



CRITERION

THE STUDENT NEWS MAGAZINE OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

FALL 2012









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EDITORS NOTE

There's always a lot riding on the "first" of anything. The first date. The first interview. The first issue. We have a lot riding on our very first compilation of news. The Criterion staff and I have been working tirelessly, day and night, to get out our first edition of fall coverage at the start of the third month of school. We're already working on our next issue, which will be out in December. A lot has been happening since we first started school. And we can't wait to tell you all about it.

In our first issue, we will be covering a number of important news stories. Naturally, we dedicated part of our news section to the presidential race. News Editor Sheldon Benjamin and news writer Laura Marshall break down some of the vital issues where both stand behind, along with an informative personal background of the two candidates. Whether you're a Democrat or Republican, even undecided, it is our American right and duty to be informed to

make sound voting resolutions in this very important election; it's our decision, let's not squander it.

In Features, we formally introduce the SALSU team of the 2012-2013 year, taking an honest look at what's at stake this year. We'll delve into the minds of every officer, sharing their plans to make this school year stand out from the previous administrations. Features writer Kayla Santos expands on the student life territory by taking a very close look on how successful this year's freshman orientation, Ignite, compares from past years.

Arts Editor, Jessica Roe covers this fall's upcoming television shows, advising what to keep an eye out for and what to not to waste time with. Arts writer Daniel Olmedo brings it in up close and personal with a music playlist review that sets the mood for that fall cuddle season.

I am proud to say that this is our largest issue to date with 121 pages filled with significant

news reporting and insightful essays. This is the first time The Criterion has broken the 100 page mark, but I assure you, it will not be the last. Because we are growing, we are always looking for input. Have a question? Ask us. Have a concern? Voice it. Wanting to express an idea for a potential story to report? Tell us. We are here to cater to you, the student public. One thing we'd like to start this year is a feature entitled, "Letters to the Editor." Send us your thoughts. The student body should here them. Shoot us an email at Criterion-feedback@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you.

We're upping the ante. Bet on us. We are the medium of revolution. Let's go to change the world.

Always truly,



Israel Carreón
Editor-in-Chief





NEWS





U.S. NEWS ON GRADUATE DEBT

by Amy Sutherland



La Sierra University was ranked “the school with the highest average debt of any school in the country,” according to an erroneous report issued by the September 2012 issue of “US News”.

La Sierra University submitted two crucial errors in the survey conducted by US News. The survey asked for specific figures, ones that didn’t include parent loans or graduate student loans. La Sierra mistakenly included both of these numbers in the final number they submitted to US News. As a result, students graduating from La Sierra University were said to have an average of \$54,

885 in debt.

The day after the issue surfaced, the University’s Marketing Department sent in the accurate number \$42,934 to US News with the hope that the errors might be corrected.

Guru Uppala, the Director of Institutional Research, says that the financial data used for the survey came from Student Financial Services. Then, with that information, he was the one who did the last calculations and submitted the final number to US News. Uppala said that next year he’s “planning to compare the numbers with other Adventist Institutions, get information and numbers from multiple people as well as use an external consultant” to insure that this doesn’t happen again. Because this was the first time that La Sierra University completed this financial survey, there were no numbers to compare to. “Unfortunately, it happened,” said Uppala

For now, it doesn’t look like there will be any long term negative effects as a result of the university’s unfortunate error. However, according to Esther Kinzer, the Director of Student Financial Services, “the people that like to complain about La Sierra will latch onto this...our mistake added fuel to their fire.”

In La Sierra’s response to US News, President Randal Wisbey said “we will sustain our efforts to make sure that we keep educational quality high and costs as low as possible for every student.”

According to La Sierra University’s Larry Becker, the Executive Director of University Relations, the University has a “media consultant that helps us with national media” and that “he made initial contact with US News and at least one follow up has already taken place.” But, La Sierra still awaits some form of action from US News’ part on fixing the online article.

Concerned that this might affect La Sierra University’s future enrollment? Becker says that this is “not one of those stories that really has a lot of legs – most of the reaction was online, and people have moved on. I don’t see any long term effects.”

“Our mistake added fuel to the fire.”

LA SIERRA PARKING GOES DIGITAL

by Ian Walker

In previous years at La Sierra University, there have been issues with students parking in the wrong areas around campus or not having a parking permit to park in certain lots. Another issue has been all the paperwork that students have to go through to register their vehicle for a certain parking lot. This is now a thing of the past! La Sierra security, over the last few months, has set up a website that allows students to register their car for any parking lot on campus. This process is fairly easier than before, and is more straightforward. This new method also eliminates students from having to use the physical La Sierra parking pass. Don Magezi, a junior at La Sierra found the change, "Pretty cool and lot easier than before".

A source familiar with the situation says that this new system should not cause as much confusion as the registration process did before. A student must simply go to lasierra.edu/parking, register with a new account, then enter the name, make, model, and year of the car, along with the plate number and that's it. Before, a student needed to provide all of this in addition to the insurance company information, student license number etc. This new system is basically making it a lot simpler and faster to get students registered. There are still a few students around campus who are not sure on how to get this done, but thankfully the La Sierra website is giving links to the parking page all over its main website.

La Sierra security is not the only department on the campus to advance to totally digital setting. In fact, most of the campus has moved to the digital world. In the dorms they now have electronic sign-ins as opposed to the paper work students had to fill out when coming in to the dorms past room check times. There is also talk of having the students swipe their I.D. cards at university workshops and assembly's as opposed to filling out the workshop attendance cards. In time this will most likely be a reality. La Sierra is bringing its campus to the next level in terms of technology with its new security systems and digital check-ins, it is becoming, digital La Sierra. **C**



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

by Jessica Maynez

The community of people who are deaf or hard of hearing is estimated to be 3.5% of the U.S. population, according to a Gallaudet University survey. Of the 10.5 million people that make up this 3.5%, about 1 million live in California. This demonstrates the largest number of people who are deaf or hard of hearing in a single state. Riverside is home to about 17% of this deaf population in California according to the city's website, showcasing one of the largest communities in the state.

One reason why the number of people who are deaf or hard of hearing is so high in Riverside is because one of the two deaf schools in California is located in the city. California School for the Deaf, Riverside is both a boarding and day school geographically located between Riverside Community College and California Baptist University. It is a facility that offers educational services to deaf children and youth ages 3-21 living in any one of the 11 counties forming Southern California. The school, on its website, describes itself as a place which "Provides intensive, specialized services to students with or without additional disabilities whose primary education needs are due to their deafness."

The community of people who are deaf or heard of hearing is estimated to be 3.5% of the U.S. population

Some might think that this would satisfy the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing community, but having just one deaf school in all of Southern California is hardly enough. Schools such as these are very expensive because not that many teachers know American Sign Language, or ASL. Also, some of the technology and other supplies needed to create a specialized learning environment for them are costly as well. On the other hand, it provides a place where the students will not feel alienated for not being able to communicate with each other or the teacher. They may feel more at ease and able to learn more efficiently when being taught through ASL, which is the goal. However, this does not change the fact that both hearing and non-hearing people may still feel awkward around each other for lack of the ability to communicate easily.



Most people learn ASL because someone they know is deaf. Some don't learn it even then. But ASL doesn't have to be limited to just being used to communicate between friends or family in a social manner. ASL can be used in a variety of different occupations. Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists and Interpreters are the more common jobs for someone who knows ASL. But there are so many other occupations that would benefit from having someone who, if not proficient, at least knows the basics of ASL. There are countless occupations that could benefit from having at least one person on their staff that knows ASL, at least to some extent.

Another reason why learning ASL could be helpful is that one does not necessarily have to be deaf in order to need it. ASL is used quite often with people who are autistic. I have a cousin who was born with autism and due to her condition she was slower in learning how to communicate verbally. Her doctors recommended that she and her parents learn the basics of ASL to help with communication. For her first couple of years of life, this was how they figured out what she wanted. Through therapy she was able to overcome the hurdle that blocked her from learning how to speak at the normal age to do so. Today her autism is well controlled and one would hardly be able to tell that she is autistic. If her parents had not learned to use ASL to understand her when she was younger, things would have been more difficult. Unfortunately, this is not the case for all autistic people. They and their families can benefit greatly from learning ASL because many people with autism have difficulty communicating verbally. This is another reason why health professionals, as well as teachers could really use ASL because learning it would make it easier to work with people with conditions such as autism as well as deafness.

There are so many other occupations that would benefit from having someone who, if not proficient, at least knows the basics of ASL

As of right now, RCC and the local California State Universities are the only continuing education facilities that offer ASL classes in the Riverside area. Of the Adventist colleges and universities, only Andrews and Southern list ASL in their academic bulletins. It would of course, be up to the school to determine if it would be worthwhile to teach sign language, but considering the community that the school is a part of, it could open up a whole other world of ways for La Sierra to reach out to the community surrounding it.





