises declined to get involved in the political affair. A variation of that theme was brought into the La Sierra vs. Afghanistan game, with neither team thinking about any political undertones this game could have or might have had. "[Neither side is] even thinking of the war, or if this game could have any kind of impact on how both countries feel about each other," Krumm said. "These kids want to simply win the game, and nothing more."

Maybe this isn't the juicy story that might make a national magazine like Rolling Stone, Time, or Newsweek, but

perhaps the non-story is the story. We don't need a story about two countries that are already at war, having a miniature version of that on the basketball court. In these times, where we as a society are always looking for the story that has drama, betrayal, or a checkered past, this game was the antithesis. Two teams (one proudly representing a country and the other representing a school within a country) simply played a game of basketball, where, ironically, they unintentionally represented something bigger than themselves. Now that's a great story.

"[Neither side is] even thinking of the war, or if this game could have any kind of impact on how both countries feel about each other...These kids want to simply win the game, and nothing more."

Javier Krumm - Athletics Director

A Gated Community

by Jeremy Caesar



The gate that currently surrounds La Sierra University has been the subject of many discussions since it was installed. Some are happy to have it, others wonder if it was even worth it. In order to shed some light on these concerns, I spoke with Vice President of Student Life, Yami Bazan, who provided insight as to why the gate was built and what it means to this campus, among other related issues.

The gate was built as a reaction to the student body's limited sense of well being as well as the vandalism our campus has suffered. In order to quell these problems, the Student Association, Security, and Health and Exercise Science faculty presented the idea for the gate to the Board of Trustees in 2007. Many students weren't comfortable traveling far distances across the campus at nighttime. The Health and Exercise Science facilities were being used, run down, and often times graffitied. With only one security of-

ficer on duty every eight hours, it became difficult to maintain order when random baseball teams would use our field. "It was not clear to the community that this was a private campus," said Bazan. Two years ago, the proposal went through to the Board of Trustees. The gates were installed at the end of last school year and they went fully operational at the beginning of this year.

Many have wondered whether or not the incident two years ago involving the gunman attributed to the creation of this gate. Bazan addressed the issue saying, "The gunman came two years after the idea for the gate, though I don't think he helped the matter any." She stressed that reasons were less extraordinary. Skaters and bikers grinding down the walkways of our campus and families taking showers in the waterfall near the University's entrance were a few of the many problems security had to deal with. Theft

was also a major affair. "When we used to be much more of an agricultural community it was different, but our neighborhood has changed." The houses surrounding this campus were first advertised as having a local park. Residents assumed that the university was that local park and that simply wasn't the case. Something had to be done.

Now that the gates are up and running, many students have brought up specific observations and concerns. Graduate student Kendra Kravig states, "I honestly think that the gates would be a better idea if they actually functioned properly." Some students who walk or ride their bikes to school have had trouble exiting the campus once the gates are closed. Others have questioned how the gates will operate in case of an on campus emergency.

Bazan addresses these issues, explaining that because these gates are new, there will obviously be kinks that need working out. The Physical Plant, Information Technology, and Student Life are all cooperating to alleviate the defects. Card readers will soon be installed on the inside of the gates so that students who

walk or bike to school can leave at their own will. In case of an emergency, Security has the ability to shut or open all of the gates via a central unit. And should technology fail altogether, the gates can be operated manually. Bazan is committed to fulfilling the needs of the study body in any way possible. Wecare@lasierra.edu was established for this very reason. "Part of what I want to do in La Sierra [University] is make sure that the students know that we can't solve everything, but we can hear."

Like most new additions, the gate's full potential is yet to be seen. It will have to go through a great deal of trial and error in order to become the symbol of efficiency and safety we all hope it will be. Vice President Bazan shows a refreshing willingness to listen to what the student body has to say and take their concerns into consideration. She hopes that the gate can ultimately enhance the protection of the campus and the welfare of its residents. "Hopefully you recognize that this is your campus. We're always looking for ways to make it a place where you feel like you can be safe; a place that's part of who you are."



The Bored Student's Guide to a Day in Riverside

by Kendra Kraving

Having lived in Riverside for more years than I care to admit to, I am an expert on finding the random events, the hole-in-the-wall eateries, and the starving student-friendly activities offered by our fair city. So, dear readers, for those of you unfamiliar with what Riverside can give to the bored La Sierra University student, look no further! Here is a survival guide for things to do on your day off.



Restaurants

First, head downtown to University Avenue and fork up \$4 for the best coffee in Riverside. Back to the Grind is an independent coffee house/art gallery/cool place to waste some time. And if you can't stay away from Facebook for more than an hour, you won't have to. Back to the Grind offers free wi-fi to the web-hungry, excellent caffeinated beverages to

the sleep-deprived, and yummy organic goodies to the health conscious. They also have open mic nights, band showcases, and regularly open their art gallery in the basement for showing. Occasionally, they also have themed parties with an open bar of coffee. A few months ago it was Sci-fi night, where Wookies, Vulcans, and Edward Cullens were likely to be found.

After meandering the downtown area for a while, be sure to stop at one of the local eateries. Simple Simon's is commonly acknowledged to have the best sandwiches in the city. The Mission Inn, while on the pricey side, is also known to have some delish dishes.

My favorite, which is also the favorite of my bank account, is the artsy Tio Taco's, a place where the food is good and the ambiance is unforgettable. A family-owned restaurant, they have devoted their time and their space to the pursuit of unlikely art. Giant topiaries filled with empty cans, mosaics made out of oyster shells, a certified wedding chapel made of empty bottles (it's true!), the outside grounds of the restaurant are the main course and the Mexican cuisine is merely a side dish.



Explore Downtown

Next up, an exploration of downtown Riverside. The Mission Inn is an architectural delight, and typically has the best Christmas decorations in the city. Our city also has one of the largest antique districts in the state, if digging for old treasures is your forte.

My favorite downtown store is Mrs. Tiggy Winkle's, which has all the hobknobs, knickknacks, and whatchamacallits a person could hope for. (I recently purchased a notepad from this store that is specifically designed to make the decision making process a cinch.) For our on-campus Trekkies, there is also a Star Trek exhibition at the Metropolitan Showcase (on the corner of University and Main) where your knowledge of the Klingon language is welcomed and your explications on the noticeable racial distinctions between Romulans and Vulcans will be applauded. Also in historic downtown is the Fox Theatre. For those of you who don't know, the classic Scarlett O'Hara/Rhett Butler romance *Gone with the Wind* had its first preview at the Fox back in 1939. It is lately remodeled, and now functions as a performing arts facility. Future performances include *The Nutcracker*, *Bret Michaels*, and *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. For more information on showings and tickets, visit the Fox's website: www.foxriversidelive.com.

If you're not in the mood for antiques and good independent music stores are your thing, head the opposite direction down University Avenue to University Village and stop by the Mad Platter, where there is music from every genre and even old records if you're the nostalgic type.

I've even found DVDs there for \$1.99 or less. They also buy used CDs, DVDs, and LPs, if you're looking to make some extra cash and gain some space.

At the Movies

As a child, did you ever secretly desire to live in the 1950s: the era of Sadie Hawkins, rock n' roll, and drive-in movies? Well, Sadie Hawkins are rare nowadays, rock n' roll has branched into twenty subgenres, but the drive-in theater can be found on Van Buren Boulevard. For \$7, you can watch a double feature from the comfort of your vehicle. Best part about the drive-in? The operators don't care if you bring your own food! (No more \$10 wasted on movie popcorn). You can check the movie listing at www.vanburendrivein.com. The Van Buren Drive-In is my favorite venue to see movies, not only for its cheap prices, but also because you can chat with your friends through the entire movie, and there's no one sitting behind you to shush you.



Orgs and Community In Sync

by Courtney Young



“Your campus. Your community. Your communication.” That’s the slogan found on posters and flyers all over campus, advertising the newest social network at La Sierra University. You may have seen staff from the Office of Student Activities (OSA) walking around in green shirts with the name ‘OrgSync’ plastered across them. Posters, pens, and announcements have been made on behalf of this new marketing tool. Mass e-mails have been sent out, inviting students to become an official member of the site. Television screens around the campus promote student participation in OrgSync.

Cayce Stone, Vice President of Business Management and co-founder of OrgSync, was motivated to begin the company that we are advertising when he was a student leader in college. “I was frustrated as a leader, having to use Facebook, Google calendar, Yahoo groups, and having an outdated website.” Stone said. “I used 20 different

things to manage my organization and another 20 to communicate with the other organizations I was a member of. I was talking about the problem with some of my fellow student leaders and thought there might be a better way to communicate.” Stone took the initiative of contributing to the creation of a site that organizes campuses in a way that benefits both the students and the organizations that they are a part of.

OrgSync.com describes the site as “the leading provider of organization management software for higher education institutions across the United States and Canada.” The site was established in 2007 when Cayce Stone and Eric Fortenberry began leasing a house in Austin, Texas as a base of operation. In the first year of production, the two-man team was able to partner with five universities and colleges in expanding the communication on the campuses. The years after the launch of the program, the team grew

exponentially. They have recently relocated the base of operations to Dallas, Texas, where team members are working in the areas of marketing, development, sales and customer services. OrgSync has successfully partnered with over 100 universities and colleges including Alabama A&M University, Arizona State University, California State University San Bernardino, University of California Los Angeles, Syracuse University and more recently, La Sierra University.

Students at La Sierra have plenty of reasons to get online and search the web: Facebook, Twitter, Gmail, Skype, Mastering Physics, Owl, D2L, Blackboard and Webmail are all tools that are necessities for the livelihood of students. These sites keep the communication line open to family, long lost friends, professors, and class assignments; but do not organize and provide information about the activities that are happening on campus.

For this specific reason, La Sierra University has invested in OrgSync. Notification of activities, projects, outings, and paperwork will be at the fingertips of students who are active on OrgSync. When a student registers for OrgSync, they have unlimited access to what is happening at La Sierra University; whether they want to join every single organization on campus or just stick to the few that are important to them. The site is beneficial for students as well as the leaders that are in charge of clubs and organizations on campus. Cayce Stone also said that "OrgSync is also going to help the organizations to grow their member base and increase their effectiveness as student leaders. Now they can plan around other organizations and not double book their members,

while also polling those that attended to see what they did and didn't like. In order to be an effective student leader, you have to run an organization that students want to be a part of, so constant member feedback from OrgSync aids the leader in learning from their members."

Registering for OrgSync will not take you away from Facebook or other social networks, but will plug you into what is going on here on campus. While you may be able to hear about different events

"Our goal is not to take the place of Facebook or blackboard, but to take charge of the social life of La Sierra."

on campus through an event invitation from Facebook, you will not have total access to what is happening on with every organization, giving you only limited access. OrgSync will keep you connected to your community while you are here at La Sierra.

Kim Canine, Director of OSA said, "Our goal is not to take the place of Facebook or blackboard, but to take charge of the social life of La Sierra." OrgSync benefits students and organizations here on campus. It gives everyone the opportunity to know about what happens on campus with the click of a few buttons.

Each student can sign up online and pick different "Orgs" to be a part of. These "Orgs" are the student-lead and campus-organized clubs and departments that are based on student

Continuation

participation. Some examples are Club W.O.W, Sierra Towers, Angwin Hall, Black Student Association, SALSU, Adventist Colleges Abroad, and Pre-Professional Club. The different organizations have personal pages where you can locate information, paperwork, and activities. This new social network is making filling out paperwork easier; you can do all of it online. Completing online paperwork will result in saving money, time, and trees.

Late leaves and night leaves can be found online at each dorm's OrgSync page. Activity petitions, organization use of mass text messaging, and end-of-the-quarter paperwork can also be found on the respective sites of OrgSync. Current students have the option to build a basic resume, search for job openings, and request transcripts online. Eventually OrgSync will have the option to use PayPal online, making it easier for students to pay for events on campus. This means that a time is coming where you can pay for your SALSU Banquet tickets and club dues online in minutes.

Org Sync is here to take away boredom on nights when you have no homework

or when you need a study break. It is here to organize and manage all of the information you need, in one place and at one time. With the advantage of unlimited space to store pictures, files or documents clubs and organizations will always have a tool to manage information. It is a tool that makes socializing simple, straightforward, and fun.

The La Sierra University OrgSync site currently has approximately 980 members, including undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, faculty, and staff. OSA is working to increase the number of members to 1,500 by the end of fall quarter. Reaching the goal of 1,500 members will help in building the social community that is La Sierra University. With the help of OrgSync, La Sierra will hold onto the slogan that we have seen and heard for the entire fall quarter "Your campus. Your community. Your communication" and put it into practice. "Our biggest focus is making people feel like this is their place, their campus," said Canine.

	OrgSync	facebook
Campus Unity	YES	NO
Community Growth	YES	YES
Communication	YES	YES
Text Message Option	YES	NO
Social Network for OUR Campus	YES	NO
UNLIMITED Space and Storage	YES	NO
Capability to link all data to LSU website	YES	NO
Managing System	YES	NO



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Ability Counts

by Sheldon Benjamin



Terry Neil and Caesar Gonzales, two otherly abled working on the grounds of the La Sierra campus, were involved in a terrible car accident in February of 2008. Neil, Gonzales, and a third passenger were headed toward Corona at around 10 p.m. when 20 year old Hugo Alejandro Rico hit their SUV at about 90 miles an hour in a 45 mile an hour zone. Tragically, Gonzales died on impact. After 30 minutes, emergency personnel were finally able to cut Neil out of the car. With a broken femur and excessive damage to his abdomen, doctors told Neil that his recovery was going to be a long and slow process; if he were to make

a full recovery at all. Rico later testified to having been intoxicated and was sentenced to five years in prison for gross vehicular manslaughter. Deputy District Attorney Cheryl Singerton stated, "The most significant

"People with special needs are often detail-oriented and they are very hard workers."

aggravated factor in this case was he was driving drunk, the severity of the injuries, and the fact that a man lost his life."

(Jessica Logan, Press-Enterprise)
Imagine losing your best friend and being told you have to spend the next year of your life recovering from another person's carelessness, all while dealing with preexisting disabilities. It was an extremely difficult time for Neil. Neil said, "I woke up in

the hospital and didn't even know I had been in an accident. There were wires all over me, my lungs had collapsed. I was fighting for my life."

Neil was looking at about a year of recovery before he could consider going to work again, but miraculously, he was walking again in four months. Neil said, "Yeah, I was scared, but I had to block that out... It hit me hard, but I knew I was going to pull through. I'm fortunate to have a second shot at life, and I appreciate God for giving me that opportunity." He attributes his hasty recovery to his athleticism, his drive to get back to work, and most of all that "God was watching [his] back the whole time."

Neil has been working with Ability Counts Inc. for six years. ACI is a non-profit corporation dedicated to providing otherly abled men and women with meaningful work opportunities. For three of those six years, Neil has been at LSU, doing maintenance and landscaping. He says LSU has been a great place to work and is grateful that the school is providing him and otherly abled individuals like him in the community with opportunities like these.

Just a few decades ago, it was thought that otherly abled men and women were incapable of working and contributing to the community and were instead housed in asylums. Today, corporations like ACI and institutions like LSU are giving those with different abilities the opportunity to work and have a valuable place in

society. Although the stigmas about otherly abled people being incapable of work and contributing to society are evaporating, many still don't understand their value. ACI's mission is not only to provide these people with work, but also to show how important their work can be in our society. It is apparent from accounts like Neil's that these jobs are meaningful to the workers as well. When asked about working here on campus, Neil said, "I enjoy being at work... It makes me feel good that I get respect and support... I love it. I'm a very devoted and dedicated person, and I work hard for the people here."

The mowing supervisor, Wes, spoke about the workers and how they conduct themselves on the job. "People with special needs are often detail-oriented and they are very hard workers." According to him, they will go the extra mile to make sure they do the best job they can. Sometimes, because of their conditions, the workers can be headstrong and competitive but it tends to motivate them to work harder in order to do their best. Neil had once told Wes that he was taking a break, and when some of the guys went to find out where he had gone for his break, they found him working.

Landscaping supervisor, Daniel Graham, has been working at La Sierra for 15 years. Before that, he spent seven years training otherly abled men and women for ACI. It was Graham who brought the influence of ACI workers to the attention

Continuation

of the Criterion. "It's important that LSU be given credit for having the [ACI] workers work here on campus. This is vital to maintaining and increasing the support of our administration for these workers," said Graham. It is an irreplaceable feeling for men and women with other abilities to know that LSU respects and appreciates the work they do.

Although Neil isn't regularly working at LSU anymore, there are around 20 other individuals otherly abled that are. David, an autistic savant, has been at LSU since 2005. He generally keeps to himself, and can usually be seen doing detail weeding and edging around campus. David is particularly gifted in the electrical and mechanical fields and even helped build his mother's

house. Lupe, a part of Grahams landscaping crew, received training from Graham at ACI some 20 years ago. Today they work together at LSU.

We see the crews on a daily basis mowing, weeding and keeping LSU looking great. They maintain a great work ethic and a can-do attitude. There is much that can be learned from these dedicated men and women and from the people that provide them with opportunities such as La Sierra University and Ability Counts Inc. All around Riverside, otherly abled men and women find purpose in the work they do for ACI. So remember to pass on a friendly smile and acknowledge our campus crew. Let's make sure they feel appreciated here at LSU.



Ask Deneen!

Dear Deneen,

My girlfriend and I are from different ethnic backgrounds and we have had trouble dealing with our cultural differences. How do we accept the dissimilarities between us and avoid conflict? Neither one of us wants to end the relationship, but we don't know how to handle this situation. What should we do?

J.M.

Dear J.M.

Your problem is very common and at the same time, easy to rectify. One thing you must realize is that ethnicity should not be the deciding factor for whether or not you remain in a relationship, because you can truly miss out on being with an amazing person. Something you can do is, instead of pushing each other away because of your cultural differences, embrace it and use this as an opportunity to learn more about your girlfriend's culture--and she can do the same. This will not only restore peace between you, but it can make the times you spend together very fun and interesting. Also, understand that accepting your differences does not mean changing yourselves. Actually, it's simply saying, "This is who you are and I am okay with it!" 1 Samuel 16:7 reads, "For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." If your relationship is one that cultivates love and respect as God has intended, everything else will work out just fine.

I hope this helped!