T.V. FILM MAJOR

by William Appiah & Brianna Jones

An established member of the entertainment industry has brought his talents to the La Sierra campus to teach and head the new Film and Television Department. The addition of the Film and TV Major follows the beginning of the minor that was included in the curriculum during the 2011-2012 school year. Starting from short script writing classes, to editing, to the complete production process, students will be able to grow and develop a career as storytellers by using the language of imagery. The expansion of this program adds more options for students that are currently studying at our institution.

Rodney Vance, the head of the program, comes to us after working for four years at PUC, and for 12 years as a writer before then. He brings with him a long list of credits on his resume, but he also comes with inspiration for the new program for our students. The short scriptwriting class that is taught by Vance in Palmer Hall challenges the students to think visually. Vance asks his class, "How can you tell a story with a single image?" The interactive class setting gives students the opportunity to share thoughts and exchange ideas.

The expansion of this program adds more options for students that are currently studying at our institution.

In addition, students in this major will have access to cameras, lights, microphones, editing equipment and everything else necessary to create films. The program is fostered on an idea of learning in class and by participating in hands-on projects. With one picture can come a beginning, middle and end of a story. The rest is left to the writers. As storytellers, if the writing is not as captivating as the pictures, then we are left with amazing visuals that are degraded by words that appear to be thrown together. Vance's ambition is to teach students how to speak through images. These skills can be used in Hollywood, churches, businesses and educational intuitions.





There is also opportunity for film & television students to work with professional actors. Rodney Vance states that, “We won’t get Brat Pitt but we will get talent worthy actors that are looking to be in student films and work with students”. In response to his work with some Los Angeles acting programs, Vance said, “They have been amazing; helpful and supportive.”

The opportunity for internships and networking possibilities are limitless for the film and television students thanks to La Sierra’s location and its distance from Los Angeles and other media centers.

The passion that Vance has for his students is evident in his demeanor and willingness to help them succeed. He also carries a large amount of hope for this institution. He wants to see the school expand and get a feel for the current culture and form of communication. “I see images and stories being the primary language used in Pop Culture; first it was French, then English, and now it is images” said Vance. He believes that in order to gain attention from today’s society we have to adjust to current art forms. His plan is for graduates to have an outstanding background on how to speak the language of imagery.

Finally, along with Professor Vance, we have a number of other instructors that are working at making this program strong. Vance says, “My goal is to develop a top 25 undergraduate program for La Sierra University. It’s going to take some time but its starting here and now”. It is encouraging to see the start of a new division of study headed by professors that are strong believers of their work. There are great things we can look forward to this year from the Film and Television Department. The evolution of art on La Sierra’s campus will continue to expand beyond our imagination. La Sierra is becoming more technologically sound and its students are becoming well versed in the language of visual arts. Rodney Vance stated that he “wants to bring world class talent to Adventist media”. By continuing to train and teach our students we can see that he is off to a great start. 

The opportunity for internships and networking possibilities are limitless for the film and television students thanks to La Sierra’s location and its distance from Los Angeles and other media centers.





OUR





DECISION

by Sheldon Benjamin & Laura Marshall



DEFENDING CHAMP





B

arack Obama, 44th president of the United States, was born on August 4, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii to parents Barack Obama, Sr. of Kenya and Ann Dunham of Wichita, Kansas.

After transferring to Columbia University, he completed a bachelor's degree in political science with an emphasis in international relations. Obama worked in the business sector for a few years before moving to Chicago and becoming a community organizer. Obama met his wife-to-be, Michelle Robinson while interning at a law firm. Obama pursued a law degree at Harvard University and gained national attention as the first black president of the Harvard Law Review. In 1991, he graduated *magna cum laude* with a J.D. degree from Harvard.

Obama quickly began his legislative career serving three terms as a state senator in Illinois from 1997 to 2004. During this time, he also taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School. He unsuccessfully ran in 2000 for a seat in the House of Representatives. In 2004, he was a keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention. This speech sparked interest within the Democratic Party. In November 2004, Barack Obama was elected as Senator of Illinois and served until November of 2008 when he pursued his campaign for the presidency. After a tight battle against Hillary Clinton in the Democratic Primary, Obama won his party's nomination for President of the United States. On November 4, 2008, Barack Obama was elected as the first African-American president in the history of the United States.

In response to the 2007 to 2009 recession, President Obama did two major things. The American Recovery and Reinvestment act of 2009 was an economic stimulus legislation designed to jumpstart the economy by helping floundering businesses stay afloat. Along with Tax Relief Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, these two legislations are commonly referred to as the Obama Tax Cuts.

On the domestic front, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act also known as ObamaCare, represents one of the largest overhauls on American health-care ever. This legislation was designed to reduce the overall cost of health care through mandates, subsidies and tax credits to employers to encourage an increase in coverage rates. In addition to healthcare, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, signed in 2009, covered 4 million unin-

sured children.

Concerning foreign policy, one of President Obama's first moves as Commander in Chief was to develop a plan to withdraw troops from Iraq. Although he attempted to close the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, congress withheld required funds, preventing the closure. A stronger military presence in a deteriorating Afghanistan and the assassination of international terrorist Osama Bin laden are both accomplishments that the Obama Administration is responsible for.

After inheriting America in one of the worst economic states since the Great Depression, President Barack Obama has brought many noticeable changes to the country. With running mate Joe Biden, President Barack Obama is campaigning for his 2nd term as the President of the United States of America.

President Barack Obama has brought many noticeable changes to the country



THE ISSUES

ABORTION

President Obama's position is that women should continue to have the right to choose. During his years as Senator of Illinois, President Obama consistently voted "pro-choice" on issues regarding abortion. He supports the ruling of Roe v. Wade which, in 1973, determined that abortions are to be legally available to women. The President also supports the continuation of federal aid to Planned Parenthood, an organization that has garnered criticism by providing abortion services in addition to cancer screening, HIV screening, contraception and other reproductive health services.



GAY RIGHTS

On May 9, President Obama became the first sitting president to declare his support for the legal recognition of same-sex marriage. Previously, he had supported civil unions for gay couples and maintained that they should share the same rights as marriage. President Obama has unsuccessfully fought to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), a federal law passed in 1996 that defines marriage as being between a man and woman. It permits both state and federal government to deny a civil union or same-sex marriage from another state. Although DOMA has not been defeated, openly gay soldiers are now allowed to serve in the military since President Obama repealed the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy in September of 2011.

IMMIGRATION

President Obama supports increasing border security. In fact, a record number of immigrants have been deported while he has been in office. However, his stance on deportation has proved different than that of the Bush administration. Since 2008, the number of criminal immigrant deportations has risen 89% while the number of noncriminal immigrant deportations was reduced by 29%. Explaining his different approach, President Obama said, "We are focusing our limited resources on violent offenders and people convicted of crimes; not families, not folks who are just looking to scrape together an income." In June, Obama announced that children who were brought into the United States illegally will be exempt from





deportation and granted a work permit. This action is reminiscent of the DREAM Act which, despite being supported by the President, has not been passed into law. The DREAM Act would provide a path to citizenship for those who are in school, have received a degree, or participated in the military.

FOREIGN POLICY

President Obama believes the United States should only intervene in other countries' affairs for reasons related to national security, human rights violations, or when asked for assistance. The war in Iraq was ended under President Obama's administration and all troops were withdrawn by December of 2011. The President is currently planning a full withdraw from Afghanistan. The death of Osama bin Laden in May 2011 is considered one of the greatest accomplishments of President Obama's administration. In order to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, he supports negotiation and developing stronger sanctions until there is a credible threat.

HEALTHCARE

President Obama strongly supports universal healthcare. He signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (commonly referred to as "Obamacare") into law in March of 2010. The law attempts to lessen the number of Americans who are uninsured and to make healthcare more affordable. President

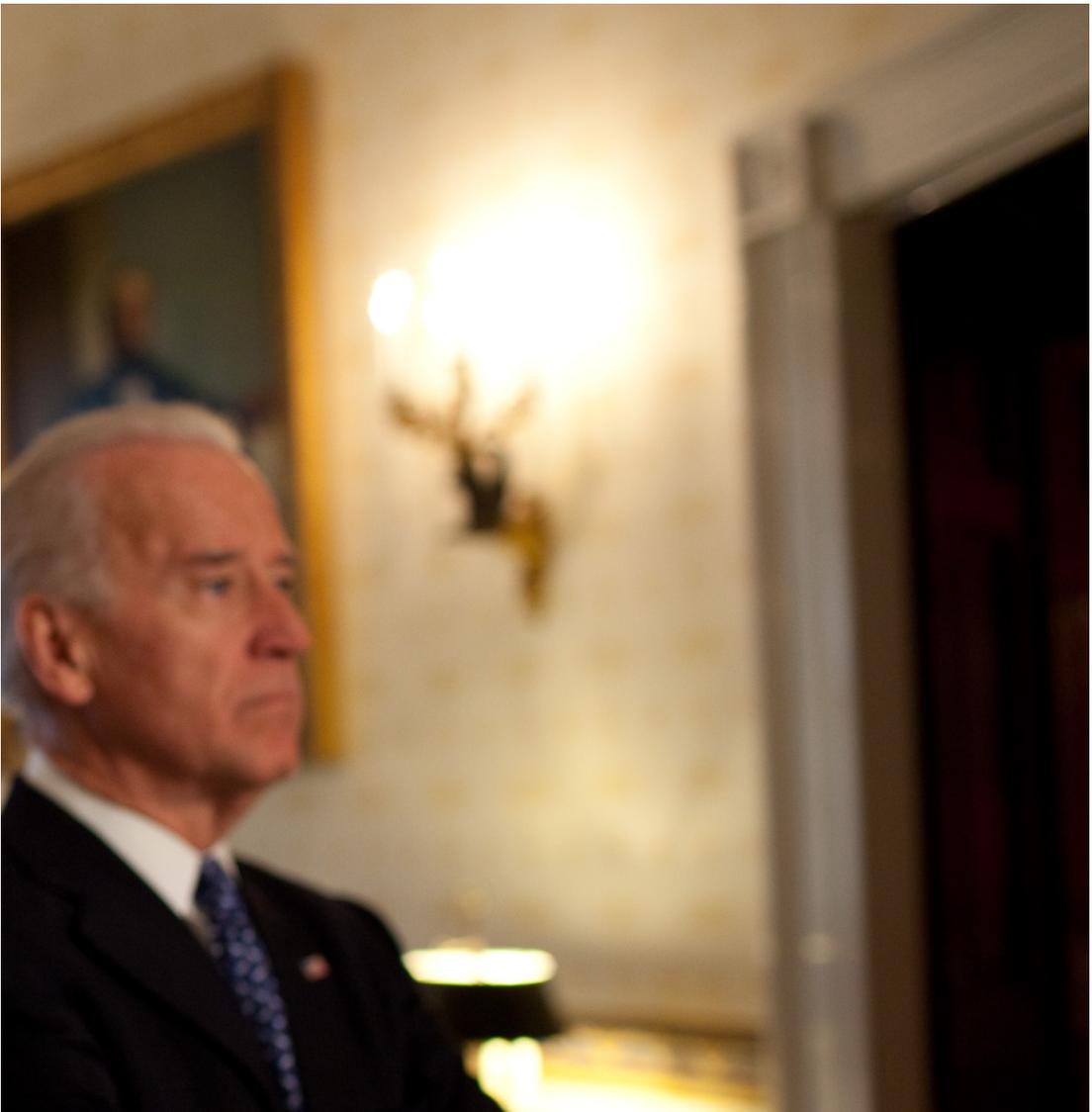




Obama has often emphasized that those pleased with their current provider are free to maintain it; ObamaCare serves as an option for those who desire it. The law also puts regulations on other health care providers. For example, insurance companies are prohibited from denying anyone with a previous condition. They are also required by the law to justify any increase in premium charges. Additionally, young people are now allowed to stay on their parents' insurance until the age of 26. Regarding the law, President Obama stated, "Nobody is going to go broke just because they get sick. And Americans will no longer be denied or dropped by their insurance companies just when they need care the most. That's what change is."

ECONOMY

Since inheriting the economic recession, President Obama's term has seen a nearly constant 8% unemployment rate. Shortly after becoming president, Obama signed the Recovery Act, an economic stimulus package intended to preserve and create jobs. This act, along with the automotive industry bailout, created more than 5.2 million jobs for Americans. President Obama also issued a tax cut that applied to about 160 million workers. The tax plan for his second term as President involves eliminating tax cuts for companies who outsource jobs to other countries. President Obama plans on creating more American jobs by limiting the amount that are sent overseas. **C**





W

illard Mitt Romney was born March 12th, 1947 in Detroit, Michigan to Lenore and George Romney. Lenore gave up an acting career when she met George, who despite never having graduated from college, went on to become Governor of Michigan through his work as the head of American Motors.

Mitt Romney grew up in Bloomfield, Michigan and in 1966; he left for 30 months to serve as a Mormon missionary in France. In 1969 he married Ann Davies, whom he first met in elementary school and then became reacquainted later in life. Ann was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1998 and has recently fought with breast cancer. However, despite her health hardships, Mitt and Ann Romney have had 5 sons and 18 grandchildren.

Having participated in his parents campaigns, Mitt was familiarized with American politics. By 1971, he earned his Bachelor's in Arts from Brigham Young University. In 1975, he went on to earn a joint J.D and M.B.A from Harvard University. After working several years as a business consultant, he cofounded Bain Capital in 1984; a hugely successful consulting firm.

Romney first ran as the Republican candidate in the 1994 Massachusetts election for U.S Senate losing to Ted Kennedy. He then resumed working at Bain Capital until he was hired as President and CEO of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake, Utah.

His success organizing the Olympics gave him strong visibility for a political office. With this momentum, Romney once again ran for office, this time winning the gubernatorial election for Massachusetts in 2002. As Governor of Massachusetts, Romney's most notable accomplishment was the development and implementation of the Massachusetts health care reform legislation; the first of its kind in the entire U.S. Under this new legislation, the entire state of Massachusetts was provided with nearly universal health care coverage through state subsidies.

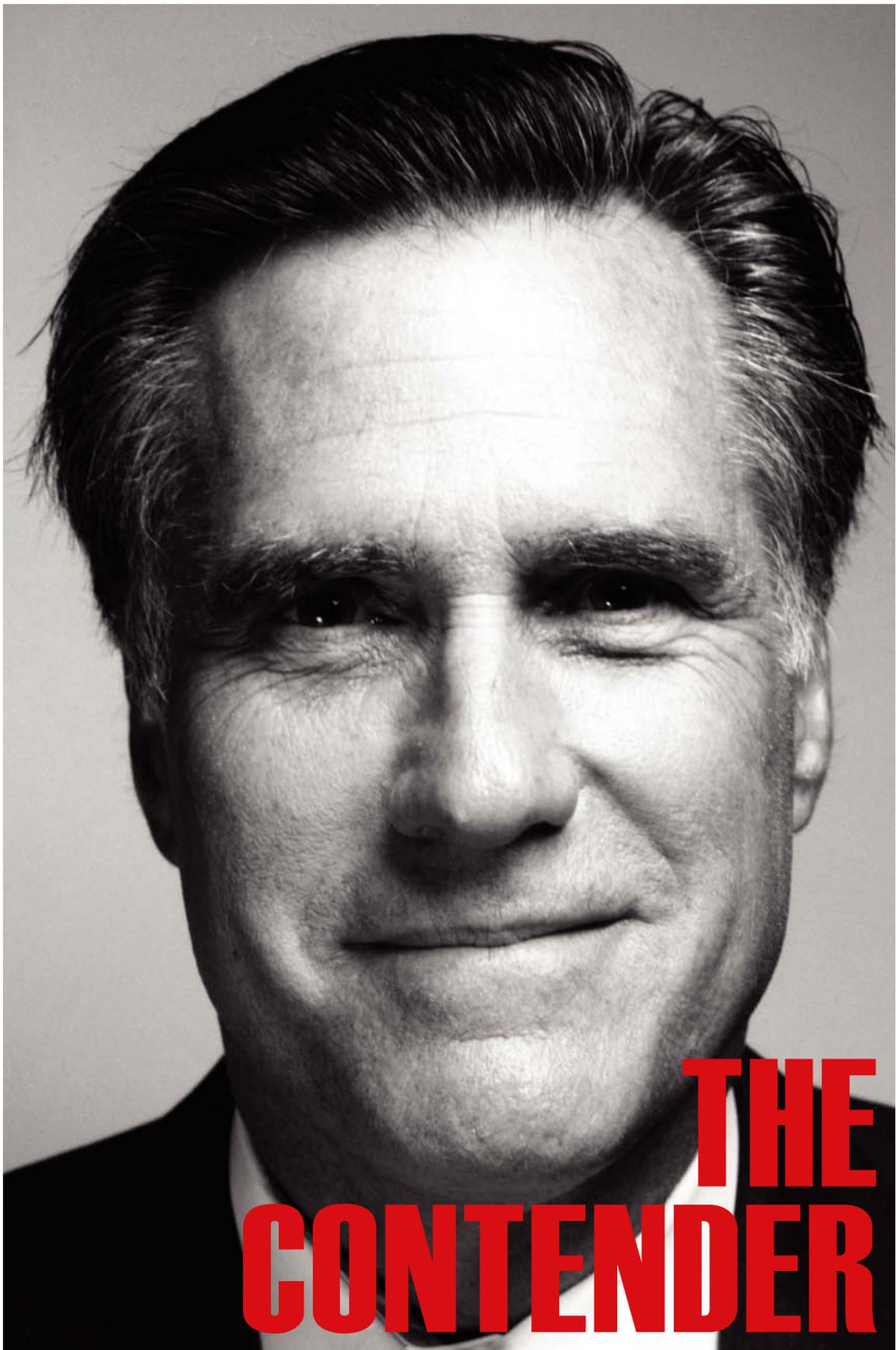
Along with health care reform, Romney oversaw the elimination of an estimated \$1.2 billion deficit by utilizing a combination of increased fees and budget cuts. Although he had a successful term as Governor of Massachusetts, Romney opted not to focus on reelection in 2006. He instead turned his attention to a campaign for the Republican Nomination of the 2008 U.S. Presidential election. Despite winning

several primaries and caucuses, Romney lost the nomination to Senator John McCain.