Sincerely,
Deneen

This. Right here. Is my. Swag.

by Chuck Dickerson

“That denim vest is really working with those boots, son. I like your swag.”

“Thanks Mom!”

Every once in a while when I'm walking across campus, someone will stop me and ask me what I'm wearing. Though I consider it a huge compliment, most of the time I'm only wearing a Hanes V-neck and some cheap denim. While wishing I could say I was wearing some huge designer they have never heard of, the truth is it does not matter. Yes, those designers make incredible clothes, but as cliché as it sounds, clothes do not make the man. This is where swagger comes into effect. Perhaps you know someone who has this inexplicable trait that you find appealing but you can never put your finger on why or what it is. This, my friend, is what we call swag. It is that inexplicable trait that, well, makes the man. Most of us have swag and don't even know it. In fact, most of us had swag before there was even a word for it.

No finger can be placed on the exact definition of swag. Fingers, maybe. But finger, no. What is it? Who has it? Where did it come from? Why is it important? And who cares? It seems like I constantly hear the word “swag” tossed around and used out of context. Once, I heard someone yell out, “I'm so hungry, my swag is gone!” (Don't ask.)

Swag, short for swagger, can generally be defined as having a high level of self-confidence, having a stylish way of dress, having a slightly arrogant demeanor, or even talking in a proud way. There are hundreds of definitions for swagger that can be demonstrated in hundreds of different ways. Swagger is mostly subjective; so who is to say what it is, what it is not, who has swag, and who does not? Swag to one person may not be swag to another. Just like what tastes good to me may be repulsive to you. Even so there is still a general understanding of what swag is, so let us explore and develop our concept of it. Perhaps it is a learned trait that comes through experience. Or maybe

Best spot to pick up guys? At the gym, car wash, and the gas station! LOL

What trend should die? Bright colored skinny jeans

Phone calls or text messages? Call me!

I never leave home without...

My bag because use my life is usually in here!

Most favorite kicks in the world? Any throwback Jordans

What are your favorite places to shop? Marshalls, H&M, and Urban Outfitters

Pumpkin or Sweet Potato? Sweet Potato because it's mm, mm, delicious!

What is your favorite winter activity? Cuddling with my teddy bear, duh!

What do guys dig about your style? The way it varies. I can dress up or down and they still dig it!

How do you define swag? Me (dusts off shoulders)



Brianna Jones
Sophomore
Biomedical Sciences / Pre-Med
Los Angeles, California

This. Right here. Is my. Swag.

Continued

it is an inherited, biological trait that is genetically passed along. I believe it is both and much more. Swagger traits come from countless sources and influence how we dress, act, and interact with each other.

Waking up in the morning for class can be tough (Biology at 8 a.m. is a ditched class waiting to happen). However, the thing that gets me motivated and in action every day is getting up, turning on some music and throwing clothes together almost blindly. It is not about coordination; it is about being you and being comfortable. In essence, swag is just that: doing whatever it is you want to do and never second guessing why you do it. It is important to define these things in order to further recognize who we are and the image we portray. It is exceedingly important to be true to who we are and then to give others an accurate image of ourselves. Ask yourself these questions: What's my definition of swag? What are my swagger traits? Where do I get my swag?

I have often heard stories

about how my grandparents first met. My grandmother shakes her head and smiles each time she tells the story. "There was just something about him, as he would walk across our college campus, that made me know that I had to have him," she explains. Now, some 50 years later, I am literally living testament to say that my grandfather had swag!

In the end, why should you care about swagger and much less about having any swag at all? Well, in my humble opinion, don't. Be yourself. Let whatever comes natural to you be your swag. It is those unique traits that make you, you and all the more beautiful.

So until next time, get out the way...



What are your hobbies? Playing guitar, singing, and dancing

What's your style secret? I have over 30 pairs of Nike's and over 20 hats

What do you collect? Mike Dubs, Jordan's and hats

Favorite clothing brand? Nike. Love the swoosh

What are your plans for new year's? Make a promise, keep a promise. Always...

What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?

Do you sneak food into theaters? Yes, I do. It saves money. Snacks are pricey.

Favorite restaurant? Buffalo Wild Wings, 50 cent wings. I can't beat it.

Worst date experience? Spilling food on my date's lap. Yea, Chilli Cheese Fries are hot

Your swag is defined by? Expressing inner beauty. Swag is a tool we all use to let others see how beautiful we are on the inside



Josh Cachapero
Sophomore
Physical Therapy
San Francisco, California

Muslims In America

by Brianna Chavers

Nine years have passed since the fateful morning of 9/11 and the news of the mosque being built near Ground Zero is causing Americans to realize that we are still waiting for our wounds to heal.

The 45 Park building, which will include a mosque, is being built two blocks from Ground Zero. Our nation is split on their opinions over the project that has become a source of controversy over the past few months. There are many, including President Obama, who believes that the mosque is not a threat to Americans nor does it diminish the horrifying acts committed on September 11. This past August, Obama spoke to a group of Muslims at a dinner at the White House, where he expressed his support of the mosque. "Let us also remember who we're fighting against and who we're fighting for. Our enemies respect no religious freedom. Al Qaeda's cause is not Islam. It's a gross distortion of Islam. These are not religious leaders; they're terrorists who murder innocent men, women, and children."

But many still oppose its construction. A poll, recently featured in The Huffington Post, showed four percent of Republicans support the building of the mosque near Ground Zero while 21 percent would be fine with a

strip club being built in the space instead. The media has played a major role in fueling negative feelings toward the mosque's presence near Ground Zero. Many reporters have incorrectly described the mosque as being "at" the former World Trade Center site, but this is not true. The mosque—or, to be more accurate, prayer center—is being built within an Arabic cultural center named Park 51, located two blocks from Ground Zero. The cultural center will also include a library, a swimming pool, basketball court, auditorium, day-care facility, restaurant and cooking school.

Nevertheless, a majority of Americans are concerned about the mosque being so close to Ground Zero. A poll featured on CBS News Online revealed that 71 percent of Americans feel the mosque near Ground Zero is "inappropriate", but 61 percent believe that developers do have the right to build a mosque near Ground Zero. Most Americans would agree that any organization resembling a mosque near a symbol of tragedy and loss caused by Islamic extremists is uncomfortable and difficult to accept, however these emotions are not worth risking any groups' right to religious freedom.

According to Keith Olbermann, of Countdown with Keith Olbermann,

aired August 2010, "Since 9/11, Muslims have been at far greater risk of being victims of terrorism in the United States than have non-Muslims."

The risk of a tragedy as horrific as 9/11 repeating itself is not an option America is willing to take. There is a possibility that creating such a controversy over the building of an Islamic cultural center, and the shameful acts that have been committed in response to its construction—such as Rev. Terry Jones' threat to burn Qurans—is the start of a growing cultural acceptance of the mistreatment of all Muslims. We must remind ourselves that there are extremists in every religion who harbor biased views and act on them, yet we don't blame the entire community for their wrongs.

In a recent article featured in The Huffington Post, Andy Schupak commented, "Just as it is unfair to hold peaceful Christians responsible for the actions of Christians who bomb abortion clinics or murder homosexuals, it is unfair to judge or impede the legal actions of peaceful Muslim-Americans because of attacks by radicals they

do not support." So, the only possible fear Americans should have regarding the Islamic cultural center being built near Ground Zero is that this could be the moment we realize the world has not come as far away from tragedies such as the Holocaust or the Japanese Internment as we thought. The discontinuation of the poor habit of connecting the Muslim religion with Muslim extremists, who would be dangerous within any religion, is necessary if we are serious in our endeavor to attain peace in the Middle East.

Muslim-Americans spent the five years following 9/11 enduring harsh discrimination for acts they did not commit and do not endorse. In the past four years, prejudices against Muslims who were born here or immigrated to America has died down. Now is our time to prove that we are not forgetful, but that we are forgiving. The commitment that project developers and supporters of Park 51 have to building this cultural center may be a statement that seeks to prove that America can be rational and compassionate, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Critiquing the Critics

by Garret Cladwell

"Do you want to see a movie?"

"Sure, is there anything good out?"

This is a conversation that most everyone has had at some point or another, and the question used to be hard to answer. Movie reviews were invented to solve this problem. A professional viewer goes out and watches all the movies in the theater, critiques them, then tells movie-goers how good it was. While that is helpful, it has created a new problem: out of so many review sites, which one will you trust with your \$12? Here are four online sites with differing styles of review that may be helpful to you when picking a movie.

The first site, Spill.com, reviews movies in audio and visual formats, with the video reviews taking center stage. They are unique in that the reviewers are animated instead of live-action, and they are rated by view-ability instead of a vague sense of artistic value or reviewer preference. When watching previews, some ask, "How good is this movie? Should I see this movie no matter what it costs? Should I wait and rent it later? Is it worth the

time it takes to download a 'pre-release' copy?" Spill.com rates movies like this as well, but in a hilarious, irreverent style. For a funny, yet honest review, Spill is the place to go.

Yahoo! Movies is a trailer-based review site attached to the search engine of the same name. Trailer-based means it prominently offers trailers and movie clips, written reviews only appearing when you click on the movie's title which navigates you to its dedicated page. Yahoo! Movies keeps up with all of the new and upcoming releases, and has a huge selection of clips and trailers, making it easier to decide whether a movie seems interesting. The reviews are split into two sections: critic reviews and user reviews. Critic reviews use the opinions of several newspaper movie critics, while user reviews are the opinions of everyday viewers. The reviews give ratings in the form of letter grades and written reviews. The letter grades are divided into four categories (story, acting, direction, and visuals), and are then compiled by grade. The diversity of opinions available from Yahoo! Movies is quite extensive,

so when looking for a large pool of opinions, check this site.

Moviefone.com is a traditionally styled review site, having both reviews and trailers readily accessible from the home page. The reviews are given by professional movie critics (via a system called Metacritic), and by site users. Ratings available are "See It!", "Maybe" and "Skip It!". Something interesting that shows up on this site is the often-differing views between professional movie critics and site users; some of the ratings are complete opposites. The site interface is simple and lightning-quick to use, so when you have absolutely no idea what's out and are just itching to go to the movies, this is the site to visit.

Rotten Tomatoes is a critic based review site, so it's the pro's opinion that counts here--though if you click on a movie, it shows user

ratings as well. The ratings options are "Fresh" or "Rotten" (which tomato would you rather eat?). The home page shows the critic rating next to a percentage of how much the movie was enjoyed by critics along with the box office revenue to say how popular the movie is at the moment. The site keeps its ratings up for a very long time, and every so often, will put together a historical movie list (like Best Spaghetti Westerns of All Time, or Best Comedy of the Year), making this a good pick when looking for something to rent as well. Rotten Tomatoes is widely trusted as the consensus that critics have come to, so if you want to find movies that are well rated by the pros, this is the site for you.

All in all, laughs, video, feedback, whatever you like in a review, you can find it if you know where to look.

Salsu Snapshots



Criterion Playlist

by Sylvie Haber



Erase Me- Kid Cudi featuring Kanye West

Coming straight from Kid Cudi's new album, "Man On The Moon II: The Legend Of Mr. Rager", is a song that almost seems outside of Kid Cudi's type of music. This song blends both rock elements and Kid Cudi's lyrics!



The Only Exception- Paramore

Do you ever think to yourself that maybe you need a different type of love song? Well you get that in Paramore's "The Only Exception", from their new album Brand New Eyes. When you hear this song, you get a little bubbly feeling inside, reminding you of that person who holds a soft spot in your heart.



Animal- Neon Trees

Upon first hearing this song debut on KROQ, I immediately fell in love and had to Shazam it! Neon Tree's most popular song comes from their first album, Habits. This song puts me in an upbeat mood and helps me get my day started.



Lay Me Down- Dirty Heads featuring Rome of Sublime

"Lay Me Down" is the revival of a beach goers' paradise and tells the story of two lovers who are on the run. "Lay Me Down" is a song that you just want to relax and soak up some sun to. I love this song, not just because of the relaxing feel to it but also because it reminds me of Sublime!



Hollywood-Michael Buble

Michael Buble changed his classic sound and decided to have some fun in his song, "Hollywood", which comes from his EP of the same name. This song talks about famous people and how they should be true to themselves and not become sell outs, which is a good life lesson for everyone.



In and Out of Love- Armin van Buuren featuring Sharon den Adel

"In and Out of Love" from the album Imagine, is one of the greatest trance songs. Armin van Buuren has a way of adding the right elements into a song. Although there are many other amazing songs by him, this song makes you feel like you are free falling through air.



Dig- Incubus

From their last album, Light Grenades, "Dig" has to be the most meaningful song on it. The song explains a bond that is not just between two lovers, but also between two friends that will always be there for each other no matter what.



Number 1- Pharrell featuring Kanye West

Even though this song is an oldie, it is still one of the top played songs on my iTunes. "Number 1" is the third single by Pharrell from his album, In My Mind. This song is really catchy and I love it because it's a good balance between vocals and rap.



Like a Star- Corinne Bailey Rae

From her album, "Like a Star" is the most personal song I've heard. In "Like a Star", we're brought into her personal life and we all get a feel for what she feels. Another reason why this song is beautiful is that it has a jazz feel to it with very strong vocals. It's a good song to listen to when you want to unwind.



Shiver- Coldplay

From the album, Parachutes, "Shiver" is one of the songs that is still amazing even though it has been ten years since it was first released! This song is also a love song but has the sense that you are just waiting for the right person. "Shiver" is a beautiful and somewhat hopeful song that keeps you going.

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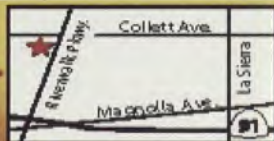
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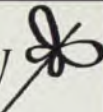
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What's

11

Apostates or Apostles



<i>Off Campus v. On</i>	6
<i>The Perfect Ply</i>	8
<i>Music Playlist</i>	16
<i>Happy New Gear</i>	20

Inside...



24

*Criterion
Oscar Picks*

18

*You're Hot Then
You're Cold*



Natan Vigna Photography



29

*2012
and You*

Editor's Note

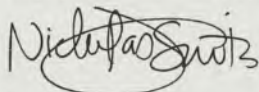
Welcome, one and all, to a much anticipated third issue of Criterion. After a two month absence to celebrate Jesus, Santa, and maxed out credit cards, we're back and on fire for an exciting quarter! My staff and I have had the opportunity during winter break to reflect on life, to muse on the reason for our existence, to contemplate deep questions like, "What's the point of our belly buttons?"

Now, we have returned to campus life, armed with what is arguably one of the greatest weapons in a Criterion staffer's arsenal. Coffee. But the second greatest weapon is fresh ideas. And we have those too. We hope to share them with you now.

Maybe you're in Towers and the internet server's down (Surprise!), you've finished your homework and there's literally nothing to do. Whip out this latest issue and

give it a read. Perhaps business on the toilet is taking longer than usual. Need something to pass the time? Then this magazine is for you. Or maybe you're sitting through another four hour University Studies class and cell phones are to be put away, thus forcing you to sit through an exceptionally boring lecture. What to do? Why not read an article or two?!

Okay, I'm rambling. Point is: wherever you are, find an opportunity in your day to read some of these words that students like yourselves have to say. We guarantee you'll learn at least one new thing. And as you do so, it is our sincere hope that you enjoy it as much as we enjoyed making it.



Nick Smith
Chief Editor



Off Campus v. On Campus

by Kendra Kravig

Boxes shoved into the Chrysler's trunk, clothes strewn across the back seat, my TV strapped into the passenger seat, I drove away from my father's house at the pace of a snail because I didn't want any of my precious cargo to fly out of my convertible. I was 18, and off to my first year at LSU as a doe-eyed high school graduate who was ready for college and the independence that came with it. I arrived at Angwin Hall after an agonizing drive down the 91 freeway, only to realize that the dorm had no elevators, and my room was on the side of the dorm by Gladwyn Hall, meaning I'd have to lug my stuff across the dorm and up two flights of stairs. I quickly regretted my decision to bring my television set, as well as my refusal of my older brother's offer to help me move my stuff into my dorm room. On this rather discouraging note, my dorm life began.

Like me, every freshman has the same choice when they're filling out entrance paperwork: on-campus or off-campus housing. Some of us have no choice: it's the dorm or bust. But others of us have family within a commutable distance, and so the question becomes: to dorm or not to dorm?

Living in the dorm definitely has its perks. Perk #1: the illusion of independence (I say "illusion" because without rent/bills/groceries to pay for, it's really quasi-independence). We all brag to our friends in high school about how, when we get to college, we're going to strike out on our own and declare ourselves free of parental constraints. The dorm offers an ideal environment for this, because while there are

still certain rules put in place for our safety and well-being, like room checks and curfews, we decide what we do with our time without parental input. Perk #2: you are in the middle of campus life. It's easy to get involved with campus activities because you're on campus most of the time. If you want to hear some great music but don't have money for concert tickets, you can mosey down to the Student Center on Tuesday nights for Tuesday Tunes (best part? It's free!). For senior music major Fern Nelson, the dorm isn't only a place to sleep—it's also a place to grow a social life. "The dorm is a great place to live because of the community you become a part of," says Fern. "People that you would normally only have a classroom relationship with become the people that you have sleepovers or all-night movie marathons with." And this brings us to Perk #3: convenience. After having stayed up all night with your roommate, you can catch 30 winks of sleep before you sprint to class, or as Fern puts it: "You can literally roll out of bed 20 minutes before and still get to class in time to choose your favorite seat." As a dorm student, you also don't have to fight for parking spots behind the library or worry about not getting to class on time because of traffic, since your car will be parked in the parking lots reserved for dorm students.

I spent my freshman year at LSU relishing in all of these perks, but as the spring quarter drew to an end, I realized that I did not have the money to dorm for a second year. I would have to move back in with my parents. Having tasted the sweetness of quasi-independence, I hated having to conform back to the rules of my parents'



household. It took a while to adjust back, but then I realized that living at home, rent-free, also had its benefits. Benefit #1: free laundry. No longer did I have to scrounge for quarters under the seats of my car. My mom's washing machine was free, better-working than those in Angwin, and I didn't have to wait for someone else's laundry to be done before I could do my own.

"The dorm is a great place to live because of the community you become a part of," says Fern. "People that you would normally only have a classroom relationship with become the people that you have sleepovers or all-night movie marathons with."

Benefit #2: the commuting experience. Spending more money for gas to get to school wasn't ideal, but on the upside, I spent my mornings listening to good mu-

sic. I also found that the commute made me more alert for my classes, since I had to wake up earlier to make it to my classes on time. Benefit #3: home cooking. After an allergic reaction to cafeteria food at the beginning of my freshman year, every mealtime I would spend 15-20 minutes determining which foods were safe and which ones were not for me. Since my mother shares my bizarre allergy to spinach, any food in her refrigerator is always safe for me to eat. And, let's face it, mom's cooking tastes better because it isn't produced in mass quantities for hundreds of students. And lastly, Benefit #4: cleanliness. In the dorm, there's always that bit of doubt that your bathmate cleaned like he/she said they would, that nagging suspicion that maybe, just maybe, they forgot to clean. At my mom's house, I always knew if the kitchen or bathroom was clean or not because we did all the cleaning ourselves.

Throughout my sophomore year at college, I slowly realized that I preferred living at home to living on-campus. At the end of that first quarter of living at home, I noticed that my GPA had risen significantly, probably because I studied more. I lost weight, exercised more, and learned how to manage my time more effectively. I enjoyed my time dorming in Angwin Hall, but for me, my college experience became a lot more satisfactory when I became a commuter student.

Ultimately, if you're allowed to make the choice between dorming and not dorming, it's up to you as a student. Which atmosphere is better for both your school and personal lives? Remember the saying "You are what you eat"? You are where you live, too.

The Perfect Ply

by Daniel Gramling

At first glance, choosing the right toilet paper may seem trivial in the grand scheme of things. Though toilet paper is considered a necessity, like toothpaste, its value is commonly underestimated. Because of this, customers are left uninformed and resort to purchasing the cheapest generic brands with the lowest quality to save money. Fortunately, there is one brand name that answers all of its customers needs. Charmin Toilet Paper exists to not only inform consumers of its advanced capabilities through advertisements, but also to provide an affordable unique touch to the most sensitive areas including one's pocket. Charmin Toilet Paper's value and performance makes it the best of its kind and should be purchased in place of any other toilet paper.

Charmin Toilet Paper has been known for many things, some of which include the commercials its advertising teams put together. Over the years, each commercial has used a cute harmless grizzly bear family as an imagery technique. As a result, social classes of all ranks are able to view Charmin Toilet Paper as a

universal "family brand" worthy of their purchase. It continues to win support through its jingles and catchy phrases such as "[Charmin]: more absorbent than your regular leading brand I'm sure", techniques of which generic brand advertisers' lack. Generic brands fail to compete with Charmin Toilet Paper in the marketing aspect of advertising, a probable cause of their low budget or confidence in human frugality. Rather than advertise in magazines or on television, generic brands avoid the advertising process and rely on their low prices plastered in stores in red and black large print, hoping that customers see only price, and lack all questions on performance. Conversely, Charmin Toilet Paper advertisements use an array of methods, including a comparison between their product and a generic brand's with a test of absorbency. To no surprise, the generic brand's product loses every single time.

When it comes to performance, Charmin Toilet Paper rises far above competing generic brands. It has been proven to last four times longer than other brands, a leading reason being

its absorbent qualities that allow individuals to get more from less. Charmin Toilet Paper is also more diverse (consisting of four different types), and significantly stronger than generic brands. Upon testing, it was able to withstand the weight of a gum ball after becoming wet. The compared nameless generic brand it was tested against was unable to do so, causing the gum ball to fall through the toilet paper leaving an enormous gaping hole.

“Though toilet paper is considered a necessity, like toothpaste, its value is commonly underestimated.”

Charmin Toilet Paper is undoubtedly a strong force in the toilet paper world, but critics may argue that it costs too much. A twelve-pack of Charmin Toilet Paper costs twice as much as a

twelve-pack of a competing brand known as Scott Naturals Toilet Paper sold at Wal-mart. Consumers could buy two packs of Scott Naturals Toilet Paper, have twice as much toilet paper, and still have money left over. Critics could further argue that no matter how superior Charmin Toilet Paper was to generic brands such as Scott Naturals Toilet Paper, its performance could never excuse the high price it is asking customers to pay.

But despite the price, Charmin Toilet Paper is a fair and reliable product. Through investigation and polling of Facebook as well as Myspace users, I found that, out of twenty votes, ninety-five percent of voters preferred Charmin Toilet Paper over leading generic brands. Out of everyone else who did not vote, their feelings toward toilet paper can be predicted based on the poll results. By means of observation of the poll results I gathered, it seems as if people have no problem spending the necessary funds to buy Charmin Toilet Paper because the product performs so well. Though Charmin toilet paper costs twice as much as any generic brand, at least consumers know that it is a brand they have known for decades, and one that can get the job done properly.



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Apostates or Apostles

by Natalie Romero

On May 25th, 2010, the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists removed La Sierra University from its employee subsidy list. The charge: apostasy.

Some are outraged. Many see it as "old news", since it happened last year. Others have no idea what is going on. The case, I believe, deserves some attention, however—especially after recent visitations from both WASC and AAA accreditation bodies. For those who are not up to date on their religious vernacular, "apostasy" means a complete desertion and departure from one's religion, cause, or principles. La Sierra University has been accused of this desertion due to the inclusion of the theory of evolution in some biology courses.

But repercussions of such action should be considered. When Michigan cut off employee subsidies (financial assistance) to La Sierra, they cut off any chances for the dependents of their employees to attend our university. Adventist education does not come cheap. Conference employees do not get paid well. Were it not for employee subsidies, many people would not be able to attend Adventist institutions. In this economy, taking out loans for school is increasingly dangerous. There has been talk of other conferences taking the same action, which could prove disastrous for many students who are counting on that financial aid in order to attend La Sierra. Elder Jay Galli-

more, President of the Michigan Conference, declined the opportunity to comment on the issue.

There could be repercussions for both current and future teachers who wish to work in schools in the North American Division (NAD) because of the Michigan Conference's declaration. "By eliminating subsidies, Michigan has put not only La Sierra's curriculum but also its instruction methods into question," said Deanne Sparks, a current LSU graduate student and former teacher and school administrator. "How we learn is how we teach and vice versa." The problem lies in that by questioning or blacklisting the school, teachers who earned their degrees at La Sierra might end up finding themselves unemployable by other Adventist schools within the NAD.

"Accreditation is one of the most important marks a university can earn. It is a measure of excellence in education."

Defining just how we learn and how we teach, especially in the field of science at this institution is important. "Different people mean different things when they use the term evolution," said Dr. Gary Bradley, a professor of biology and genetics at La Sierra. He explained that for most

conservative Christians, the word "evolution" carries the usual anti-God connotation. However, for a scientist, the word represents the process by which all kinds of alterations and modifications happen in our world. Dr. Bradley believes that the Creator God designed the world with the ability for evolution to occur, and urges everyone to learn as much as they can about our Lord's created universe. "There is abundant evidence that living things change. Thus evolution is well documented and well supported in the scientific world. It is unconscionable for a science student to remain ignorant of this fundamental aspect of life."

From an administrative standpoint, President Randal Wisbey responded to Michigan's actions as follows: "La Sierra University is an integral part of the Church's shared endeavor to educate our young people to think well and to believe well. Our students constitute our best hope for the future of the Church, a Church that must be responsible, redemptive, and relevant if it intends to meet the needs of the world in the 21st Century."

While Sparks' are legitimate, recent accreditation renewal concerns lays to rest any notion that LSU's quality of education has been compromised. This past summer, WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) reaffirmed La Sierra's accreditation for eight more years; and hopes are high that the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools (AAA) will follow

suit and also renew LSU's accreditation when they convene on March 31st. Accreditation is vital, because it means that the university in question has been deemed to be operating at the level of quality consistent with its mission statement, as well as with the expectations of a school of higher education. As President Wisbey put it, "Accreditation is one of the most important marks a university can earn. It is a measure of excellence in education."

Despite the renewal of accreditation, the WASC evaluation team noted the issues pertaining to LSU's Biology Department. While they understand that it's mainly a denominational issue, it directly touches on several WASC standards, including the roles of the faculty and academic freedom.

"A faith so fragile as not to withstand investigation is not faith at all, but rote belief and meaningless," said Elaine Nelson in a post on the Spectrum blog on October 11, 2010. "Don't enroll in any college until ready to be taught and to learn." As a result, WASC plans to send a team back to our campus later on this spring for

a reevaluation. But despite concern by some, others are confident that this will all subside in time. "I've seen this kind of thing happen in other times and places. Eventually, it has blown over and the focus has shifted elsewhere," said Jocelyn Fay of the Southeastern California Conference. George Virgil Larson, attended Walla Walla College, where there was a disagreement about instruction within some theology classes. "It got to the point where he was asked to spy on the religion teachers, said Larson's daughter. He was expected to report back to other people. It was a big mess at the time."

Many students involved in campus-based ministries have said that we are not apostates, but rather apostles. One such example is Krissy Traustason, who actively participates in Home Base, a ministry open to everyone at La Sierra. "We're made up of devoted students who are dedicated to outreach in our community; we're driven to be missionaries not only in foreign countries, but also here at home," said Traustason.

Jaylene Chung, who is actively involved in missions, agrees. She believes that La Sierra is fulfilling the Adventist church's mission of spreading the gospel and helping others both inside and outside of the program. "[People who have gone through the missions program] have an intense first-hand experience of what it means to step out of their comfort zone to help the global community," said Chung. "On top of that, there are also so many people at LSU who care deeply for others and live

a life as Jesus exemplified, without having even left the country."

La Sierra has a special challenge with missions programming, because a great deal of our student body is not Adventist. Many, in fact, are not even Christian. Despite this, there are several programs aside from missions, such as *STORM*, *Rask@ls*, *REVO*, and the like, where students of every background and belief come together to help make a difference in the lives of those around them, embodying one of the most powerful gospel messages: love your neighbor.

In the opinion of Dr. Kendra Haloviak of the School of Religion, we are a "passionately Adventist institution," far from apostasy. The Twenty-Eight Fundamental Beliefs are some of the most important aspects that define us as a church. And despite what others may say, the Twenty-Eight Beliefs are actually taught in a variety of ways at La Sierra. "When I heard about the decision by the Michigan Conference, I wondered if anyone there had contacted our campus before their action," Haloviak said. "If those with concerns had been able to have a conversation with the members of our community, they would encourage their employees' college-aged children to further their Adventist education at La Sierra University." And with the highest enrollment in recent memory, with 2,098 students registering for Fall quarter, Haloviak's confidence in LSU's standard of education seems to be substantiated.

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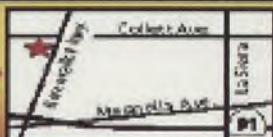
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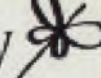
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Music Playlist

by Nick Smith



"Billionaire" by Travis McCoy (feat. Bruno Mars) - The reason I thoroughly enjoy this song is because it perfectly showcases Bruno Mars' song-writing ability in the chorus—a hook that probably made the song the most catchy of 2010. The unapologetically honest lyrics to this tune are consistent with Mars' straightforward hooks for other well known songs this year (see "Grenade" or Cee Lo Green's single of a different, less appropriate name). "What?! Did he just say 'Forget You' on the radio?!"

Tu vuco lo L'Americano by Renato Carosone - I love this classic Italian song. It is about everything American that Italy is not. The irony is the number of Americanized renditions of the song that exist some 50 years after it was written.



"Bright Lights Bigger City" by Cee Lo Green - With roots as a hip-hop solo act, then as one half of a widely successful alternative group, Gnarls Barkley, Cee Lo Green changes directions yet again with his third solo EP with The Lady Killer; a viral compilation of pop songs performed by a soulful crooner, giving us some of the most catchy tunes since Flo Rida's "Get Low".

"In for the Kill" by La Roux - La Roux (pronounced la:ru), a music duo from across the pond, provides a delightfully organic synth-pop sound. The somewhat androgynous lead singer, Eleanor Jackson, belts out simple melodies with such innocence and grace; making obvious the fact that, in an industry dominated by such artists as Britney Spears and Ke\$ha, true talent often times lies low under the radar.



"Home" by Marc Broussard - If it smells like funk, it has to be this guy! A native of Louisiana, Broussard sings like he's been eating the same soul spaghetti as Josh Kelley, but with extra black pepper. "Home" is a feel-good tune about a boy traveling with his dad, headed "home" to New Orleans.

"Window Seat" by Erykah Badu - This woman probably has the most distinct voice in all of R&B. The way she nasally glazes her lonely lyrics over the heavy beats and pulsing keyboard in "Window Seat" with her piercing tone solidifies her place in R&B; if not among those on the radio today, then among others, such as Jill Scott, Mary J, and Chaka Khan, who helped shape and define the genre (Side note: The "Matt and Kim" she pulled in her music video makes this song even more interesting).





"Chasing Pirates" by Norah Jones - I have enjoyed watching the transformation of this 9-time Grammy Award winner from singer-songwriter to the pop music sensation she has become today. What's amazing about this transformation is her retention of that unprocessed sound displayed beautifully in "Chasing Pirates."

"Monster" by Kanye West (feat. Rick Ross, Jay-Z, Nicki Minaj, and Bon Iver) - The fact that my favorite of Kanye's albums is 808s and Heartbreaks should make it obvious that I'm not the biggest fan. But I have to give it up to Kanye for six minutes of collaborative geniusness. Not only does he spit a phat lyric himself, but he features two of the year's most talented MC's, Jay-Z and Nicki Minaj, and a personal fav of mine, Bon Iver (on vocals). Special credit should go to Minaj for a standout performance, establishing herself as a talented entertainer and lyricist.



"Cosmic Love" by Florence + The Machine - Not since Fleetwood Mac have I heard such strong female lead vocals in a band. Florence Welch and her band, The Machine, in their debut album entitled Lungs, conduct a mixture of disturbingly dark and twisted tunes about love and death. In "Cosmic Love", Welch wales a depressing chorus: "No dawn, no day, I'm always in this twilight/In the shadow of your heart." Debbie Downer. anyone?

"Up All Night" by Drake (feat. Nicki Minaj) - Despite Drake's modest Jewish upbringing, his sophomore album, Thank Me Later, is unexpectedly and unabashedly gritty as well as grammatically insane. But I love it! And Drizzy's decision to work with Nicki Minaj on this record, who really did make a milli off a mixtape and probably a couple more from her pre-Pink Friday collaborations (she raps about it and her Young Money family in just about every one of her songs) makes "Up All Night" one of the best songs off the album.



"New York City's Killing Me" by Ray LaMontagne and the Pariah Dogs - Ray LaMontagne continues his reign as king of the folk-rock genre with his fourth studio LP, God Willin' and the Creek Don't Rise. His songs have a feel good quality to them and have been featured in Hallmark and dog food commercials (How much more feel good can you get?). This song is a more subdued track off God Willin', talking about the perils of city life and a girl he once loved who lives there.

"The Cave" by Mumford & Sons - I never thought the banjo would be cool until I heard Mumford and his "sons" rock out with it on their debut EP, Sigh No More. These four young English chaps do a surprisingly fine job at mainstreaming an old folk sound in their songs, making them one of the most contagious new acts of the 2010.



You're Hot Then You're Cold

by Paula Hernandez



Natan Vigna Photography

For those students, employees, and faculty who spend nearly every waking hour in the beloved library (which is often viewed as their second home), their patience and perseverance has been tested daily as they are forced to endure the wrath of an indecisive thermostat. Although this is a problem that has been occurring for several years, more and more people have been taking notice that the temperature of the library fluctuates rapidly between two extremes: hot and cold.

During the first week of January, several employees returned to work in the library prior to the start of winter quarter. The weather outside was gloomy, cold, and wet, as predicted. Expecting to arrive at work and find refuge from the disagreeable cold, the library employees entered the building and quickly discovered that the temperature in their work environment was as cold, or colder, as the weather outside, and nothing could be done about it. Darren Thomas, a sophomore who works in the Circulation Department, was one of the unfortunate few scheduled to work that week. When asked what it was like working under these conditions, he

responded by saying, "The temperature here is insane! It changes every so often...I was wearing six layers of clothes: I had a hoodie on, a sweater, a shirt, a long-sleeve shirt, and an undershirt. And I was still cold".

It is not only cold temperature which causes discomfort for students, but heat as well. At times, the temperature seems to rise to unbearable highs in the library, leaving everyone to cook like a turkey. More specifically, there are certain areas that seem to be affected more than others. The third floor appears to heat up the most, especially the big study room next to Periodicals, while the basement (first floor) is significantly cooler.

As a student employee for the library (I work in the Periodicals Department), I am able to experience first-hand the effect that this issue is having on the students. Quite often, students have come to me, begging for the air conditioning to be turned on because studying is simply impossible when sweat keeps dripping on their textbooks. The only solution, I sympathetically tell them, is to move to another area or open the doors of the study room to allow for some ventila-

tion. While I have only experienced a minor handful of these frustrated students, Darren receives at least 3 complaints per week, if not more. What irritates students and the most is the fact that the library has no control over the heating and cooling system, despite there being thermostat control boxes scattered throughout the building. The HVAC system, as it is commonly called, is controlled by Physical Plant. Library Director, Kitty Simmons, explains that there is minimal information for the reasons the temperature fluctuates so much, or as to who really has control over this device. As she simply puts it, "All we do is tell [Physical Plant] when we have problems."

"The temperature here is insane! It changes every so often...I was wearing six layers of clothes: I had a hoodie on, a sweater, a shirt, a long-sleeve shirt, and an under-shirt. And I was still cold!"

When a student complains, the most that employees are able to do is make a phone call to Physical Plant and report the problem, and then hope that either the heat or AC will kick in fast. Physical Plant supposedly has the ability to regulate the HVAC system, but apparently their control is more limited than imagined. Al Valdez, Director of Facilities Management on campus, and his team of technicians and managers, informed me that with the library's "inefficient, antiquated, and complicated system, the ability to control things is not possible." They are doing their very best to maintain an average temperature of 72 degrees, but it proves to be very difficult without a modernized, digital system that would allow for a visual record of current temperatures in each room. As of now, Physical Plant "relies on people's say-so as for what the environment is," and thus any changes made occur only when people complain. The concern with this method seems to be that everybody's internal thermostat is wired differently. For some it may be freezing cold, but that same temperature

for others is perfectly fine, leaving the poor workers up at Physical Plant to go crazy as they attempt to please everyone.