In 2011, Romney campaigned again for the Republican nomination of the 2012 U.S. Presidential election. This time winning and choosing Representative Paul Ryan of Wisconsin as his running mate. Romney's campaigns have been funded largely by his estimated \$200 million net worth. He currently stands as the Republican candidate for the 2012 U.S. Presidential election against Democratic candidate and current President, Barack Obama.

As Governor of Massachusetts, Romney's most notable accomplishment was the development and implementation of the Massachusetts health care reform legislation





THE CONTENDER



THE ISSUES

ABORTION

Governor Romney's varying positions on abortion have drawn skepticism from both sides of the political spectrum. In 1994, while running against Ted Kennedy for Senate, Governor Romney proclaimed that abortion should be kept legal and spoke in support of women's right to choose. Though uncommon among Republican politicians, he maintained this position while campaigning for governor of the predominantly Democratic state, Massachusetts. However, Romney now favors overturning *Roe v. Wade* describing it as "one of the darkest moments in Supreme Court history." If Romney succeeds, each state will determine its own laws regarding abortion. In addition to overturning *Roe v. Wade*, Romney would cut off federal aid to Planned Parenthood.

GAY RIGHTS

As of now, legal recognition of same-sex marriage is left up to the state government. Governor Romney is in favor of creating a constitutional amendment that would remove that responsibility from the state and ban gay marriage entirely. Though he opposes civil unions, Governor Romney says he would leave



that decision up to the state government. Governor Romney disagreed with repealing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' but says he will not reverse that action if elected. Similar to his changing positions regarding abortion, the Governor's attitude towards gay rights has changed over time. During his 1994 campaign for Senate, he promised gays and lesbians that he would work towards "full equality" which many understood to mean same-sex marriage. His supportive stance changed soon after securing his job as Massachusetts's governor.

IMMIGRATION

Governor Romney suggests that immigration reform begin with the hiring practices of businesses. He favors use of the E-Verify system among employers to determine if job applicants are legal citizens. In January 2012, Governor Romney explained this position during a GOP primary debate. He stated, "The answer is self-deportation, which is people decide they can do better by going home because they can't find work here because they don't have legal documentation to allow them to work here." Governor Romney says he will honor the work visas granted to young people by President Obama's executive order made in June although he does not agree with the action. Governor Romney would consider granting legal status to those serving in the military but not necessarily to those in school. He is also in favor of making English the official language of the US, which would prevent all government documents from being written in Spanish. Moreover, Romney says he would like to reinforce and expand the fence on the Mexican border. He suggests adding a second layer in order to make it more difficult to cross the border.

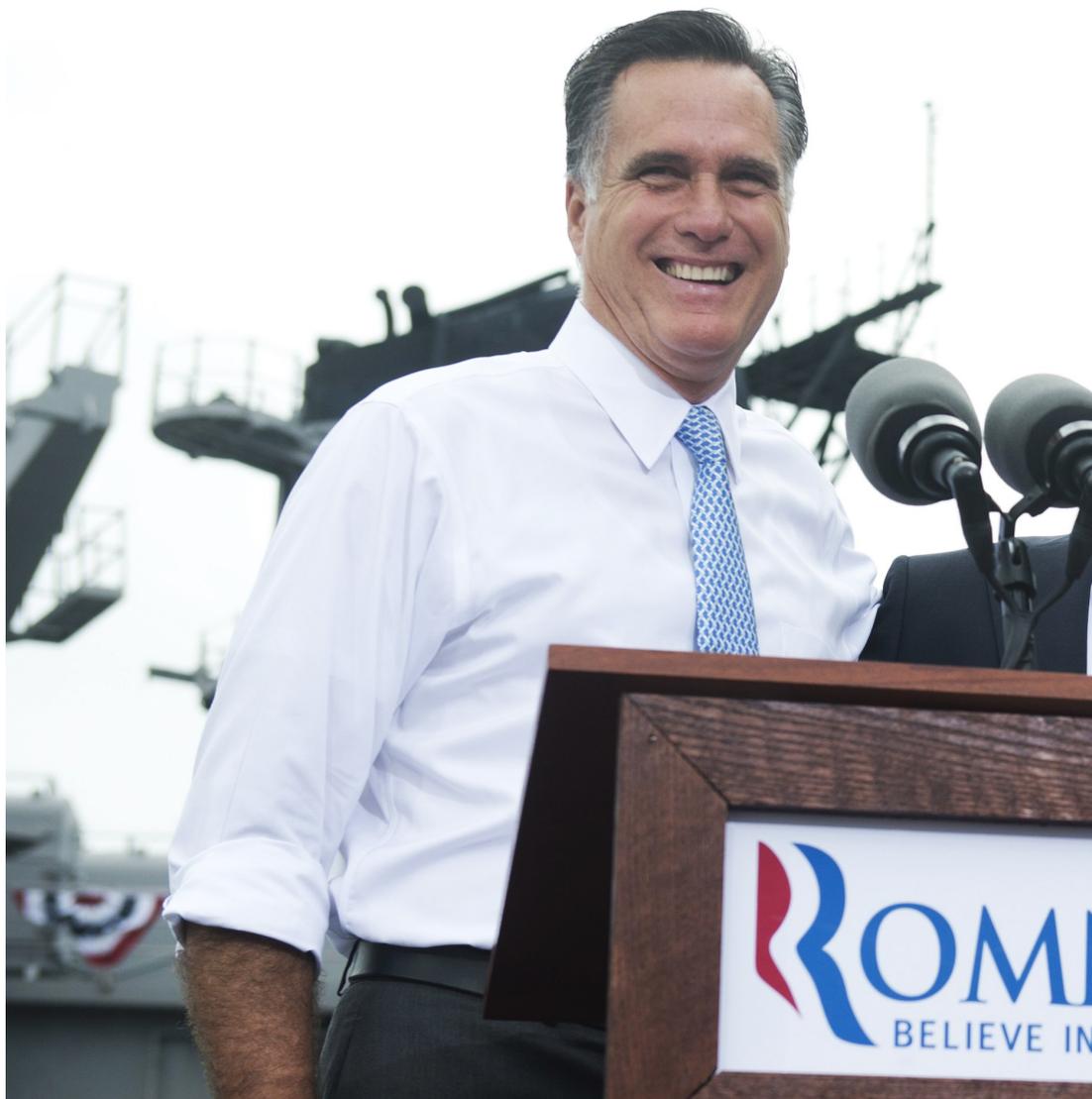


FOREIGN POLICY

Governor Romney is in favor of granting almost \$100 billion to the Pentagon budget. He states that he will reverse any defense cuts that have made during President Obama's term. Both candidates agree that troops should gradually withdraw from Afghanistan. While President Obama has set 2014 as a firm deadline, Governor Romney agrees but adds that it is subject to conditions. Concerning the possible development of nuclear weapons in Iran, Governor Romney takes a more militaristic approach saying "a military option to deal with their nuclear weapons program is very real and very credible."

HEALTHCARE

Governor Romney strongly opposes the Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. Obamacare). He promises to replace it with one that gives state government the responsibility to provide and regulate reasonable health



care plans. This would also allow for the purchase of out-of-state health care. “I would repeal Obamacare, if I were ever in a position to do so. My experience has taught me that states are where healthcare programs for the uninsured should be crafted, just as the Constitution provides,” says Mitt Romney.

ECONOMY

Governor Romney has prepared five economic bills and five executive orders to present to Congress on his first day in office. These include decreasing the corporate income tax rate, repealing Obamacare, sanctioning China, and transferring many federal programs and responsibilities back to the state government. Governor Romney is also in favor of capping federal spending at 20% of the GDP. In order to promote free market trade, Governor Romney would like to form a partnership with countries willing to participate in open markets. Countries like China will be sanctioned for participating in unfair trade practices. In summary, Governor Romney’s economic plan for America consists of lowering small business taxes, implementing international free trade, and cutting the national deficit. **(C)**



FEATURES







An ALL OUT

SALSU has been dying. School spirit has been diminishing. If something is not done, and convinced that the school isn't past saving. They're ready to break the mold. They're





HAIL MARY

fast, La Sierra is looking at serious infrastructural student-life woes. But this year's team is willing to break tradition. Everything is on the line. Their goal for this year: resuscitation.