There is only one solution for this hectic mess: modernize the current HVAC system. Physical Plant is pushing towards making this change in the near future, with Al Valdez commenting that "research and meetings with several promising vendors have already been taking place." After an affordable and compatible company is selected, the question remains as to when it can be done. A job of this sort requires time; something not very easily found on a university campus. It takes at least a month for the company to gather, assemble, and ship all the parts, in which it will then take a full two weeks to install. Time scheduling has been one of the main reasons for why the system has not been modernized as of yet. It is simply impossible for construction work to be done during the scorching heat of summertime or the raining and flooding season of the winter. For many students, it would be almost catastrophic if Physical Plant attempts to work with their noisy machinery and trucks when school is in session, or, worse yet, during finals week. Already, I hear complaints from those who live at the dorms that their precious hours of slumber are being cut in half because of those who cut the grass early in the mornings. I can guarantee that the ruckus and commotion that will result with the new installation of the system would be exponentially worse.

As it can be seen, there is no opportune moment to modernize. Yet, Physical Plant and Administration both feel that a functioning HVAC system is crucial on a university campus, and thus they are striving to tackle this problem wholeheartedly as swiftly as possible. As for now, maybe we as students should attempt to be more patient the next time we are in the library studying.

...That, and always have both our thermals and tank tops handy.

Happy New Gear

by Chuck Dickerson

Class has barely started and I'm bored out of my mind. Although I'm physically here, my mind is absent. It's a new quarter; I know I should be listening for clues for our first exam, but today I don't care.

I reach into my bag and grab a book I've been reading by Oscar Lenius entitled "A Well-Dressed Gentleman's Pocket Guide." Flipping through pages regarding the history of knitwear, I grow tired of it and toss it back to its resting place. My mind is busy, but the clock doesn't seem to be moving. So I reach for my MacBook, close the blank Microsoft Word document I had opened for notes, and open Safari. The Google search begins.

So break out your color wheels and mix some highlights into your darkest outfits. Let your bright colors shine as the sun takes her vacation.

While listening for test terms and homework hints, I simultaneously hunt for denim deals and shoe sales.

I can trace the roots of this illness to my childhood, when Christmas was a time when I went from a poor beggar to a splurging king. I can remember racing to the local mall to spend my riches on countless pairs of shoes. No matter the cost, I felt an honest need for Nike Air Maxes and Timberland boots. These remain few of my fondest memories as each New Year I was draped in fresh new gear.

Now that I am a grown college student, splurging has become an increasingly rare thrill and the realities of bills and bare necessities have sunk into my bank account. However, I haven't fully rejected the tradition as of yet, and have discovered some new looks that 2011 has delivered for both men and women alike.

Despite the typical drab that manifests throughout the winter season, 2011 has done away with such protocol. I'm here to tell you that colors are widely permitted and even encouraged this New Year. So break out your color wheels and mix some highlights into your darkest outfits. Let your bright colors shine as the sun takes her vacation.

The secret of the season is to know which piece in your closet

LAUREN PRADO

- 
- 1 What's your favorite thing about LSU?
 - 2 What's your favorite online shop?
 - 3 Who inspires your style?
 - 4 Where is your dream vacation?
 - 5 What's the most common statement about your style?
 - 6 My favorite midnight snack is...
 - 7 What trend should die?
 - 8 What's your favorite food?
 - 9 What's the perfect date?
 - 10 What's your favorite accessory?
 - 3 Agyness Deyn
 - 8 Homemade Cuban food
 - 9 A picnic and a nap, maybe even a bike ride
 - 10 My prescription glasses
 - 7 Crocs
 - 4 Tokyo, Japan
 - 1 The Koi Fish pond
 - 2 TopShop.com
 - 6 Pizza and cereal
 - 5 "Are those grandma pants?"

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FRESHMAN
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

is deemed the most valuable by the fashionistas. This New Year, pack your drawer with a variety of denim tops. When done right they offer a crisp alternative to the customary cotton tops you are overstocked with. You can find an array of them from zip-up vests to button-down dress shirts wherever you shop. Denim jackets are also fun to throw over your formal wear when heading out for a night in the city. The key is (as is with most clothing) to wear these tops true to size or even a size under what you would typically wear. This keeps one looking of age while more comfortable than those woolled-up preppies.

Now, it is important to note that with the addition of denim tops to one's closet comes the need for bottoms of alternative variety. Go find the pair of vintage khaki chinos you wore at your respected Academy and dump them in the nearest wastebasket. This time, search for a pair that actually fit, baring only enough room for comfort. Once you've spotted a khaki pair, go nuts and add some colored chinos to your collection. Make sure they are trim and tapered, and most importantly, without pleats. (Ladies, pleats are acceptable in your case.)

This next must-have of 2011 may make me seem like I have lost my marbles, but I ask that you hear me out. This year making their official debut out of the house, are sweat-pants. I have found a new appreciation for these living room giants and foresee them making more public appearances over the next several months than ever before. Now, be mindful that I don't mean the seven year old, gray sweats you wear every Sunday. I'm talking about the heavier Navy blue or black, low-rise sweats that fit comfortably and do not bunch. Just so long as their design and fit are kept appropriate these weekend staples are ready for the spotlight.

Finally, though it is not a looker say, this is the year for you to find your signature scent in a perfume or cologne. In years past one was able to pass by wearing exceeding amounts of deodorant alone. Well boys and girls, it is time to cut back on the antiperspirant and find a fragrance that suits you. Remember that subtly is key. Overdoing is immature. Keep it fresh and simple.

Good luck in your search for Happy New Gear!

RYAN HAHN

1 Where's the best place to find lady friends?

2 What cologne do you wear?

3 Favorite thrift store?

4 Who inspires your style?

5 Favorite restaurant?

6 What's your fashion secret?

7 What's your favorite sport?

8 What is the perfect date?

9 Who are the most influential people in your life?

10 Where are you in seven years?

7 Basketball, I have a famous twin brother in the NBA, his name's Yao Ming

6 Using a tailor makes the world of a difference

9 My mom and President Wisbey

10 On the cover of Time Magazine

2 My natural body scent, I'm told I smell like grapefruit

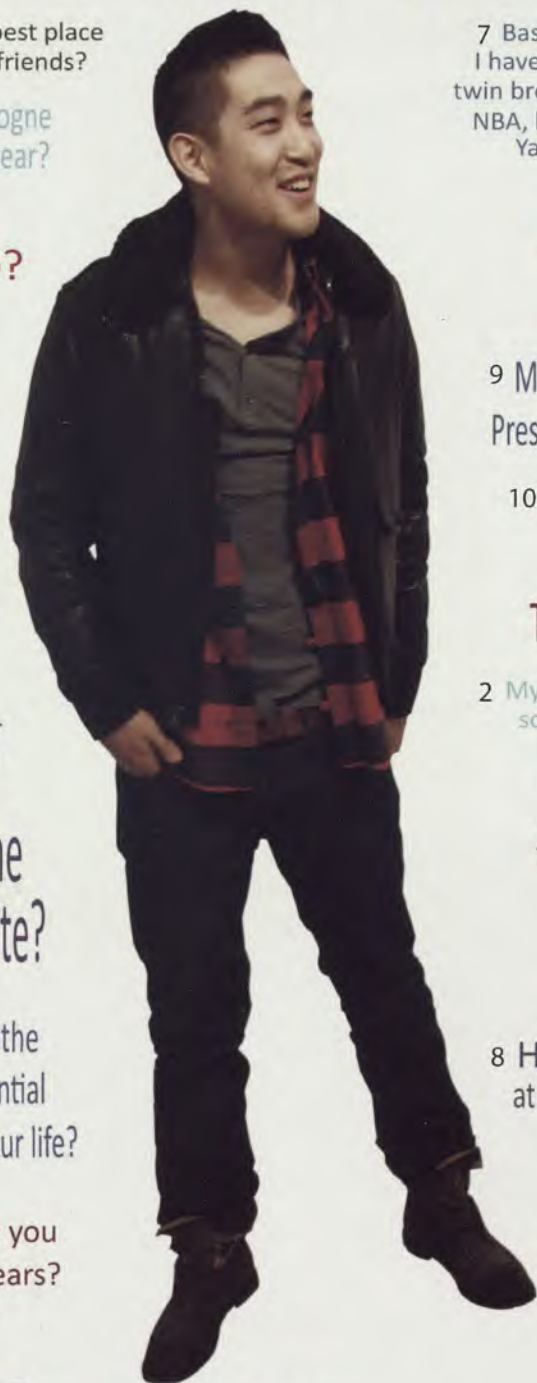
3 Goodwill, Ten VHS tapes for \$2.00

5 Oasis Vegetarian Cafe

8 Hanging out at The Cove saving dolphins

4 Ghandi & Moses

1 Museums and bookstores because I am an intellect



SENIOR
BUSINESS
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA

Criterion Oscar Picks

by Jeremy Caesar

What Should Win??

Black Swan uses the outward delicacy of ballet and the horrors of losing one's mind in order to create a passionate psychodrama about the perils of the artistic process. The film's success hinges on Natalie Portman's ability to make you believe in her character's psychological transformation and she achieves this feat magnificently. Darren Aronofsky, undoubtedly inspired by Roman Polanski's *Repulsion*, crafts a thrilling descent into madness by taking the verisimilitude of *The Wrestler* and injecting it with a wave of insanity resulting in the most brazen and purely visceral cinematic experience of 2010.

Black Swan



The Fighter



The King's Speech



The Kids Are All Right



Inception

Best Picture



127 Hours

YOU DON'T
GET TO
500 MILLION
FRIENDS
WITHOUT MAKING
A FEW
ENEMIES

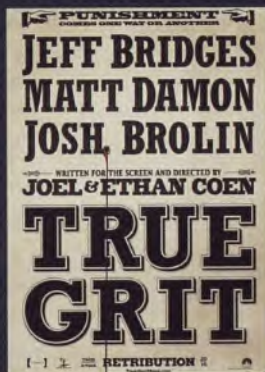
Social Network

What Will Win??

For a significant part of the race it seemed as if *The Social Network* was a surefire bet for Best Picture. But after the Producers Guild of America and the Directors Guild of America gave *The King's Speech* their respective top honors, the Best Picture award slowly slipped away from *The Social Network's* grasp. *The King's Speech* is the type of film members of the Academy love. It displays fantastic writing, spectacular acting, and assured direction. It's also a prestigious period piece with a sense of humor and relatable characters. It's not as daring or deserving a choice as *The Social Network*, but it is a great film nonetheless.



Toy Story 3



True Grit



Winter's Bone

Best Actor



Jesse Eisenberg
The Social Network

James Franco
127 Hours



Jeff Bridges
True Grit

Colin Firth
The King's Speech



Javier Bardem
Biutiful

Who Should Win??

Colin Firth uses his dry wit and subtle introspection to instill King George the VI (Bertie for short) with a powerful sense of humanity, making the reluctant monarch's insecurities and frustrations tangible and poignant.

Best Actress



Michelle Williams
Blue Valentine

Natalie Portman
Black Swan



Nicole Kidman
Rabbit Hole

Annette Bening
The Kids are All Right



Jennifer Lawrence
Winter's Bone

Who Should Win??

Natalie Portman doesn't merely perform, she exists in this world where everyone is ostensibly out to get her while she slowly loses grip of reality. At an integral moment in the film, Nina whispers to herself, "I was perfect." I'd agree.

Best Supporting Actor



Mark Ruffalo
The Kids are All Right

Geoffrey Rush
The King's Speech



Jeremy Renner
The Town

Christian Bale
The Fighter



John Hawkes
Winter's Bone

Who Will Win??

Christian Bale, once again, disappears into a role with all the bravura he's been missing in recent performances. He captures Dicky's otherworldly mannerisms and embodies a nuanced, entertaining, and tragic man who simply wants to do right by everybody.

Best Supporting Actress



Amy Adams
The Fighter

Hailee Steinfeld
True Grit



Melissa Leo
The Fighter

Helena Bonham Carter
The King's Speech



Jacki Weaver
Animal Kingdom

Who Will Win??

Character actress Melissa Leo, Oscar nominated three years ago for *Frozen River*, delivers a wildly enjoyable performance in *The Fighter* as the fiery Alice Ward, a mother who desperately, and at times villainously, wants the best for her boys.

Best Director

Who Should Win??

Who Should Win: Darren Aronofsky's affinity for cinematic expression is undeniable. With *Black Swan* he fervently pushes every aspect of filmmaking from acting to cinematography to their limits, creating a bold and imaginative masterpiece.



Darren Aronofsky
Black Swan



David Fincher
The Social Network



Joel and Ethan Coen
True Grit



Tom Hooper
King's Speech



David O. Russell
The Fighter

Who Will Win??

Tom Hooper picked up a great deal of steam after winning the Directors Guild of America award over the apparent favorite David Fincher. His direction for *The King's Speech* is solid, and while I can't say he deserves the award, he's definitely the favorite to win.

2012 and You

by Sheldon Benjamin

December 21, 2012 is when the government will turn off the force field protecting Earth from all the bad aliens. No, wait, it's when we slip into the center of the galaxy and meet up with the Martians... I mean Mayans. Er...no, no, it's when John Cusack races to reach the "arks" that the government made to protect us from when a chain of catastrophic events is triggered. Ah, yes, that's it. Well okay, maybe not. Centropolis Entertainment and Columbia Pictures spent an estimated \$200 million on the film 2012 and made about \$225 million worldwide. And who knows how much money Blizzard Entertainment put into

their cataclysm expansion of "World of Warcraft." The end must be near. At least somebody is making money in this economy.

At the office in which I work, somebody mentioned all the animals that had died around the world and how scientists can't figure out what killed them. Right after the topic came up, another person cryptically whispered "Twenty twelve...ooooh." (It wasn't me I promise.) The phrase has weaseled its way into everyday talk and anything tinged with conspiracy is often accompanied with an utterance of next year. There are hundreds of theories on 2012, and new ones seem to be concocted in conjunction with, or in explanation for, every new problem the earth experiences. So in overviewing some popular theories and foundations of the idea of "Doomsday 2012" and applying them to our society, we should ask one important question; does any of this matter? If there are countless scientists, and even governments, that have actually looked into the ideas surrounding 2012 and what it could yield for us, then you can't help but wonder if there's anything substantial behind all the outland-



ish speculations.

Now in order to comprehend all the 2012 hype, you have to understand the founders of the doomsday idea. Enter the Mayan civilization. The oldest Mayan settlement was discovered in Belize and dates back to around 1000 BC, but the exact dates of their civilization are a bit sketchy. Long story short, the Mayans were obsessed with math and science and blended their science into their spirituality. So they set out on a quest to understand cosmic synchronicity, kind of like what Apple did when creating the iPad, but what the Mayans came up with lacked a touch screen and the ability to play "Angry Birds." The product of their curiosity was a super calendar able to predict a lunar eclipse thousands of years in the future. The History Channel claims that the Mayan calendar is more accurate than our own.

"In the 8th Century AD, the Mayan calendar predicted that white skin bearded gods would arrive from across the sea on March 5th, 1519. On that exact date, Cortez and his conquistadors arrived in the new world." (History Channel) Okay Mayans, you got lucky this time, but what else have you predicted? Well, after

about 1000 years of working on this calendar, the Mayans finally came up with a date of a "great cycle's end." There are supposedly 5 great cycles, and according to the Mayans, 2012 would be the end of the 5th. They describe this event as the Sun crossing into a dark rift (or dark mother as they also call it) which was also understood as a black hole at the center of the galaxy. It wasn't until about 8 years ago that Western Science even knew that there was a black hole at the center of our galaxy. Many geologists believe this "crossing over" would push the earth into a possible pole shift, relocating the poles and essentially remapping the surface of the earth. Perhaps it is already happening? Tampa International Airport has had to remark one of their runways due to a shift in the magnetic north on January 13th. (TBO.com)

Now aside from the History Channel with its doom and gloom, there are hundreds of videos and written works by home scientists explaining much of the same information with various other outcomes. Essentially, on the winter solstice of 2012, which is December 21, the sun will cross the galactic plane. I saw one video

that used apples and oranges for the sake of simplicity, and to be honest, it was my favorite. Now the sun has crossed this plane before, and actually does so once a year, but it is only once every 26,000 years that scientists claim the sun will cross the galactic plane while in line with the earth on winter solstice. This crossing of the sun actually occurred in 1998. The reason the Mayans picked 2012 was because from Southern Mexico and the Yucatan Peninsula, it will be visible as more of an all-day event where the sun will start to cross at dawn and finish crossing at sunset with the plane of the galaxy behind it.

"The Mayan calendar predicted that white skin bearded gods would arrive from across the sea on March 5th, 1519. On that exact date, Cortez and his conquistadors arrived in the new world. Okay Mayans, you got lucky this time"

So, since it already happened, what's the big deal? It could be

that because all the turmoil and problems the world has been going through, people are hoping for something big to change everything. I have a friend that believes the entire world will have an epiphany all that the same time. Wouldn't that be nice? When it boils down to it, there is only one statement we should be concerned about, and that is what the Bible says. In Mark 13:32, Jesus said, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (NIV) Just like Y2K, there will be continuous speculation about how things will go down on one December 21, 2012, and the media will stop at nothing to blow it out of proportion.

The next few years of our lives will be both trying, exciting, and revolutionary, regardless of a robotic zombie apocalypse. There are a hundred theories on how or why the world will end, but instead of listening to those that try to decide how it will end, why not trust the words of He who decided how it began? So tell your friends and family that you love them. Not because 2012 is just around the corner, but because you love them.

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RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

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What's

08

*With Love,
From Egypt*



04 Active Adult Living

07 Turning 21

16 Honors Trip

21 Wingtip Fashion Blog

Inside...



27

Game Over

17

*All That
Jazz*



30

*When The
Fog Sets*



Editor's Note

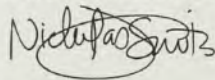
SPRING BREAK!!! WOOHOO!!! Okay, a little too early perhaps, but someone's got to lighten the mood so that the busyness of "dead" week doesn't kill us all. In the midst of all your final papers, wretched group presentations, and cramming for exams, you might experience a moment of coherency when you ask yourself, "Wasn't there an issue of the Criterion a couple weeks ago?" The answer is yes. Well, three weeks ago. But to my staff and me, it seems like it was yesterday when we published "Apostates or Apostles." Which is why it has taken so much work to complete our fourth issue of the school year in so little time.