PRESIDENT

MELODY ILACAS



THIS IS YOUR SECOND TERM AS SALSU PRESIDENT. WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO BRING TO THE TABLE WITH A FRESH NEW YEAR?

I plan to still be me, keeping up with my responsibilities. It's not really about what I can bring to the table, but what our SALSU team can do. I learned from my first year that everyone works together to make SALSU a success. It's not just one person, but the whole team that matters. I plan to bring an open mind, a listening ear, and an open heart. I want people who are part of this community to know that I am here and ready to receive any comments or concerns. I plan on being a leader and a servant to the student body.

LAST YEAR, YOU SPOKE WITH *THE CRITERION* ON TACKLING THE CHALLENGE OF BUILDING A CLOSER COMMUNITY ON CAMPUS. DO YOU THINK YOU SUCCEEDED IN DOING SO DURING YOUR FIRST TERM?

I think that my first term was a stepping-stone to building a closer community on campus. Last year's SALSU team encouraged clubs on campus to have events and be in charge of Rendezvous workshops, which I think helped in building community on campus. These clubs were able to be exposed and were able to start fostering relationships with the students on campus. I'm glad that SALSU had the opportunity to help clubs feel more connected with the student body and not just the members of their respected clubs. Being part of the La Sierra community is being exposed to the diversity it has to offer.

MANY STUDENTS FEEL THAT SCHOOL SPIRIT HAS BEEN DIMINISHING OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS. HOW DO YOU PLAN TO TURN THAT AROUND?

School spirit has been diminishing. There are people who go to athletic games, but that isn't the only way that school spirit is promoted on campus. Being involved, going to the events provided by SALSU and other departments while having school pride are part of having school spirit. Promoting SALSU and other events is part of what this year's SALSU will do to help boosting school spirit. Working with the administration, staff, faculty and the student senate to make improvements on campus so that La Sierra is a place that its students can be proud of. Let's also not forget the Eagle Slide and Eagle calls.

AS PRESIDENT, HOW DO YOU PLAN TO STAY CONNECTED TO THE STUDENT BODY SO THAT YOU CAN BE OPEN TO THEIR CONCERNS?

To me, staying connected with the student body means that there can be open communication. As long as I'm not rushing off somewhere I have no problem with students stopping me to talk to me about things that concern them. I try to be at events, not just SALSU related, so that students can see that I have an interest in their university experience. Also, using our student senate is a big way to stay connected with the student body. The student senators will know that they can talk to me about anything. I even try to ask them about their opinions and what the students might think on certain subjects. They are the ones who hear what the students are saying, since I can't be everywhere at once. They really bring a diverse perspective that I cannot obtain on my own. Students can also e-mail and calling me, if students are ever inclined to want to reach me. I make a serious effort to respond to students when they make the effort to contact me. Students and they can always stop by the SALSU office or email me at salsu.president@lasierra.edu.

BE HONEST. WERE THERE ANY STRATEGIES IN ORDER TO SERVE THE STUDENTS BETTER? WHAT WORKED LAST YEAR REALLY WELL?

Part of serving the students is trying to make sure they are comfortable and that they can gain from what we do. Last year we tried to provide activities on campus that we thought students would enjoy. Our biggest turnouts were off campus events. We also stepped it up with Midnight Café, getting HTG (Heritage) to play live, and serving food that we thought students would enjoy. Our student senate really stepped it up. Last year each senator was challenged have a project that would make an impact. From that challenge came SoundCheck (open mic), extended gym hours on weekdays, smoothies in the Eagle's Nest, event collaborated with the City of Riverside and the colleges and universities in Riverside, awareness of social causes, a bigger student senate, and better communication systems in Calkins Hall and South Hall. This year we are going to continue senate projects and find ways to improve the programs we already have to get students more involved.





WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENGAGE STUDENTS DURING THE WEEKENDS?

Our campus has a high commuter population and most students who live in the dorm usually go home for the weekend. The best thing we can do is to provide programming and events that students would want to stay on campus or come back to campus for the weekend. Also, fostering relationships in the dorm so that students feel like it's better to stay at school to be with friends instead of going home.

ARE THERE ANY NEW EVENTS THAT THE CAMPUS CAN BE LOOKING FORWARD TO?

I don't know about new, but it's more about knowing which events were popular and making sure that those happen. Jason Siu, our Social VP, is the one in charge of events. I'm excited to see what events he comes up with. I'm also excited to see what CABL and Religious will bring to the table in enriching the student experience at La Sierra.

WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL GOALS THAT YOU HAVE FOR THIS YEAR?

One of my biggest personal goals for this year is to not compare this year's SALSU team with last year's. That is one of my biggest struggles, doing the compare and contrast. But I do remind myself daily that this year's team is a new one that is different than last year's. So far that reminder has helped me discover strengths of this year's team, which has already "wowed" me. I also want to try to improve SALSU. There is always room for improvement, even if it is already something great.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS IN WHICH YOU PRIORITIZE FROM WHAT IS NEEDED AND WHAT IS WANTED?

Honestly, I take it all as it comes. I have to put needs before wants, that's just how I was trained. The needs of the student body and the sustainability of our school are very important to me. The wants are also important because they allow me to see what is vital to the student body, allowing us to try to make their experience a positive one. So, I usually have to weigh what is more important, not only for the now but also for the future.









EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

MICHAEL AGUILAR





WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN SALSU?

My role in SALSU is to ensure the voices and needs of the student body are heard. It is my job to facilitate change on campus, that is, if a student has a good idea that they are seeking to implement on behalf of themselves and others I, as Executive Vice President, can provide avenues towards successful implementation of those ideas. Executive Vice President is also responsible for presiding over the student senate, which is, where ideas are exchanged and change is voted on.

YOU AND THE PARLIAMENTARIAN POSITION PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE STUDENT SENATE. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE THE SENATE MORE INVOLVED ON CAMPUS? WHAT GOALS DO YOU PLAN TO TACKLE THIS YEAR?

For the upcoming year, SALSU and, more specifically, Student Senate are looking to continue the development of student-lead projects aimed at bring visible changes to campus life. It is Senate's goal this year to make manifest its potential as a potent medium for student self-improvement.

ANY CHALLENGES YOU FORSEE?

Well, through my experience, I can say that one of the biggest challenges that I may face this year is instilling in the majority of the student senators a tireless drive and dedication to accomplish the tasks laid out before them. In past years, some enthusiasm has been lacking and that has proven to be detrimental to the completion of senate's goals. If senators can be inspired to commit themselves tirelessly to the tasks at hand, then this year should be a successful year.

YOU'RE IN AN INTERESTING POSITION. AS VICE-PRESIDENT, WORKING CLOSE WITH THE PARLIAMENTARIAN CLOSELY BUILDS FOR A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP. CAN YOU ELABORATE A BIT MORE ON THAT PARTNERSHIP?

Yes of course. Parliamentarian and I collaborate on myriad of plans for Student Senate. Together we share ideas and aspirations for what we want to see accomplished over the course of the year and we strategize on the best ways to attain our mutual goals. Also in time of conflict, we can rely on each other to independently handle or take over in any aspect our respective positions.









PARLIMENTARIAN

AMANDA CRYSTINE ALONSO





WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AS PARLIAMENTARIAN?

My role as Parliamentarian is to ensure that all Executive Council, Senate, and the Constitution and Bylaws board meetings are conducted according to *Robert's Rules of Order*. I am also responsible of SALSU's senate elections and officer elections. Also serving as the chair of the Senate Judicial committee, I oversee any amendments to the constitution and any club financial petitions.

EXPLAIN THE PULL THIS POSITION HAD ON YOU WHAT WAS IT ABOUT THIS POSITION THAT MADE YOU MADE YOU GRAVITATE TOWARD IT?

Originally, I wanted to interview for the secretary position because I thought that even in this minor role I could have a major influence. However, during my interview Melody asked me how would I feel about being Parliamentarian. At first, I was hesitant because although I knew the Parliamentarian was the person keeping order during meetings with their small little gavel, I didn't think I would be able to handle such a critical position like this one. However, Melody saw potential in me to grow and I told myself too that this could be an opportunity to try something that I knew would be out of my comfort zone but something I knew I would be able to handle.

YOU WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT IN MATTERS THAT CONCERN THE SENATE. COULD YOU DELVE INTO THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN YOUR COLLEAGUE?

As Parliamentarian I am working really closely with our Executive Vice President, Michael Aguilar. The two of us are working together to make senate elections exciting and successful. Michael runs the meeting and I'm in charge of making sure that everything runs smoothly and efficiently. The two of us have to work together in setting up meetings, working with the senators, and getting them excited about their senator projects.

LEARNING THE SALSU CONSTITUTION IS NO EASY FEAT. LEARNING THE INS AND OUTS OF OFFICIAL SALSU SENATE EVENTS IS NO WALK IN THE PARK ALSO. HOW DID YOU PREPARE FOR THIS TITLE?

I have to admit, that I'm still even nervous about knowing all the ins and outs of the constitution and Roberts Rules of Order, but I am working on it and I've learned so much already. I've held other leadership positions that require knowing several rules and regulations so I know that with practice, memorization, and time my job will become easier. Every senate meeting will be a learning opportunity for me and I hope for everyone else as well.

WHAT ARE SOME PERSONAL GOALS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACHIEVE FOR YOURSELF AND THE SENATE?

Personal goals for myself are to know the Constitution inside and out as well as *Roberts Rules of Order*. I hope that the elected Senators have fun as they have this great opportunity to make positive changes on campus for current and future students. I hope to look back on this school year of 2012-2013 and remember the fun senate and SALSU had while making a difference on this campus.









FINANCIAL VICE-PRESIDENT

SHELDON HADLEY





WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO PROPER SPENDING
CONCERNING PROJECTS, EVENTS, RETREATS, ECT?

The process for determining the spending of our funds is making sure it will help improve our campus. We want to make our students happy and provide opportunities for them to have a great time, get to know more people, and try new things. Also, we want to do our part to improve the campus and if the cost is worth the benefits then we don't mind spending money that is in our budget to help accomplish that goal.

CAN SALSU SUPPORT STUDENT CLUBS FINANCIALLY?

Yes, each quarter SALSU puts aside a certain amount of money designated to help clubs and this money comes from the Executive Budget. The Executive VP gets to decide how much each quarter, but we usually set aside anywhere from \$500 to \$800. The clubs need to petition for this money and based on how open the event is to the student body as a whole, the advertising for the event, and the potential the event has to draw in people we either approve, deny, or reduce the amount of money petitioned for.

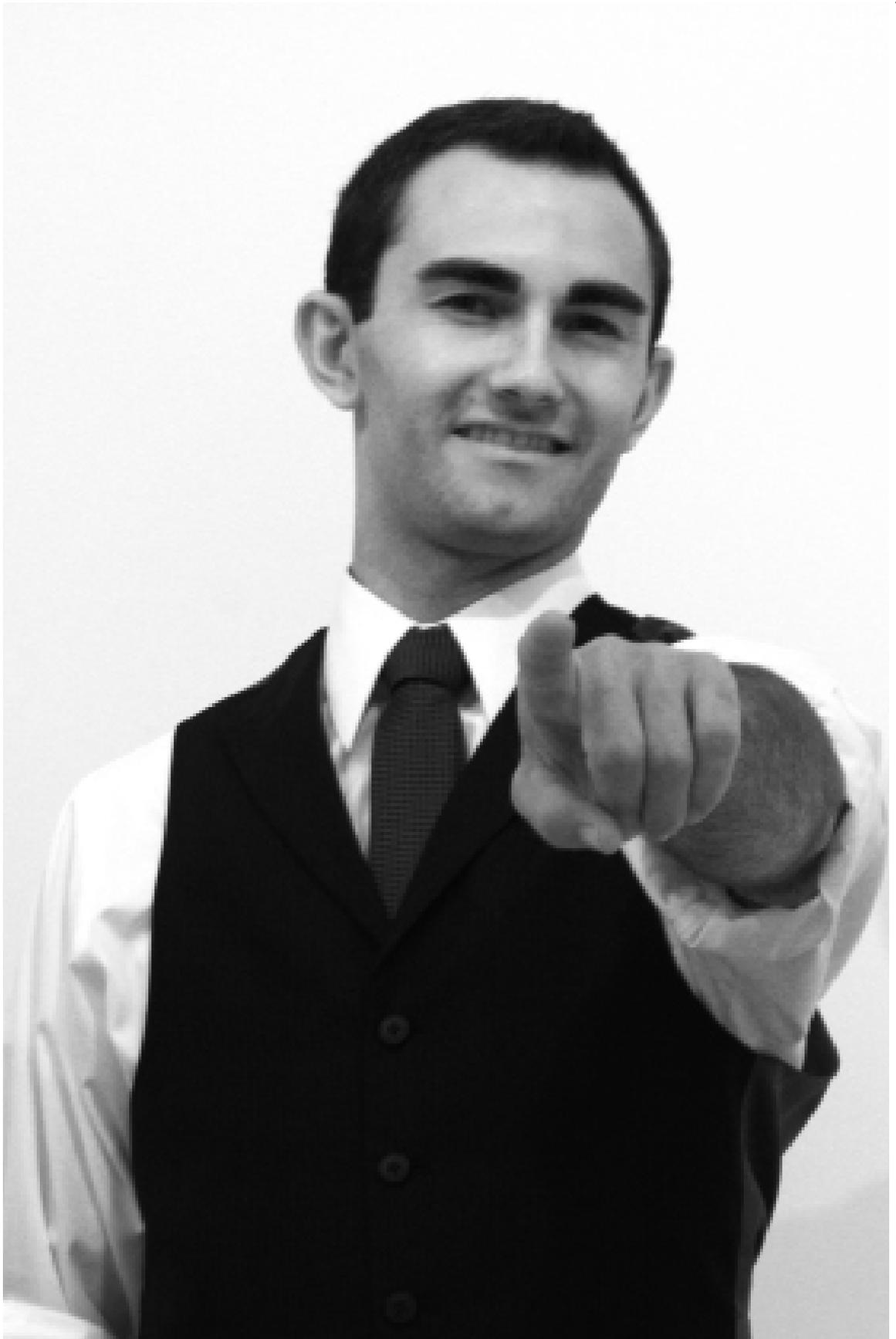
WAS THERE ANY MENTORING INVOLVED BEFORE
TAKING THIS POSITION? WILL THERE CONTINUE TO BE
ONE THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR? WHAT ARE
THEIR QUALIFICATIONS?

The previous Financial VP met with me before the end of last year and taught me a lot about what she does. This year I have a financial sponsor named Silvia Stenner who will help me keep all the budgets up to date and help guide me. She is extremely nice and I am lucky to have her help. Lastly, I am a business management and accounting major so I have many great people from the Business Department whom I can turn to for advice in case I ever need it.

WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL GOALS AS FINANCIAL
VICE-PRESIDENT THIS YEAR?

I want to maximize this school year. What I mean by that is I want to make sure that the money we are budgeted does not go to waste. I want to spend money on things students will enjoy and give the most amount of people the most happiness. If I think an officer can save money on something I am going to push that officer to do better. If I think that the officer is spending money on something that the students will not like, then I will let them know. Lastly, I want to work with the officers and make sure they never go over their budgets' for this year.









RELIGIOUS VICE-PRESIDENT

TANIA ACUNA





WHAT LEAD YOU TO PURSUE THIS POSITION?
WHAT DO YOU BRING TO THE TABLE THAT YOU
THINK PREVIOUS LEADERS HAVE LACKED?

What lead me to pursue this position was my love of ministry. I have been involved with church ministry all my life. My dad was a pastor and served as a missionary when I was a baby. Throughout my life my family has served at all capacities in the church. I also love people! All people, crazy people, weird people, broken people, confused people, all people! Why? I have been in each "category" at least once in my life. The only thing that pulled me out and introduced to a newer season was God! Jesus modeled that same love for all people while he was here on earth... and it worked! I love serving people. There is nothing I rather do while in my college career than to serve people. Actually, there is no greater cause in my life than to serve people!

THERE ARE MANY STUDENTS ON CAMPUS WHO
ARE COMMUTERS. HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO
REACH OUT TO EVERYONE IN THE STUDENT BODY?

I feel that in past years SALSU has lacked in the way they advertise and especially whom they advertise too. This year, at least in my area, I plan to advertise to those huge groups we've ignored in the past, commuter students primarily. How do I plan to do that? I feel that their is nothing more powerful than word of mouth. I plan to have my team personally roam the campus meeting commuter students, personally inviting them to our events asking them to get involved helping out at our events. This way they not only feel invited but also now feel that they are part of our events! We as a team want to create relationships with our student body and make known our accessibility as leaders. We are here for the people! I believe that if our student body understood that, it would be life changing on our campus.

WHAT EXCITES YOU THE MOST FOR THE
UPCOMING YEAR?

What excites me most about the coming year is our entire SALSU team. We have a very well rounded group. Everyone on our team is so different from another, our strengths and weakness are, and I believe we posses that right amount of balance and chemistry to make this year explosive. What excites me about my area of work specifically is the way I plan to "revamp" the current events we already have. We have great events as it is; they just need more life. I am going to have tons of fun doing that. Last, but definitely not least, I am excited to see people meet Jesus this year! This is a huge an expectation but we serve a huge God. I will do my best to create the environment where people are introduced to a community of love, creative freedom, and Jesus.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PERSONAL GOALS THAT
YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH?