I have had the pleasure of working with some very talented writers new to the Criterion staff, showcasing their creativity and eloquence in our first short story, poem, and opinion piece of the year—"Active Adult Living" in particular is thoroughly and perfectly applicable to student life here on campus.

We are also presented with an inspiring piece that focuses on Germeen Yousry, one of La Sierra's own, who is serving abroad in Africa as a student missionary in "With Love, From Egypt." It touches on the political unrest in her home country and how it has shaped her outlook on the work she has been doing in Kenya.

But the time crunch we worked under doesn't mean my staff and I aren't proud of it. In fact—and I speak for all of us when I say—working on this publication has made us proud to be a part of such an important group of journalists here on campus. And it has been a sincere pleasure to share that with our La Sierra community.

Good luck with final exams and have an awesome spring break!!



Nick Smith
Chief Editor



Active Adult Living

by Patrick Garrett York



As I drove up Sierra Vista and noticed the building progress of the Center for Adult Living adjacent to the soccer field. Faux-Spanish facades of stucco with balconies and red-tiled roofs loom where a mess of naked wooden frames stood hauntingly a few months ago. The aging, grinning faces of a woman and her husband look towards Sierra Vista from a vinyl advertisement, towards the rest of their “active” lives, as the sign reads below them.

It’s an old-folks home, but they can’t call it that if they want to sell apartments. It must promise its tenants independence and activity in the twilight of their lives, which will be spent on what used to be university property, with box seats to all

our softball games.

The space is better used than empty and littered with dead desert plants like it was before the project began, but the building that will soon be filled with our potential grandmothers pushes me to think. How “active” are the students across the street?

Academy kids or church youth sometimes say they won’t come to La Sierra because we are a “commuter school.” I could imagine them outside drive thru windows on campus:

“Hello ma’am, welcome to La Sierra, would you like to try our new criminal justice program today?” the records office offers.

Continuation

"No thanks, but I would like a super-sized microbiology. I'm headed over to Loma Linda, I just wanted to grab a snack on my way there."

It sounds indulgent, but the majority of students just plan to pass through, going on to other things: graduate work, medical school, law school. I myself am guilty of being preoccupied with future educational plans. La Sierra may just be a place where we're picking up a super-sized serving of B.S. or B.A. before heading on to the important part.

La Sierra may just be a place where we're picking up a super-sized serving of B.S. or B.A. before heading on to the important part.

What does that do to the culture of the school? Are passersby willing contribute to a university atmosphere that's worth sticking around for over the weekend, especially if the week's obligations have drained them of their energy? What would happen if our university became more than just a commuter campus? What if even the people who live outside our gates stuck around the campus on Saturday or Sunday? What if the Founder's Green was flooded with our 2000 plus students on weekends or be-

tween classes who laugh and talk and yell? What would happen if our campus bustled like every other university campus?

If our campus did bustle and hustle more often than the ten minutes before University Worship on Thursdays, maybe a few more of the young people in our churches and at the academies would think about La Sierra as a university, and not as a stop-off point. Maybe we would start having the same impression. The task is ours: the administration is not responsible for campus culture. Student Life, Spiritual Life, and OSA aren't responsible. Regardless of who puts on a campus event, only the students can choose to show up and share a college experience.

An old folks home just moved next door. Let's keep this fact ironic by being more "active" than our active adult neighbors. We are college students. We can become a university that people hear about, not because of obscure controversy, but because of our collective spirit. We can represent not only a place to go for an excellent education, but also a place to go for an excellent university experience, like the one we polish up for the academy students that come visit us every year.

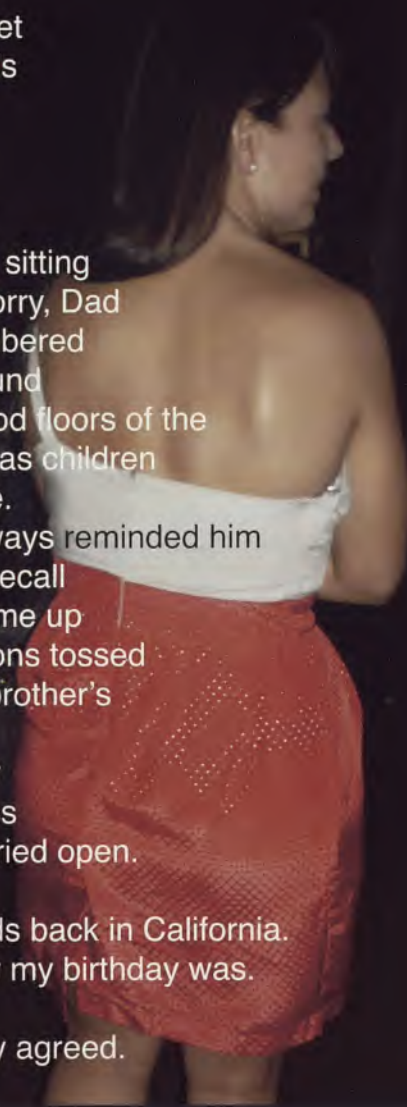
We have had shining moments in the past, when the Founder's Green is filled with people, when Matheson or HMA cannot house all of the patrons at a campus play or opera, when the music and the smell of hot dogs waft across campus from the bio-physics club's annual barbecue, when SIFE, REVO, or Project Pueblo host an event. We have shown our potential to be a university community. Let's do it more. I, for one, am gonna stay here for the weekend.

by Ruthie Heavrin

The plane landed in Baltimore and I stood waiting for my dad. I thought back of yesterday, when I was eating at Gourmet Pizza Shoppe with my friends for my birthday.

I woke up with geology in my mouth craving poetry instead. My brother, smiling, sitting sipping coffee said "Don't worry, Dad understands." Then I remembered my brother spinning me around with his hand across the wood floors of the bar wearing his grin we had as children when our parents were gone. That grin that my mother always reminded him cost thousands of dollars. I recall both of my brothers picking me up for a picture with our inhibitions tossed under the bar table like my brother's throw-up. I did not forget my future sister-in-law in her Chesapeake crab meat dress laughing like a clam being pried open.

I sat in church with my friends back in California. They asked in whispers how my birthday was. I said it was wonderful. The pizza was delicious they agreed.



With Love, From Egypt

by Nick Smith

Germeen watched as one of her Rwandese students put pencil to paper in a last ditch effort to learn the math formulas she had struggled relentlessly to understand. The fluorescent lights of the Maxwell Adventist Academy library grew seemingly brighter by each passing hour. But both were determined to produce quality results on the following day's quiz—Germeen in her teaching career and the student in her academic one. And the dedication paid off. The next day, her student boasted her highest grade on a quiz up to that point.

But many Egyptians, her included, had grown tired of national security at the expense of their civil liberties. Thus was the inception of often times violent political revolution.

"I think the best part, for me, is watching my students succeed," said Germeen Yousry, an undergraduate at La Sierra University and current student missionary, serving as an acad-

emy math and history teacher in Kenya. "It was a joy to see the results on her quiz and...that she remembered everything we went over the night before."

Contributing to her students' intellectual and spiritual growth is part of Yousry's daily routine at Maxwell, a prestigious Adventist preparatory academy in the nation's capitol of Nairobi. According to Yousry, the school itself took her by surprise. The running water, high speed internet, and stiff tuition fees contrasted the rural school house she had imagined when she signed up. Still, Yousry—an international student from Egypt—was surprised even more by the culture shock. "I thought Kenyan culture would be very close to Egyptian culture. Egypt is in Africa, but [now] I feel that it is [very] different than the part of Africa I live in." While cultural differences can make any transition tough, Yousry seems to have learned to appreciate and respect Kenyan culture by learning from her students and investing in her community. "I'm very glad that I decided to step out in faith and come here this year," she said. And that decision will undoubtedly help her with her career aspirations of being a missionary academy teacher.

But, as with any missionary experience, the task does not come without its difficulties. "My first semester working here was challenging," said Yousry. "It was hard for me to connect with the students and it was a struggle to find [that] balance between being firm, [yet] loving at the same time." She is, however, no stranger to new and unfamiliar



Continuation

places. In 2008, she enrolled as a freshman here at LSU—submersed in a new environment, a new country, and a new culture. Graduating from Nile Union Academy, the only Adventist academy in Egypt (and a U.S. accredited institution), it made sense for her to continue her studies here. Two years, and many friendships later, Yousry was ready to take on a new challenge: being an SM back home in Africa. And after first getting acquainted with new faces and new demands, she says the experience has been nothing but rewarding for her.

But the same cannot be said of her family back home in Cairo. In January of this year, the Yousry's experienced social and political upheaval when riots broke out against former Egyptian President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak's regime.

Through a process of single-candidate elections, Mubarak had maintained control of Egypt, ruling autocratically for 30 years. For much of Mubarak's "pharaonic" rule, the regime operated under emergency law; a political concept in which a state justifies such stringent anti-terrorist tactics—like "temporary" suspension of constitutional rights, extension of police power, censorship, and indefinite imprisonment—citing the inevitability of terrorist activity otherwise. The situation hit close to home when internet and cellular communication was shut down by the government, making it impossible for Yousry and brother, John (who also studies at LSU) to communicate with their family.

Fear of terrorism, especially in the post 9/11 in which we live, is a legitimate fear, and one echoed by Yousry. "I was afraid that the Muslim Brotherhood would take over the county," said she. "Fortunately, that did not happen."

The world watched as the streets of Cairo, Alexandria, and those of other prominent cities filled with angry mobs protesting Mubarak and his company. Innocents were trampled, cars set ablaze, even CNN news correspondents physically beaten down for the cause. And Nile Union Academy, Yousry's alma mater, eventually locked its doors for safety along with most other institutions and businesses. Things, in fact, got so bad in Cairo, that the Adventist Conference ordered the evacuation of all foreign student missionaries working at the academy as well as temporary asylum for all Egyptian faculty to Lebanon. Yousry's mother, who currently serves as dean of the school, chose to stay behind with some Sudanese students who had no families in Egypt, making due with limited resources. "The school decided to send some workers to buy as much food from [the] market as they could," said Yousry. "They stored the food at the school so all the faculty would be able to buy food from the café. Everyone had to [stay] up all night to guard their property and families, including NUA."

Despite the civil unrest and subsequent resignation and flight of former President Mubarak in early February, however, President Obama and Vice-President Biden had been hesitant to take an active stance



against the regime since the country has been a loyal U.S. ally in the region. Additionally, with Egypt formerly acting as a mediator between Palestinian/Israeli conflict, one can see the merits of such support for peaceful dealings within Egypt. Fear of Islamic extremists taking over in the wake of the country's power vacuum, as well as the domino affect in neighboring countries prevents many politicians from taking any one definitive stance.

Even Egyptian sentiments are mixed. Since Mubarak's leadership is all Yousry has ever known, it is hard for her to opine on the efficacy of the former president's regime or the future of Egypt, but she is confident that things are going to change for the better. "Now that the army is in charge of the county until an election takes place, I think that the future of

Egypt is going to be a lot better than the past. Now, the government realizes very well how much power the people have and that they won't allow any more corruption."

Through all the corruption and violence, there shines a glimmer of hope; an energetic, brown-eyed girl at the front of a Kenyan classroom. In the face of the fear Yousry and her family faced during this time, her goal of carrying out God's mission work remains focal. "I knew that God called me to take a year off and go to Kenya," Yousry told me. "I'm very glad that I decided to step out in faith and come here this year. I've been very dependent on God every step of my way. [And] because of that strong connection, it's been a lot easier to realize how God works in my life and the lives of the people around me."

Music Playlist

by Andrew Lewis



"Old School Love" by IMX

This song is off the 1999 album *Introducing IMX*. It has a pop/hip-hop sound and it shows off a mature sound of IMX, who used to be called Immature. It's a real catchy song and coincidentally the lyrics really speak to them maturing as a group, although that's not what the song is about.



Solange – "T.O.N.Y."

This song is off the 2008 album *Sol-Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams*. The song has a real Motown, 70s funk sound to it and the title alone makes you intrigued. If you don't read the title, then you think the song is about a specific person. But if you listen to the lyrics, you'll definitely hear otherwise. Great song for Solange to step out of big sis Bevoncé's shadow.



MIA – "Come Around"

Off the gold album, *Kala*, "Come Around" is a real rhythmic track produced by Timbaland, a great producer who got his start in R&B and hip-hop, but now does all genres. If you're familiar with Timbaland's work, you hear his sound easily in the beat. While MIA's vocals may not shine completely in this track, she definitely keeps up with the production.



The Roots – "The Spark"

I could get into how dope The Roots are; a band that plays live music with one rapper with amazing lyrics. Just listen to this song and that'll tell you all you need to know about them. Classic Roots sound, classic Black Thought (band front-man) lyrics. That makes for an incredible song. Enjoy.



Janelle Monáe – "Locked Inside"

Probably the best you've never heard or heard of and that's a shame. Off of her latest album, *ArchAndroid*, "Locked Inside" is an upbeat track that channels the late Michael Jackson. It's quite hard to show your great vocals on a fast paced song but Monáe makes it seem effortless.

Lupe Fiasco – "Hurt Me Soul"

Off his masterful yet incredibly underrated debut album, *Food & Liquor*, the Chicago MC raps of the ills of the world in a very poetic way. Lyrically, an amazing song and I really don't have enough superlatives to describe it. Whether you're a casual hip-hop fan or a fanatic, you should be able to appreciate this song.



Gwen Stefani & Johnny Vulture – "Bubble Pop Electric"

First off, for those of you wondering who Johnny Vulture is, it's Andre 3000's (from OutKast) alter-ego. If you watch the "Hey Ya!" music video, you'll be confused no more. Okay, about the song. This song combined the great creative minds of Stefani (from the band No Doubt) and 3000. The beat is very pop frenetic and is guaranteed to at least have you tapping your feet. Catchy hook, not great lyrically and as an OutKast fan, I definitely wanted a verse from 3000 but a fun song nonetheless.



John Legend – "Live It Up"

Off his 2004 debut album, *Get Lifted*, "Live It Up" is a real feel good song. The kind of song you hear when you just got a paycheck and your bills are paid, or if you had a phenomenal day and you're just happy. The intro to the song just provides you with a good feeling and it's a welcomed change of pace from the sound on the album.



Will Smith – "Chasing Forever"

Yes, Will Smith. Yes, from *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* and all those movies. Moving on, off the 1998 album, *Big Willie Style*, this hidden song has a nice, wedding song feel to it. Borrowing a great Stevie Wonder sample (*Ribbon In The Sky*), Smith seems to pour his heart out to his wife as he encourages them to "chase forever". Good background vocals from Jagged Edge as well. Also, here's a fun fact: Nas wrote this song.



Justin Timberlake – "Love Don't Love Me"

Off 2003's *Bad Boys II* soundtrack, Timberlake sings over a futuristic type beat about a girl who doesn't seem to love him. This track seems like it would be better suited on his Grammy-nominated album, *LoveSex/Future-Sounds* but, besides the great production and vocals, I like this song because it was made specifically for this soundtrack; the way soundtracks used to be—new songs from artists, not throwaway tracks. If you like Justin Timberlake post-N'Sync, then this is the track for you.



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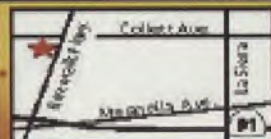
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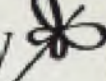
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Honors Trip

by Caitlin Miller

It would seem that the only people who know about the Honors program are those who are actually in it. A little sect within La Sierra University, the program is made up of no more than seventy students and faculty, all coming from various departments across campus.

But where are these students? Most of the time, the Honors students aren't even noticed by the rest of the student body until graduation. On that hot day in June, they get to wear a coaster-sized medallion, and receive a wordier diploma. Most of the time, you can catch Honors students with their heads in their books as they strive to maintain their minimum 3.5 GPAs. On rare occasions, you might almost get run over by one as he or she darts to class. If you listen carefully, you can even hear their footsteps above the English Department in South Hall—the Honors dorm is located on the second floor.

There are only a few things that separate Honors students from the rest of the student body. While most university students are taking their required studies, Honors students take university honors classes geared towards

“discussion and education in a global context.” Most Honors classes are customized to explore many disciplines. In addition to extra classes and projects, Honors students are required to go on an overseas trip during the summer before entering their third year in the program.

These students hope to see change so that they will be able to register in the spring. Some students claim that if the letter is not taken seriously, they will leave the program.

Lately, however, Honors students have been concerned with the amount of out-of-pocket money needed to pay for this mandatory trip. In past years, the trip has been divided into two

sections: four units in spring quarter and four units in the adjacent summer quarter. Before last school year, students paid for the trip using their tuition money taken from spring quarter, then used their personal funds during the summer (around \$2,300). This year, students are paying a fixed rate of roughly \$5,600 dollars towards the trip. The idea to combine the two sections was decided last year by the Faculty Honors Council. The Council's decision was based on new fiscal rules set for study tours that would allow more money to be allocated directly to the trip.