My major goal as Religious Vice President is to see the unseen, and to know the unknown. I was to see and be aware of the people, groups, demographics that usually are left unseen, not helped, and who are not reached out too, focusing on commuter, international, and students from other faith backgrounds. Because I believe we all have part to play in, no matter who you are, or where you come from, God wants you! I want to venture into unknown territory. Its not easy leaving ones comfort zone, but I understand in order to have a successful year I need to throw myself out there.





MANY STUDENTS SEE WORSHIP AS NOTHING MORE
THAN A "REQUIREMENT." DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT NOTION?
HOW DO YOU PLAN TO CHANGE THAT PERSPECTIVE?

I understand how students see it that way. I was in their shoes once, or twice, so I definitely get it. I also remember feeling that way because I would show up to these worships and they were not engaging, uninteresting, or were simply not directed towards me. I promise to try and do everything in my power to change that, starting at Rendezvous. I believe and will act on intentional programming. I will plan and put together my program to captivate my audience with a God reality. What do I mean by a God reality? You'll have to show up and see for yourself! What I will say is that when God shows up, it's explosive! So please come and see!







SOCIAL VICE-PRESIDENT

JASON SIU





BE HONEST. SOME EVENTS HAVE BEEN AROUND FOREVER. DO YOU THINK ITS OKAY TO LET GO OF SOME PAST TRADITIONS IN THE WAY FOR SOME NEW ONES?

Yes I do. If a tradition has dwindled away and people are no longer interested in the event I don't see a reason to keep it around. Yeah there's the nostalgia of the tradition, but why keep it around if you can start a new event that more people will go to?

CAN YOU SHARE ANY NEW EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR?

I guess I can let everyone in on something exciting coming up this year. I wanted to find a way to keep a banquet around but incorporate something new and different. So this coming year SALSU will be working with the new Film and Television department to hold a film festival/banquet sort of thing. We don't have a name for it, but you can look out for more details coming soon.

HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK YOUR ROLE IS ON CAMPUS?

I believe my role is important in different ways. Not just by being the Social VP but by just being part of SALSU as a whole. I believe that we have a huge role on campus to unite the student body. I honestly wish we do this successfully, but we aren't able to get a large majority of the student body to come out to our events. This is something I want to work on. Uniting the student body as a whole is very important.

HOW DO YOU PLAN TO BRING COMMUTERS TO SCHOOL EVENTS?

I think the biggest thing that we can do is just get the word out more. Let people be more aware of the events going on around campus. A lot of people say that they don't even know what the events are, which is something I want to change. All events will be well known either by posters all around campus or us announcing them. You can also expect an increase in videos for the events.

BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY ON CAMPUS CAN BE DIFFICULT. HOW DO YOU PLAN TO APPROACH THIS ISSUE?

This is something extremely difficult to do. It seems that La Sierra's school spirit just continues to diminish every year. That's more on the campus and students to decide if that's where they want the school to lean towards. In my honest opinion I think if students have no incentive to go to events whether it be SALSU or athletics then won't go. There's nothing encouraging them to come to the events. I want students to want to go to events. That if you miss a SALSU event you missed something huge. I want to improve the SALSU name greatly this year.









PUBLIC RELATIONS

JONATHAN SOTO





WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE AS THIS
YEARS PUBLIC RELATIONS?

The challenge is to change the face of SALSU into something new. It's never easy to go against the flow when the flow has been in place for so many years. So the challenge that my team and I face is to be truly different this year.

WILL THERE BE ANY NEW FORMS OF COMMUNICATING
FROM SALSU TO THE STUDENT BODY?

Ha! To do PR differently this year is the fun part. Well if you haven't read or seen it yet, our newsletter in the bathrooms. That's never been done before. Instagram is a new tool we're implementing this year. A few other creative marketing techniques will be employed. You'll be surprised.

WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL GOALS THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR? HOW DO YOU PLAN TO ACHIEVE THEM?

My personal goal is to be remembered and to set the bar so high that my replacement will be hungrier and more ambitious than me for this job at the end of the year. Creating friendships, networks, relationships and memories are big for me. And I know that it is possible by saying the right thing to at the right time. PR is more than just a poster; it's a personality. I plan on achieving this by giving not my personal character but the personality of SALSU as a whole to everyone who looks from the outside in. A year like never before is possible. All we need to do is get a small fire started.

BE HONEST. DO YOU THINK POSTER ADVERTISING
IS EFFECTIVE? WHAT NEW MEANS OF ADVERTISING
DO YOU PLAN TO IMPLEMENT?

In my opinion poster advertising can be effective. You know the saying 'any PR is good PR? Well it's true to an extent. Now will I be relying on posters to get the job done? Of course not. To think outside the box, outside a poster, is the first step to making an effective effort. Film, social media, word of mouth, etc. All of it working together is effective PR.

EXPLAIN THE PROCESS IN WHICH YOU BEGIN
TO START AN ADVERTISING PROJECT.

When a new project is in need of some PR, I speak with the person in charge of the project. We brainstorm, then from there I either do it myself or I collaborate with artists I know and people who know marketing to put words to paper and create artwork that shows not tells. Then the explosion. Facebook, twitter, Instagram, etc. All of them are used to promote, promote, promote! Then my job is done and it is up to the event organizers to make it good.









CABL DIRECTOR

CHRIS SEPULVEDA





WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL GOALS FOR THIS CAMPUS AS CABL DIRECTOR?

My personal goals for the campus as Cabl Director are pretty straightforward, to offer tools for those who want to increase their health, both physically and spiritually (I believe they are related). For the student body to become familiar with the SALSU team, to understand what CABL is, where events are, and how to get involved. Organizing fun and engaging events that encourage fitness, and well-being with a God-centered focus is also another goal of mine. Along with offering great “fitness-related” prizes/incentives for being active and pursuing a healthier lifestyle is something I’d like to set as a standard for future CABL directors.

HOW DO YOU PLAN ON PROMOTING A BETTER LIFESTYLE?

By organizing events that encourage students to be active, as well as offer incentives for those who push themselves to higher levels of fitness. I would also like to start offering small devotions in events (when appropriate) to allow a God-centered focus. Cultivating a fun and engaging experience at each event offered, and to motivate participants to continue growing while they encourage those around them to do the same is of the greatest importance when creating a safe and healthy lifestyle.

AT THIS MOMENT, CAN YOU SHARE ANY NEW CABL EVENTS PLANNED THIS YEAR?

We’ve already started our CABL run which has been hugely successful. Students will be encouraged to run 1.5, 3, or 5 miles each (Mon, Tues, & Thurs) session, and are earning worship credit. In relation to their number of miles ran, they will also be earning “fitness-related” prizes to further aid them in their goals.

Other events later in the year include dodge ball, a fitness challenge, a number of fitness retreats, Ping-Pong tourney, a dunk contest and a lot of other great events. I’m possibly trying to shoot for yoga and paintball events, so keep your fingers crossed.

WHAT KIND OF PRIZES WILL STUDENTS BE LOOKING FORWARD TO BY COMPLETING EVENTS?

For the CABL run specifically, prizes will include CABL t-shirt to gym bags, iPod shuffles, and paid Color Run entries to a raffle for new shoes.

WILL THERE BE ANY WEEKEND ACTIVITIES?

Yes, one of the main options will be open gym nights. There will be a lot more this year than last.

WHAT KIND OF ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE A BUSY STUDENT TO ADOPT A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE?

I would say that a person needs three things in order to start (or continue) towards their goals:

1. Desire
2. Knowledge
3. And To Start!

Basically, a person will need to want to become healthier first. Second they need to know how to get there. Third, they need to take the initiative and do it! The biggest struggle I’ve seen for people is that they don’t have the knowledge.









YEARBOOK EDITOR

ABI ILIE





WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY AS
YEARBOOK EDITOR?

My number one priority for the yearbook is to think outside of the box a bit, creativity composing a physical file of memorable times that took place throughout the entire year. I want students to be able to open the book and smile while cherish-able thoughts start to dance around.

WHAT KIND OF ELEMENTS CONCERNING THEMES
DO YOU PLAN TO BRING TO THE TABLE IN THE
UP COMING YEARBOOK?

This year I really want to focus on our mascot, The Eagle. Ideas are already flowing and I'm excited to have it come together. It will definitely be unique and different!

ECOMPASSING AN ENTIRE YEAR'S WORTH OF HISTORY
CAN BE A DAUNTING TASK. HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT TRYING
TO CAPTURE THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OR
MILESTONES OF THE YEAR?

It will surely be overwhelming to try to capture extraordinary periods of time and flatten it into a 2D photo, but my plan is to have several photographers capturing the events, and I will focus on the climax of it all. I will be going around asking people what they think, how they feel, what they liked best, and so on. The best things come to the unexpected, so I will always come with a blank mind and observe what is happening, and from there I will pick up what seems to be of "value."