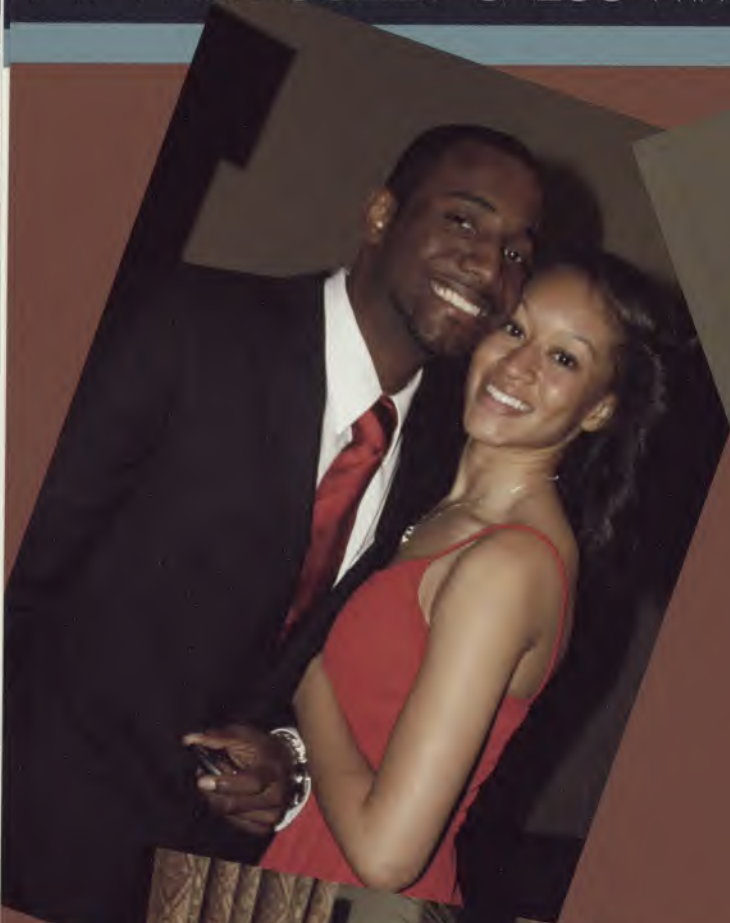
This might sound beneficial, but the majority of students who plan on going on the trip this year are irate about the high cost needed to attend the tour. In the eyes of these Honors students, the money given in what students call "unused" units during spring quarter makes a big difference given the restrictions already set on summer tuition and study tours. Some students are unable to use scholarships and loans such as the California Grant, National Merit Award, and Pell Grant, all of which could be included if some of the cost were taken from tuition dur-

ing the school year. In the eyes of the Honors program, the amount has always been around \$5,000 to \$6,000. Only a few scholarships actually count towards the trip. And while units during the spring come at a higher cost, summer tuition is cheaper per unit.

In response to this announcement given only a few weeks ago to students in the program, a letter of urgent repeal of the division of tuition money for the trip was sent to the faculty on Monday, February 28.

The Honors department administration and student financial services are currently working on resolving this issue. If it's not resolved, all students could be affected. For Honors students, the result could be bad. There would be less people in the program and more students with full-time jobs and loans; a picture some could compare to the expected higher tuition for university students next year. As for students outside of the program, it could be good; it would mean less competition for the top grades, and lower risk of getting hit by a running Honors student.

All That Jazz: SALSU Winter Banquet







**The WingTip
Fashion Blog**



Andriyah Burgos

Jacket by H&M
Top by Cotton On

Skirt, Tights, & Shorts by Forever 21

Biggest fear? Heights, the dark, & roller coasters

Sweetest pleasures? Nutella & shopping

Favorite accessory? Sun Dresses

Favorite dessert? Pizookie

Trend-proof advice? Keep jeans for every season. White Tee's never fail.

Favorite soda? Ginger Ale

Fashion secret? Don't wear something your not comfortable in

Favorite website? Hautelook.com

Favorite designer? Marc Jacobs

Best place to meet guys? At the gym

Favorite food? Chicken Adobo

Dream vacation? Greece

Boyfriend? Nope

Dream job? Cardiologist

Favorite thing about LSU? My roommate and bathmates

Last words? If you don't risk anything you risk even more.



Caitlin Miller

Top by Forever 21
Blazer by Forever 21
Jeggings by H&M

Fashion motto? Be sexy in cotton **Favorite snack?** Brie cheese and bread or Chex Mix

Fashion secret? Mix blacks and browns **Favorite artists?** *Norah Jones & The Killers*

Worst piece of clothing you've ever bought? Pleated Rider pants

Fashion advice? Mix comfort with sexy. Accessories can dumb down an outfit, they should be functional.

Favorite thing about LSU? I like being involved in our student community that loves to do good!

Spring fashion essentials? Lime green and pink Summer dresses! Tons of sweaters and a watch.

Favorite color? Green

Favorite hangout? The library or Starbucks

Favorite online shop? Delias.com

Favorite website? Postsecret.com

Last words? Be frugal in your relationships by investing in people.



Carl Nolasco

Sunglasses by Ray Ban
Shirt by UP
Cardigan by On The BYAS
Jeans by Krew Denim Co.

Favorite website? Flightclubla.com **Hobbies?** Basketball, volleyball, & Black Ops (Ha!)

Last book you read? Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury **Favorite artist?** Ne-yo

Who inspires your style? Yours truly **Fashion secret?** Never stick to one store or brand

What song inspires your style? Up, Up, And Away by Kid Cudi

Fashion idol? Don't have one. Whatever I like, I rock. **Fashion regret?** The Kobe II's, LOL!

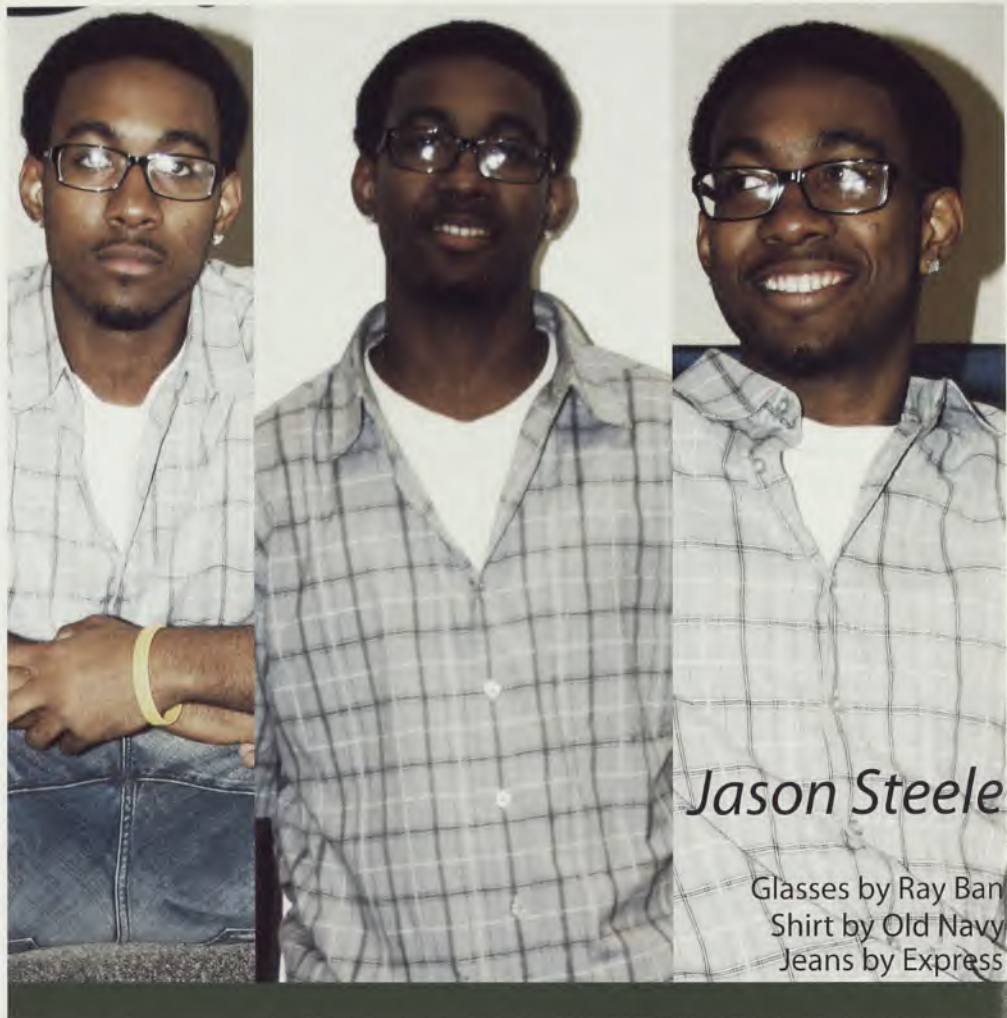
Favorite thing about LSU? The spirituality and community

Dream vacation? Globetrotting to see the Seven Wonders of the World

Favorite magazine? Slam **Favorite holiday?** Christmas

First thought waking up? Thank you God for another day, *hits snooze button*

Last words? All diem, every diem, CARPE DIEM



Jason Steele

Glasses by Ray Ban
 Shirt by Old Navy
 Jeans by Express

- Favorite food?** Gumbo **Favorite store?** Costco **Favorite shoes?** T-Mac 5's
- What song do you compare to your style?** Say What's Real by Drake
- Fitteds or snap backs?** Fitteds **Biggest fear?** Dying **Favorite artist?** J Cole
- Hero?** My Great Grandmother **Favorite movie?** Friday
- What's the perfect date?** Dinner and a movie. Whatever lends us time to get to know eachother.
- Favorite website?** Worldstarhiphop.com **Dream job?** Create and produce my own cartoons
- Fashion advice?** Men should not wear girl's jeans **Pet peeve?** Lying
- Spring season necessity?** A nice pair of basketball shorts **Dream vacation?** Italy
- Favorite thing about LSU?** The diversity of the students **Best place to meet girls?** The beach
- Plans for Spring break?** Chill with my boys and my girlfriend **Fashion secret?** Be yourself

Let's Get Back To Eden

by Pono Lopez

What does it mean to be a Christian? What does it mean to be a part of the Kingdom of Heaven? Jesus preached about it, likening the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed. On another occasion He explained it through the parable of the talents. These narratives have meaning today, as we live out our lives as Christian believers. But the supreme illustration of what the Kingdom of Heaven is truly about is Christ himself.

Three points illustrate what we currently describe as the characteristics of the Kingdom of Heaven—or at least as much as we can describe it within the boundaries of our limited language. The first point is that the Kingdom of Heaven is a community, in which God intended for us to be a unified people—a people that He himself would be “dwelling with.” The second is that the Kingdom of Heaven is a mindset of service, or in more familiar language, a mindset of servants (but not slaves). Picture it as a place where random acts of kindness are an everyday thing, and that being a helpful neighbor is the common thing to do. The third point is the concept of growth, in which the Kingdom of Heaven never stops growing. To grow, one

must be constantly disrupted so that God is revealed to us in our past, present, and future.

A mindset of service is one of the most practical approaches in Christendom. Ministry is an important aspect of the Christian life (note that the language of service and ministry are the same). Ministry is always present. To put it plainly, ministry and life are inseparable.

There is no difference between life and spirituality, for your life is spiritual in nature. Even in a social conversation, just getting to know someone is a ministry in itself.

A friend of mine made a very important point when I brought up the concept of a spiritual life to him.

He made it clear that there is no difference between life and spirituality, for your life is spiritual in nature. Expanding on that notion, I would then say that even to be social is to be spiritual. What that means then is that even in a social conversation, just getting to know someone is a ministry in itself.

Most Christians in a community don't even interact with one another. In a campus setting, those who aren't Christians often don't feel as though they belong. This is where the true purpose of service lies: first acknowledging those around us and then getting to know them. This includes gestures as simple as a smile or a hello. Yet, it goes beyond that. For in our busy lives, we don't even have time to actually get to know a person that sits next to us when we are waiting for our pizza in the Eagle's Nest. Too much is on our minds to even strike up a conversation. Many would argue that socializing isn't even a part of ministry. But at its heart, the act of socializing puts one in a situation of getting to know the needs of someone else. I would make it a point to suggest that mingling is not one of the tools, but rather the strongest tool for serving others.

Even though the point is to mingle, it is understandable that a lot of people are introverts. It isn't wrong to be introverted, nor is it evil to be focused on your own daily responsibilities. Being introverted isn't a new concept. Even extroverts want to be alone sometimes. However, mingling isn't the only aspect of service. The idea that there is only one way in which Christians can serve others is inadequate and flawed. Service deals with many different approaches. Even Jesus pushed others beyond their comfort zones in order to serve. Therefore, I won't suggest that to be suffering in an uncomfortable situation is the correct mindset of serving, but rather that at times when we are disrupted we open up for ministry.

There are so many other aspects of service that are revealed to us as time goes on. People can serve others in many different ways, such as service learning or RASK@LS. But I would say that the most immediate need for service lies in the heart of every person that struggles with just being a student, especially here at La Sierra University.

Game Over

by Daniel Gramling

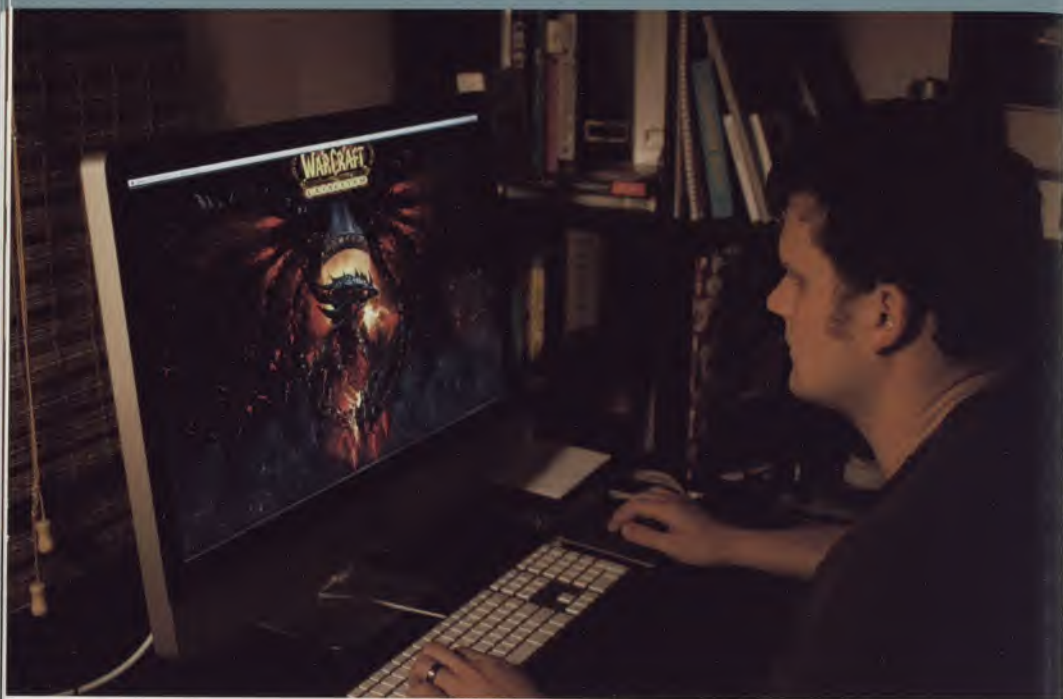
In today's world, addictions ranging from alcohol to drug plague society. Families are torn apart, jobs are lost, and addicted individuals end up wondering what exactly they turned into. An increasing concern is the fact that new addictions are emerging at a substantial rate, one of which includes video gaming. Though gaming addictions seem insignificant compared to other major addictions, they do indeed exist, and people of all ages are suffering the consequences.

When thinking of competitive gamers, teenagers instantly come to mind. Game designers create games mostly for the teenage audience, and though people of all ages play video games, those of which with the highest rates of addiction range from the ages of eight to eighteen.

The sights and sounds that I beheld were unbelievable. In a hall of doors both open and closed, I could hear the shrapnel exploding from a fierce battle site in the popular video game Call of Duty: Black Ops. To add to the insanity, I saw televisions with screens as big as

55 inches, game consoles such as Playstation 3 and the Xbox 360 with the newest released games, and the best PC gaming software around to house the likes of World of Warcraft. Soon enough, I began to notice a trend. There was almost a complete absence of textbooks in these students' rooms, which led me to conclude the reason as to why there is a high rate of failure among freshman in pre-foundational mathematics. While the main objective of on-campus residents is to receive proficient grades, and eventually earn a degree, the large number of video games surrounding them makes that goal increasingly difficult to reach.

Federal Communications Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate shocked the world when she announced that one of the top reasons for college dropouts in the U.S. is an online gaming addiction. This statement may seem farfetched at first, but after taking a stroll in the men's residential dorm at La Sierra, I quickly concluded that Commissioner Tate knew what she was talking about.



Naturally, a game designers goal is to make consumers "addicted" to their product (in the sense that they want them coming back for more), and by allowing the gamer to achieve small accomplishments in the virtual world, they are given the belief that they can achieve the next high score and ultimately beat the game. Role playing games (known as Massive Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games) such as Everquest, and World of Warcraft have the largest effect on gamers because it allows them to live in a never

ending simulated world without the pressures of reality. By customizing and creating a character exactly as one wishes, an emotional tie is created between gamer and creation and a rift between reality and imaginary is formed.

Despite their ages, addicted gamers experience very similar symptoms. Individuals who suffer from gaming addictions constantly speak about their games, neglect other areas of life, and lack any control. They also lose track of immense amounts of time, spend large

sums of money, and get defensive whenever confronted (Video Game Addiction). Although much evidence links mental illness to gaming addictions, some still wonder, if it truly exists, and where the line is drawn between innocent fun, and addiction. Freshmen Kevin Napitupulu adamantly insists that long hours of gaming show passion, diligence, and work ethic furthering that a video game addiction exists only if the individual neglects all responsibilities. Sophomore Monique Alexandria however argues that gaming causes individuals to leave reality, and that any neglect in responsibility characterizes an addiction.

It is evident that there is not a fine line between addiction and fun, because like other controversial topics, it is not only black and white, there is a gray area. The black area consists of obvious signs of an addiction pertaining to hygiene as well as aches. The white area is a total lack of gaming, or a very small amount of it. In terms of the gray area, individuals may be intense gamers with a complete control over the amount of hours they spend in front of the screen, even if

those hours exceed reasonable amounts. These gray area gamers can even be thought of a "functional addicts" in that the addiction exists, but they are able to properly operate in society without neglecting significant responsibilities. White, black, or gray, gaming exists in some instances, and it is here to stay.

As can be concluded, excessive gaming by any standards has an effect on the gamer as well as his/her loved one's. Those addicted to gaming end up severing ties with their family, friends, and eventually with the world. It is not uncommon to hear stories of teens committing suicide because of a game, but whether or not having an addiction to gaming links to violence among teens is another dispute that has yet to be resolved. There are multiple reasons as to why excessive gaming or having a gaming addiction is harmful, but like any addiction, one must admit to having a problem. Only then can steps be made, to correct any damages done by that controller sitting next to you.

When The Fog Sets In

by Renee Hess

When the fog sets in, the road through Lost Hills turns from an idyllic countryside drive to an ominous highway, deserted and grim. With wet air clinging desperately to the windows of my car, loathe to be rubbed away by fluttering windshield wipers, I silently focus on the lane ahead. It is dark still. The sun lies behind the emerald knolls of Lost Hills, behind the cow-munched turf of forlorn land owned by invisible farmers I will never see. There are other cars on the road, even at the early hours before dawn, but a hushed solitude encompasses me.

"Mommy." Jack is awake. He rolls over to face the front. Looks at me in the rear view mirror from his blanket-fort and smiles a toothless grin that reveals the gap of two recently pawned teeth currently in the possession of me, the tooth fairy of 1325 Alta Vista Lane.

"Are we almost to the McDonalds, Mommy? I've got to go pee," Jack says diplomatically as he sits up and rubs the sleep from his eyes.

"No." My answer is short. I am concentrating. The murky cloud of atmosphere between my car and the semi-truck in front of me thickens and pulses, as I swerve slowly toward the middle of the road, across the broken yellow lines, in order to see around the rig. I want to pass it and continue moving forward, but the fog unnerves me, and I do not have the confidence to attempt a blind advance around such a large vehicle. Others in front and behind me continue to make the trek around slower cars, but the well-being of my child prevents me from taking unnecessary risks. Vexed, I trudge along at fifty-five, with only a single car's length between me and the semi.

"Mommy, I have to go to the bathroom." Jack wriggles in his footed, yellow Sponge-Bob pajamas, holding himself at the crotch.

"I heard you, Jack-o," I say, peering over the steering wheel into the dense haze ahead.

"So, can we stop?"

I do not answer. Instead, I slowly veer across the lane again. Oncoming headlights cause me to swing back onto my side of the road and I sigh, frustrated.

"Mommy, I can't hold it another minute."

"Jack!" I turn to look over my shoulder at him, a brief glance that lasts only a moment too long. The truck driver in front of me has slammed on his brakes, and suddenly there is an eighteen-wheeler on a two-lane highway, lying on it's side. I don't have time to react. In slow motion, my four-door Jetta, voted best in it's class for safety standards in 2010 by Car and Driver Magazine, smashes into the rear end of the big rig. Jack screams and I can only think of the fact that my glasses have slipped from my face and I will not be able to see to finish the drive home.



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What's

11

REVO-lution



Nice Guys Finish Last 22

Help Is Around the Corner 28

Bossypants 30

My Muse is Dead 31

Inside...



11

Running in Heels

20

365 Musings



14

Interacting With Art

Editor's Note

Dear students,

It's unbelievable how fast this year has progressed to where we are now. Sure, it sounds cliché—but oh so true. Yesterday, we were welcoming in new freshmen onto our campus, finding new classes, and stressing over our first quiz. Today, we're preparing ourselves for our final round of exams. And in a few weeks, we'll be peacin' out for what will hopefully be an excellent summer vacation—some of us (myself included) will be graduating!

While I am excited to move on from La Sierra and start the next chapter of my life, part of me will miss the energy that has helped shape an awesome year for the SALSU. Jon Finau and his team of officers have worked tirelessly this year in leading us in community—from fun social activities, like laser tag or the banquet, to more noble activities, like raising funds for illiteracy in El Salvador.

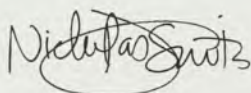
But personally, I will miss the ability to lead SALSU's student publication, working with gifted minds that have blessed us with some of the most eloquent and informative journalism Criterion has seen. To them, I extend my warmest regards and thanks for all of the hard work they have put into making this magazine great. Like Moses, I wouldn't have been able to do it without my trusty staff.

Now that June is just around the corner, I have asked Israel Carreon to carry Criterion on to further greatness

in the 2011-12 school year. Working under him last year as a writer and editor, I know first hand that he has precisely what it takes to handle this position a thousand times better than I did, which makes him my top choice.

It has been a pleasure serving as your Editor and I thank you all for following my staff and myself on this illuminating journey.

Sincerely,



Nick Smith
Chief Editor





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What inspires your style?

New York City. Everyone is very fashion forward.

What is the most common statement about your style?

It's on point, diva like, shiek, fly, all of the above!

Favorite fashion season?

I love them all.

What item can you not live without?

Lip gloss. I would shrivel up and die without it.

Who has dope style?

Kim Kardashian, LaLa Vasquez Anothony, and Chris Brown.

Favorite eatery?

Chipotle

A barbeque must include...

Salmon

Favorite Spring item?

Colorful skirts

Best Spring date spot?

An outdoor concert followed by Pink Berry or Go Kart racing!

What song captures your style?

Fabulous - "Girl You Be Killin' Em"

Favorite music Artist?

Samantha Howard

Last words?

#CELTICNATION #BDUBZ

"Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring."

-Marilyn Monroe

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rts
gl
n"
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*Top from Soho Boutique
Jacket by H&M
Leggins by Forever 21
Heels by Steve Madden
Accessories from Macy's*



CAUTION

"If it ain't fresh, it ain't me. I'm in
the pursuit of better things, life's too
sweet to be sour."

-Ryan Leslie

Suit by Kane and Unke
Tie by Alfani
Sunglasses by Versace
Shoes by Aldo

W
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Co
W
T
S
W
F
F
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D
W
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L
Co

Jake Chan

Sophomore
Biology
Kaneohe, Hawaii

What's the next big trend?

Fitted light blue/gray suits. iPads are definitely on the rise as well.

What do you collect?

Cologne, clothes, Mac technology, money, and anything to do with board sports.

What trend should die?

Bad grades.

Trend-proof advice:

Shop the sale racks in nice/expensive stores. Don't focus on quantity, focus on quality. If you're grown, dress like you are!

Which celebrity do you pattern your style after?

Neal Caffery

Favorite sport?

Surfing

Favorite designer?

Hugo Boss

Who's your barber?

The ladies can thank Saul! He keeps me fresh!

Describe your Spring/Summer style?

Sunglasses, shorts, and tank tops. Less equals more.

Where are you in five/ten years?

Medical school in five, Tahiti in ten.

What item can you not live without?

My skateboard.

Last words:

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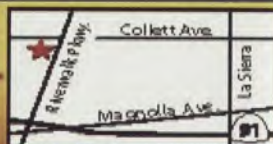
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Running In Heels

by Natalie Romero

The English and Communication Department (ECD), currently housed in South Hall, is vying for the inheritance of the Business building.

The School of Business (lovingly referred to by some as the SOB) at La Sierra University recently announced that they will be constructing a new department building on campus in the near future. The site of the future Zapara School of Business and Rubin Hall was dedicated on December 9, 2010. Since the announcement, the University has been buzzing with rumors about which department will appropriate the old building.

Although several departments deem themselves worthy of inheriting the 42-year-old structure, the ECD feels particularly strong about the right to get a new location. The Business building is relatively new in comparison with South Hall, which was built in 1922.

The age of South Hall is not the only motivator to relocate the department, which encompasses Literature, Creative Writing, Communication, and Drama. One of the more interesting factors involved is that the department shares South Hall with the Honors program. The second story of South Hall serves as a dormitory for the Honors students, which is viewed by many as unprofessional.

On the same note, South Hall used to function solely as a dorm before the department moved there in the mid 1990s. The shape of the building is a long rectangle with rooms that weren't designed to ever be class-

rooms. "The linear arrangement does not support collegial interaction among faculty...there isn't adequate classroom space," said Department Chair Dr. Mary Wilson. "[The] classroom spaces are an embarrassment. The configuration, lack of decent furniture, poor air circulation, and lack of sound proofing are always problems."

Electronic presentations and projects are also affected by the shape of the building. The classrooms in South Hall each contain one long conference-type table as opposed to individual desks facing the front. Students as well as professors feel the absence of a good teaching and sharing environment, especially when it comes to showing Power Point presentations at the front of the room.

There are numerous other problems, including the lack of a proper computer lab, not enough offices for professors and college writing instructors (CWIs), and only three classrooms. Two of the classrooms are in South Hall itself, and the third is in a separate trailer, called the Annex.

The department teaches more than 40 classes each quarter (not including writing labs or drama classes), which is more than most departments. Due to the limited space in South Hall, the 40 plus classes are spread out all over campus, being taught in nearly every building. Many of these classes are the college writing sequences, which are required of all students regardless of majors chosen.

The Writing Center, a vital part of the department, isn't even located

in South Hall. It is found in Amb's Hall, half way across the campus. If the ECD were to move into the Business Building, there would be room to house at least 50 percent of the classes, as well as adequate offices, and the Writing Center.

Despite the desire expressed by the English, Communication, and Drama professors to move out of South Hall, some

may find it hard to relocate. "I have a sweet spot in my heart

for South Hall—the way one might have for an inadequate pair of shoes," said Professor Sari Fordham. "But I dearly hope we will be moving to a building that can support our mission. It's hard to run in heels." Dr. Sam McBride and Dr. Lora Geriguis agree with

Fordham, saying that although they do want to move out, they will miss working in South Hall. "We're in the most historical building on campus," explained McBride. "The change would be exciting," said Geriguis.

"I'm not even an English major, but I know that they totally deserve a different building," said Laura-Shay Adams, a Junior. "The school really

needs to take the English department more seriously. All

students need to know how to properly represent themselves on paper."

Several other upperclassmen have echoed these sentiments. Simply because the ECD is smaller than other departments in the College of Arts and Sciences does not mean it should be

"I dearly hope we will be moving to a building that can support our mission"





overlooked. "Writing and literature are the foundations of professional pursuits. Business majors wouldn't get anywhere if the English Department didn't teach them how to write a resume or analyze written works," said Deborah Howard, a senior Social Work major. In an ideal world, the staff of the ECD would love to have a brand new building, but they're well aware that that isn't likely to happen. "I'd be delighted if we were relocated to the old business building—which was the Home Ec. building before that. It's a pleasant building and we would have room for everything," said Dr. Winona Howe.

Of course, there is more than one solution. There has been talk of the School of Religion, the Department of History, Politics & Society, or the Modern Languages Department inheriting the Business building. These

three are currently housed in La Sierra Hall. They also share a limited number of classrooms, though not nearly as few as South Hall. One reasonable option is for the Modern Languages Department to move in with the ECD in the Business building; in which case, all the languages taught on campus would be together, and Religion and History would have more room in La Sierra Hall.

Regardless of which department is chosen to receive the Business building upon the completion of the new complex, the fact remains that the ECD is in dire need of new digs. "A better building would grant our department a more professional appearance," said graduate student and CWI, Kendra Kravig. "It would give the English department the prestige it deserves."

Interacting with Art

by Kendra Kravig

We've all done it: that late-night run to Starbucks to get a caramel macchiato with a quad-shot of espresso so that we can power through the wee hours of the morning to finish off that last minute research paper, project, or study session. For most students, the all-nighter happens a few nights per quarter. But for the art student, all-nighters are a standard practice because of the detailed work that fine art and graphic design classes require.

All-nighter veteran Krissy Traustason is a sophomore art major who works part-time in the library about twenty hours per week, carries 18 units this quarter (14 of which are art classes), and still maintains an active social life. It is not uncommon to spy her napping on a library couch or sketching during her long work shifts. When asked about the workload she carries on a weekly basis—considering that a project for one of her current classes consumes more than a day of prep time—she replied, “My printmaking class I’m in now, I have to do projects that take 20-30 hours for [each], so I’m here all night—I’m here till 8:30 in the morning and I watch the sunrise, but I really enjoy it.”

So after art students pour all this time, energy, sweat, and (sometimes) tears into their work, what happens then? Does anyone see these masterpieces after they're graded?

If you've ever trekked up the hill to the top of campus, you may have wondered what the building by Parking Lot “I” is for. It is the Brandstater Gallery, built specifically for the exhibition and celebration of art. The gallery was constructed in 1984, and according to the La Sierra University bulletin, it allows the community

the chance to “interact with the art of contemporary artists...It provides art students with the opportunity to exhibit their work.” For students like Traustason, the Annual Juried Student Exhibition at the gallery is the light at the end of a long tunnel of chaos, hard work, and missed sleep—it is the avenue to recognition.

This year, the Juried Student Exhibition's reception and awards took place on May 9. The exhibit was organized and curated by Beatriz Mejia-Krumbein, the Art Department Chair and Director of the Brandstater Gallery. 110 pieces of art work from the participation of 38 students were displayed, and four external jurors were invited to judge the exhibit. Several awards and cash prizes were handed out to students who portrayed a high standard of craftsmanship and artistic process. Attendees of the awards ceremony enjoyed a variety of art, ranging from the intricate details of handmade books to the Matisse-like auras of *gouache decoupées* (a type of art medium).

The exhibit opening was taken in not only by the Art department crowd, but also by art appreciators from other departments and the Riverside community. A particular favorite for visitors was “The Inklings” sculpture series created by Katie Pershing. “I thoroughly enjoyed all the exhibits at the student art show,” said Rebecca Renee Hess. “As an English teacher and literature grad student, I especially appreciated Katie Pershing's unique interpretation of the 20th century British literary group, The Inklings, in the shape of mixed media owls. After spending so many hours reading [Tolkien's] work for class, I had to smile when I walked up on the



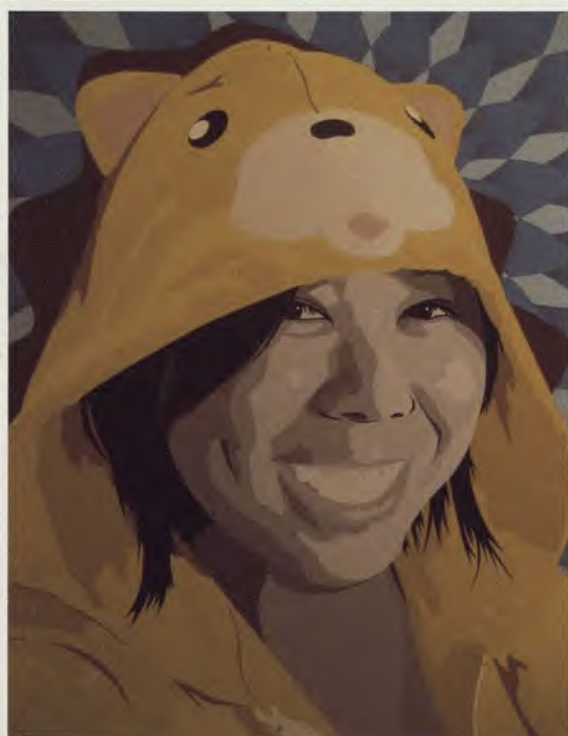
By Vanisara Nicole Anthony.





by Kim Mah.

by Kim Mah.



By Vanisara Nicole Anthony.



By Nick Reize



By Karlana McRae



round-faced owl-form of J.R.R. Tolkien." Pershing's owl of C.S. Lewis was given a ribbon for "Honorable Mention."

This year's jurors were an elect group of highly qualified art experts. The group consisted of Professor Sant Kalsha, the Chair of the Art department at CSU San Bernardino, Professor Andrew Byrom from CSU Long Beach, Jeff Koegel, an independent artist from Laguna Beach, and Justin Brandstater, the Matte Painting Supervisor from DreamWorks, LLC. Both Byrom and Koegel have had displays in the Brandstater Gallery this year. Ribbons were awarded to four works named "Honorable Mention"; one piece each from both the graphic design and fine art categories received a first or second place ribbon; and the highest honor, "Best of Show," was awarded to a piece or series.

In the "Honorable Mention" category, Vanisara Nicole Anthony's "Tough Times Make Good Times More Beautiful" impressed the judges with her piece's "organic texture." Also in the same category, Traustason earned a ribbon for her hand-made book of Ampersands; the carousel structure of the book allowed Traustason to vividly portray the differences of the symbol through various typefaces. The final recipient of this category was Rebecca Waring-Crane, a La Sierra staff member. Her self-portrait, "Flattened and Freed," was composed entirely on an ironing board and was described by Brandstator as "a highly complex piece." Abi Illie's metal-welded alligator sculpture, which served as welcoming fixture to visitors of the gallery, received recognition in the second place category for Fine Art. The judges deemed the piece to have a "whimsical" quality, as well as a "kind of rawness" to it that made it stand out. For Graphic Design, Traustason took home her second award of the night with her typography piece, "Zippy." Brandstater described himself as being "impressed with the craftsman-

ship" of her typeface, which she designed entirely using zip-ties. For first place in Fine Arts, Nick Reise, snagged a blue ribbon for his photography book "August," and was aptly described by Byrom as "all killer, no filler." Josh Harwood's book "How to Make Bad Animals Good" carried a "rhythm through the work," according to the judges, and that rhythm was enough to get him a blue ribbon for his efforts. The highest award (and the largest cash prize) of the night went to Kyomi Fukui for her series of intaglio prints. According to Brandstater, the series was exceptional because Fukui carried the "same thought process" throughout each piece in her series, and Kalsha appreciated the "real complexity yet [accessibility]" in Fukui's works.

Although the exhibit ended on May 18, the professors of the Art department are proud of their students' accomplishments, as well as with the success of the show this year. "The students received good feedback and encouragement from the judges, and feel very motivated to continue producing the best work they can," said Mejia-Krumbein. It is important to note that although a majority of the contributors to this year's show were art or graphic design majors, it is not a requirement. Any student who is enrolled in an LSU art class throughout the course of the school year may submit their work to the exhibition. Next year, you could have a magnum opus on display. "I invite all to come and visit the Brandstater Gallery," said Mejia-Krumbein. "Make plans for next year to enroll in an art class and discover or expand your talents."

As any art student will tell you, the projects will cost you a lot of time and effort, but it is well worth it. Traustason summed it up perfectly: "I enjoy my art classes. I don't feel like it's a chore."

May we all feel the same about our studies, art major or no.

365 Musings

by Sheldon Benjamin

With contemplation comes laughter. Laughter of skepticism, ridicule, or of uncontainable joy. —Gaby Panjaitan

Gabriella Johanna Bintang Tiar Panjaitan, a Psycho/Biology student at La Sierra University, recently released a new album entitled, *365 Musings of the heart*.

Gabriella was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia and first came to America when she was 18 years old. Her vocalist mother and pianist father introduced Gabriella to music at a very young age and enrolled her in both piano and vocal lessons around the age of 10. A year later, she discontinued her vocal lessons, due to scheduling conflicts and her mother's decision that piano was more important at the time for Gabriella, even though Gabriella desired to focus on her voice.

Around the same time, she developed a taste for jazz-pop, a somewhat unexpected genre for a girl around 12 years old. She attributes her early influences to her father, Ronald Panjaitan.

Gabriella's father listened to a lot of jazz fusion/pop—specifically artists like Stevie Wonder and Al Jarreau. Gabriella adopted her father's musical tastes and jazz-pop is currently her favorite genre of music. Esperanza Spalding and John Legend are her favorite artists.

At 16 years of age, Gabriella

was able to take jazz piano classes. This is when she first began playing and singing together. "I realized that this was my niche. To play when I sing, especially to jazz," said Gabriella. In high school, she began writing songs.

Her writing started with a creative writing class that she appreciated and felt gave her the opportunity to express thoughts that she otherwise couldn't. "I'm not a romantic person at all," she says. "But when I write, the language just flows naturally. My friends often wonder where all my lyrics come from, because I don't even like getting flowers. I think it's sad."

Gabriella has decided to pursue a career in psychiatry, even though she is musically affluent. "It's fascinating really," Gabriella said. "Right now, music and my psycho-bio are equal in my life. Music has always been a passion, not just a hobby. So

I guess I would kind of prefer that music be at the forefront—mainly because I'm

"Never deviate from staying true to the heart when writing music"

more confident and comfortable with music."

Piano for Gabriella became a means to an end in her song writing process. "It's where I start. I punch out a few chords and just sing out a melody—'na na na na na'—something like that."

She usually has a theme in mind that she wants to sing about and it is often based on a current issue or experience. "I have one main rule,"

Nice Guys Always Finish Last

by Daniel Gramling

As a common theme in today's society, women tend to fall for men of a certain type. With great consistency, these men are not necessarily pushovers. Experiences have shown me that women seem to gravitate towards "bad boys" because of their lack of concern for rules, and the consequences that follow them. On a college campus, such as La Sierra University, this theme is clearly evident. As a result, nice guys are left finishing last.

For unknown reasons, people have a hard time admitting that nice

guys fail to appeal to most women. Parents tell their sons to treat women with respect, and be courteous gentleman, when in fact most young col-

lege girls are attracted to men who exhibit behavior many would deem unacceptable. I, as well as many other college men, have concluded that, in order for a majority of women to take us seriously, the nice guy inside of us must die a quick and painful death. After talking to women around campus and questioning them in regards to what constitutes a nice guy, I have come to understand that they believe a nice guy is a boring, forgettable, and usually shy person that fails to grab the attention of anyone. Most of the women I spoke with answered with a small variety of mainstream adjec-

tives, such as, boring and predictable, and explained that they wanted a man that is not passive and takes control of situations.

It is understandable for women to want men to be held a high standard, but what they sometimes forget is the amount of difficulty it takes for many young college men to gain the courage to talk to them. In the La Sierra Commons, I have witnessed renowned "bad boys" gain the attention of numerous women. While this is going on, an average guy is left eating at a table

"College girls would rather have a fast paced, unpredictable date, rather than a safe and reliable one."

directly behind them by himself, able to hear all of the fun taking place. Though I am not

entirely sure of what he was thinking, it was evident that he was interested in one of the girls paying this "bad boy" so much attention.

Perhaps this example shows why women (especially college girls) are so attracted to "bad boys". Usually, they do whatever they want, lack fear in most areas, and take control, whereas nice guys do the exact opposite. Despite all of the attractive traits, "bad boys" do have flaws, and many of them. In most cases, they lack manners, as well as respect for authority. "Bad boys" have also been known to be insensitive, and in ex-

treme cases, violent. If "bad boys" possess these traits, one must ask, why do young women want them over nice guys? Through years of observing, I now see why women have a hard time walking away from them. "Bad boys" have a mysterious allure to them that not only captivates women, but also intrigues them. It is obvious that college girls would rather have a fast paced, unpredictable date, rather than a safe reliable one, and time after time, we see women chasing after the biggest jerks around, searching for fun rather than security.

Of course not all women feel this way. Girls going against the majority believe that nice guys make the best date choices, and possible boy-friends. They believe them to be more caring, responsible, and trustworthy than the many "bad boys" other girls cannot seem to live without. "Nice guys are those that put their coats in puddles for their girlfriends to walk over, and open and close doors for them", says junior Monique Alexandria. Naturally not all women feel the same on a controversial issue such as this, but to some degree of surprise, some girls are interested in average nice guys.

So what should nice guys do? Are they expected to abandon their good natured personalities in order to gain the affection of some shallow young girls? I would definitely not recommend doing so to any self respecting man. The fact of the matter is that most of the students here at La

Sierra and elsewhere have some growing up to do. Men and women often make poor relationship selections, but as life will reveal, bad choices come with growing up.

The "bad boys" of today do not necessarily turn into saints by growing up, but a change in their behavior is usually evident. As many know, mistakes shroud the process of growing up, so what appears to be "cool" to them now may not feel as "cool" in the future. For example, teasing innocent others and seeing how many girls they can juggle at one time may begin to lose its appeal, and these individuals may finally fathom how poorly they treated the people that surrounded them.

The nice guy on the other hand experiences a change in a slightly different direction. Instead of learning a lesson in humility, he gains pride and self assurance. Eventually, he will have his opportunity to gain the attention of his peers. And as he grows out of the shy awkward stage, and into a respectable man, women will find themselves wondering why they did not give him a chance sooner. My advice to all nice guys is to continue doing what they are doing. They should keep holding doors open for women, as well as treating them honorably and with respect. Most importantly, nice guys should have confidence in everything they do, for it is the only way they will succeed and prove all those who doubted them that nice guys do not always finish last.

REVO-lution

by Paula Hernandez

The date is May 15, 2011. One of the most anticipated fundraisers at La Sierra University has just taken place: REVO. The time is roughly eleven o'clock at night. The location is the Alumni Pavilion, commonly hailed as "the gym". Outside the entrance, a few lingering individuals can be seen casually conversing with one another. A moment later, one of the models from the fashion show scurries by. In the distance, one can catch a glimpse of several designers packing up their equipment. Meanwhile, chairs are being stored, tables folded, and trash collected, as a team of students swiftly collaborate to convert the gym back into its original state.

Hours earlier, the atmosphere was the complete opposite. Excitement, anxiety, and impatience ran through the air. In a sort of organized chaos, over 70 participants (including models, designers, and their crew) gathered as early as 4:30PM in preparation for the Fashion Show that would be taking place at 8. If REVO was a five-course meal, the fashion show would be the main entrée. Each of the seven designers was given a designated dressing room for their models to get ready in. Hairdressers plugged in their curling irons, flat irons, and blow dryers. In another corner, makeup artists arranged a plethora of products on tables. Designers added the finishing touches to their masterpieces. The countdown began.

REVO is a grassroots movement that reaches out to the world to fight poverty, injustice, and persecution. This year's second annual REVO

fundraiser was aimed towards combating human trafficking around the world, especially in Southeast Asia. Funds from REVO will assist in rescuing and rehabilitating those who are sexually exploited, abused, and victims of slavery. Adding the sales of t-shirts, TOMS shoes, baked goods, and jewelry to the proceeds from the entrance fee for the fashion show, Criterion is proud to report that LSU students raised \$11,000 towards this crucial issue.

My involvement in REVO began last year when I was asked to be a model for one of the lines. I had surprised myself by agreeing to participate, but it was only until the novelty and excitement wore off that I realized I knew not the slightest about modeling, aside from America's Next Top Model. Determined to absorb as much knowledge pertaining to the subject as possible, I tuned to the sensei of fashion and modeling: Tyra Banks.

Embarrassing as it is, I must admit that I spent several hours watching reruns, reading magazines, and practicing in front of my mirror. The day finally arrived. All the "dos" and "don'ts" I had researched weeks prior suddenly seemed to have disappeared. I momentarily panicked. But hearing my musical cue, I had no choice but to take a deep breath and step out onto the runway. My five minutes of fame came and went as quickly as a blink of an eye, but I loved every minute of the experience. I was fixated in this world of spotlights, blaring music, and clicking cameras. This little taste of what could be, left me wanting more.

This year, I was invited once again to model—this time by Meagan Miller—for her line, called Circus de Carnival. In our first rehearsal, we were briefed in detail, and given our “roles” in the circus. Being the last line to display in the fashion show, Meagan wanted her 3-minute segment to differ from the other designers slightly. Her intent was not just to create clothes for us to model in, but also to create an interactive experience with the audience. I was ecstatic to discover that I was assigned the role of a gypsy. Feeling wise and experienced from last year, I felt perfect for that part, and concluded that I could handle the character with ease. The challenge this time came when I was told I would be carrying a live snake as I walked the runway. Now,

I pretended that I was one of those who just happened to carry snakes during their spare time, but truth be

told, the closest I had ever been to a snake was in biology class in high school...and it was dead.

The fashion show was still weeks away, but due to schedule conflicts there was never an opportune moment for me to visit the student that was generously allowing us to borrow his snake. I was told to just “wing it” on the night of REVO. Two more rehearsals passed by, each one better than the last. Being so occupied with academics, athletics, and work, I didn’t even have time to be nervous about the fashion show. Meagan created a Facebook invite keeping us updated on rehearsals and new ideas.

The day of the fundraiser arrived. We were asked to arrive as early as 4:30 just so everything would be perfect. From early afternoon until it was our turn on stage at 10, there was not a moment of rest or downtime as we proceeded to get ready. Slowly, but surely, each model transformed from a regular LSU student to a dynamic circus character. A tightrope walker, a clown, even a gorilla—Meagan once again set the bar high, as she created an environment that felt real. Contracting some of the handsomest hunks in town to juggle, shift boxes, and clean up, while the models filed down the runway was the icing on the cake and added to the whole atmosphere.

Like before, I was hooked. Being able to surround myself in such a vivacious environment is truly addicting, and for more than

“I was told I would be carrying a live snake as I walked the runway”

one reason. REVO is about collaborating together—utilizing our talents and ideas for a common cause. It is about joining together in selflessness in order to bring a sparkle of hope to those in despair. If college students have a reputation for being incapable or uninterested in global issues, REVO proves them wrong in a most artistically beautiful way. I am so proud to belong to a community of young men and women who do care—who not only see the change that is needed in the world, but actually pull together and do something about it.

On the catwalk...





Help Just Around the Corner

by Nick Smith

Kenneth* kicked open the double doors of Palmer Hall, stuffing the failed midterm exam into his satchel. This was his second attempt at taking General Biology—last quarter, he would've likely failed had he not dropped it in time. Graduation was six weeks away. He knew he probably wasn't going to be able to march, but he didn't know how to tell his parents. They had already ordered 100 invitations—what a waste!

Just then his bag vibrated. He rummaged through its front compartment, looking for the phone he'd stored there whenever he wore his black skinny jeans and couldn't fit it comfortably in his pocket. He read the text. "Your dad's girlfriend is taking all my stuff. Lawyer's coming over. –Mom." Kenneth tossed the phone back in the bag and walked out to his car. He could feel the blood rushing to his head. He got in the driver's seat, closed and locked the door, buckled up, then broke down—screaming and hitting the steering wheel in a bout of cathartic brutality. He felt defeated. He struggled in a generally easy lower division science course, and on top of that, his mom was losing her good china, not to mention her marriage.

Kenneth parked his car in front of the Counseling Center. About a month before, he had called the Center to make his first appointment—he just needed someone to talk to. The stress of school and the emotional toll his parents' divorce had on him were too much to handle.

His first meeting with Dr. Beeson was cordial: just getting to know Kenneth and his situation was Beeson's primary concern. During follow-up appointments, Beeson and Kenneth worked through issues that Kenneth had never spoken of with another person. Through the course of their weekly meetings, Kenneth learned he was probably dealing with depression as a result of his circumstances. In time, he was provided with tools to help him better understand his priorities, allowing him to make time for outside tutoring for his more difficult classes. Additionally, he was able to begin processing the complex emotions surrounding his parents' disjointed relationship and how those emotions affected his academic performance.

We've all heard the spiel: "Depression hurts; Cymbalta can help." But do college students really have to worry about this? According to Debbie Wright, Director of the Counseling Center since July of last year and one of the counselors at LSU's Counseling Center, depression and stress are two of the most common issues afflicting college students today. "[Stress] is most often related to feeling overwhelmed in school, feeling pressure to succeed, stress at home, relationship problems or adjusting to college life." Wright is also an alumnus of La Sierra and 20-year veteran in the fields of mental health, alcohol and drug abuse, case management and crisis intervention. She says, "Depression can be triggered by specific events

such as death of a loved one, failing a class, a breakup, or a chronic history of depression.”

Students like Kenneth, dealing with a number of serious issues, walk the grounds of our campus, sit in our classes, perhaps study at the desk next to us in the library; sometimes putting on a positive front, not inclined (for whatever reason) to confront their problems. It could be that they're too embarrassed or afraid to express their feelings. Maybe they're busy and just don't have the time to really sit down and talk with someone. Or maybe a good majority of those dealing with stress, depression, and other problems don't know where to go or who they can talk to.

The clinicians at the Counseling Center want students to know that there is a place where they can go to get help—free to all La Sierra University students. The Center is a safe environment where students can seek professional guidance in facing problems they're dealing with, and in the process, develop into the healthier individuals they want to be. At the Counseling Center, students can receive counsel via short-term individual counseling, group counseling, couple counseling, workshops, career exploration/testing, outreach/prevention, and referral to local psychiatrists for medication evaluation(s).

Craig Beeson, also an alumnus of La Sierra who went on to get his Ph.D at the University of Kansas, has worked in the Counseling Cen-

ter at USC and has been on staff at La Sierra's Counseling Center for the past four years. To him, the results of those seeking help at the Center are remarkable. "Seeing a genuine smile on [someone's face] who has been bent over with the weight of depression or stress after working with them is a huge reward."

And depression and stress are just two of the many problems common to young people, especially on college campuses. No two people are the same, however. We all have our various problems that we deal with on a daily basis. Whether they are issues at home, stress brought on by school and work, or a combination (as in Kenneth's case), staff at the Counseling Center is there to provide direction and hope to each student. "It is rewarding," says Wright, "to see students work through some very tough issues and begin to feel better overall and have a better outlook on life."

*Kenneth is a fictional character.

Counseling Center

Address: 11498 Pierce Street, #B
(next to the Health Services)

Hours: Monday—Thursday, 9-5 PM
Friday, 9-12 PM

After hours, when there is an emergency, security is usually called, along with residence hall dean (if the student lives in the dorm), as well as Sue Curtis. Counselors can be reached after hours in urgent situations through the deans and/or security.

Bossypants Review

by Jeremy Caesar



Tina Fey is the type of woman who's not afraid to make an audience laugh at the expense of herself. Take one look at her character, Liz Lemon from *30 Rock*, a woman who eats cheese on her sofa while wearing a "slanket", dresses like Princess Leia to get out of jury duty, and has a mustache named Tom Selleck. With *Bossypants*, Tina Fey effortlessly transfers this self-deprecating humor from the television screen to the page, making her book an intelligent and hilarious insight into a woman who once dreamt of being chased by Count Chocula.

Bossypants flows chronologically, exploring Fey's days as a young woman in Upper Darby, PA, to her positions of authority at *Saturday Night Live*, *30 Rock*, and as a mother. Early in the book, Fey mentions the first time she got her period. She expresses confusion about the predicament saying, "I knew from commercials that one's menstrual period was a blue liquid that you poured like laun-

dry detergent onto maxi pads to test their absorbency. This wasn't blue, so...I ignored it for a few hours." As a male who has no idea what it's like to be a young pubescent girl, Fey's words are enlightening in a way that's both awkwardly entertaining and honest.

Fey's strength lies in her unflinching honesty, which she comically asserts about pretty much anything. "Gay people don't actually try to convert people." Fey says regarding the colorful bevy of homosexuals she befriended during high school. "That's Jehovah's Witnesses you're thinking of." Fey also discusses how difficult it is to be a woman in a world where Kim Kardashian is the paragon of beauty. Fey fights the system and praises her own droopy brown eyes and gym teacher calves. "I wouldn't even trade the acne scar on my right cheek, because that recurring zit spent more time with me in college than any boy ever did." For the record, Kim doesn't hold a candle to Tina in any way.

After years of doing improv at The Second City in Chicago, Fey started as a writer at *Saturday Night Live* in 1997, where she was later promoted to co-anchor of "Weekend Update", a news segment on the show. She also became the show's first female head writer. She would, however, appear in a sketch whenever "they had run out of bodies." After her stint at *SNL*, Fey created *30 Rock*, which she describes as an experiment to confuse your grandparents. As executive producer, Fey states that being a good boss "means hiring talented people

My Muse Is Dead

by Rebecca Renee Hess

and then getting out of their way." Fey individually highlights her exceptional staff of writers and the absurd jokes they contributed to *30 Rock*; like a mother praising her ragtag collection of offspring.

The highlight of *Bossypants* finds Tina Fey in 2008, attempting to secure a guest appearance by Oprah on *30 Rock*, play vice-presidential hopeful, Sarah Palin on *SNL*, and plan her daughter's Peter Pan-themed birthday party simultaneously. "When Oprah Winfrey is suggesting you may have overextended yourself," says Fey, "You need to examine your [expletive] life." In pulling off this juggling act, Fey proves that the creation of comedy is no laughing matter. The business is a serious art form just like anything else. Her stounding dedication to her craft and the happiness of her family is admirable.

Bossypants ends with Fey wondering what she'll do with the last five minutes of her career. Her dilemma over whether she should have another kid and being forty in the entertainment industry has found her bursting into tears in front of her gynecologist. Even after seven Emmys, three Golden Globes, and the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, Tina Fey is ultimately just like everybody else. All she wants to know is that everything's going to be okay. She's open to our suggestions though. "If you have an opinion, please feel free to offer it to me through the gap in the door of a public restroom. Everyone else does." I have a feeling she's going to be just fine.

My Muse took his last breath today--
sucked it from my lips,
caressing my mouth
with his words
one last time.
He lingered there,
whispering inspiration
that I could not hear
over the pounding of blood in my ears.

My Muse closed his eyes
and sighed a deep, guttural sound--
I still feel it reverberating in my skull,
between my ears
and under the hairline
where follicle meets tender flesh.
He moaned--
his warm breath tickled my skin,
reminding me of summer wind.
Now, when I take out my pen
tears form at its tip.
My Muse is dead
and I have nothing left to say.

Obrigado!

Nick Smith

Criterion Staff

SALSU

&

Publications Staff

VENI, VIDI, VICI!

Thank You!

Jesse Mella
Publications VP