WHICH EVENTS DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO
COVERING THE MOST?

I'm looking forward to capturing all the big events where there is more unity and friendships that arises. It brings joy to me to see people happy and so any event that can do that, I'd like to be there to capture it.

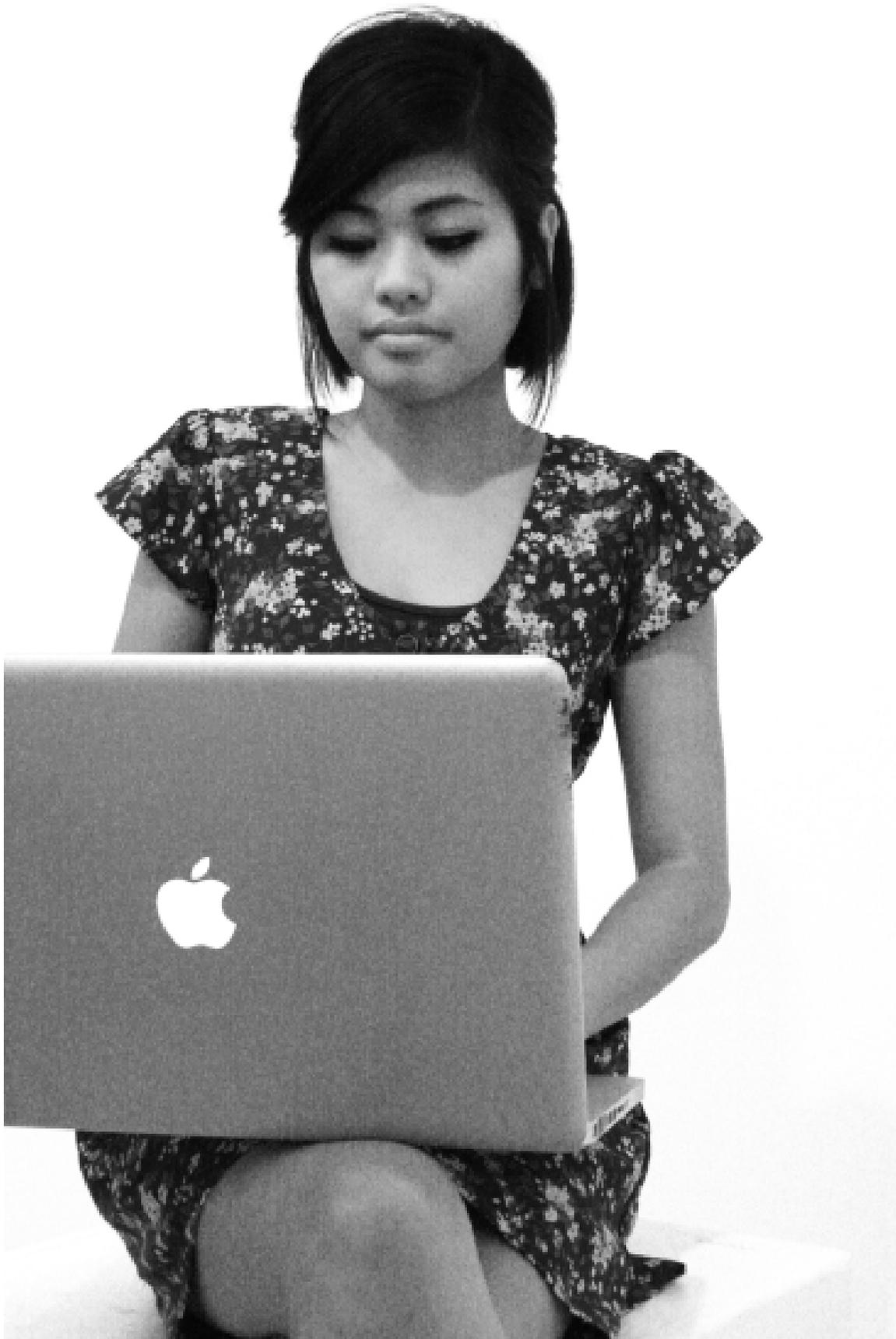
FROM WHERE DO YOU DRAW INSPIRATION WHEN
STARTING A PROJECT SUCH AS THIS?

Well as a graphic design major, I have my own preferences and a style I personally follow.

I have been studying other universities yearbooks to see what I like and what I don't like, trying to add what I learned when creating my designs. Honestly, my inspiration is my surrounding.









SECRETARY

CAITLIN CUENCA





IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU FIND YOURSELF
INVOLVED IN THE SALSU TEAM?

I handle all the secretarial work that the SALSU team requires, usually assisting any of the officers in taking notes or setting appointments. It can be a very demanding at times trying to keep track of ten officers. The key is setting appointments right away and writing them down on our huge calendar we have in the office.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BE A PART OF
THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT?

I wanted to be a part of the student government so that I could understand and learn how it worked so that depending on different things, I could do it again next year but with bigger responsibilities.

HOW MUCH WORK COMES WITH YOUR TITLE?

I do minutes. Basically I record notes for every official SALSU meeting. I'm also there if any of the officers need me there at their own meetings. I'm often taking records of Criterion meetings or at senate.

WAS THERE ANY PREPARATION BEFORE HAND TO
UNDERSTAND YOUR DUTIES AS SECRETARY PRIOR
TO THE START OF SCHOOL?

There wasn't all that much preparation. Sheldon showed me how he did it last year and then set me off like a little bird.

HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR ROLE IN SALSU PLAY
A ROLE IN SERVING YOUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY?

Just being a part of the team/community and helping wherever I can. By helping keeping our team organized they in turn perform in an optimal manner.









EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ISRAEL CARREÓN JR





I did this.





IGNITE 2012: REMEMBER?

by Kayla Santos

“IGNITE 92012 One Day Never Forgotten”, but what will it be remembered for? IGNITE is a, mainly, social event designed to introduce freshmen and new transfer students to La Sierra University and each other. This is achieved using “family groups.” A family group consists of one or two leaders and up to ten freshmen. They meet and, hopefully, bond on the day of IGNITE, and see each other during breakout workshops for the next two quarters. It is meant to be a day full of fun activities, food, bonding, and community outreach. It is hoped, by those involved, to be an experience that the freshmen will never forget, but let’s be careful about what they remember. Did everything go according to plan and, if not, did anyone notice?

Quite a lot went into making the day as exciting and seamless as possible. Three days previous to the freshmen arriving, family group leaders began their training. The leaders were divided into groups, practice family groups, and taught games and icebreakers that they could later use. They were also assigned partners or informed that they would have a group on their own. They were made

administrators on Orgsync, the website used to keep in touch with the freshmen in their group, and lectured on conflict resolution (what to do if a freshie gets fresh and so on). Some of the leaders complained that three days of training for a one day event was unnecessary, others found the training to be useful and a good experience all its own. Michelle Pactanac, a family group leader, only wished they had been fed more often. “...We’re poor and hungry college students,” she laughed.

When the day finally came, the leaders collected their family group members and started introductions. Icebreakers learned in training paid off, and mini-game stations were set up in the gym for the freshman to win small prizes while waiting for the rest of their groups to arrive. Outside, groups could perform the “Eagle Slide” to earn an IGNITE t-shirt. Once everyone had arrived, the “Eagle Minute-to-Win-it” games began. This consisted of 24 games stationed around the lawn in front of the gym. To many of the leaders, this was the most chaotic part of the day. “It was surely not what I had envisioned,” said one family group leader. Groups were loosing their members in the



crowds, some members refused to participate, and some leaders thought the games could have been better. Water stations, where people could fill their bottles, were few and hard to find. Inside the gym, the water fountain had a line consistently fifteen to twenty people deep. After the games, the groups wandered back into the gym for staff introductions and raffles, as well as an exciting demonstration given by the Security Department and their K9 unit. A pizza and salad lunch soon followed, and then it was off to community service. Groups paired up to go to their assigned locations. Some painted benches and dugouts at a local park, others planted trees along Pierce Street, and some stayed on campus to do cleanup. For Riverside, CA it was a pretty hot day, most of the groups were doing hard work under the sun, and with little water. More than one participant suffered from heat exhaustion and had to be taken to the hospital.

So what did the IGNITE leaders think of the day? Surprisingly opinions did not greatly differ. One IGNITE leader, who wished to remain anonymous, thought that the day was great for the freshmen, but did have some regrets. "...to squeeze all of that into one day was too much...the kids still didn't know where the buildings [were] or who people are." Cidnee Walker, another leader and the women's RA of South Hall, loved IGNITE. "It's them [her family group] that made it so awesome." When asked whether the day was well organized she replied negatively, yet added that it was the first time IGNITE had been attempted in one day,

so there were naturally some problems. She also thought that it was more enjoyable than her initial IGNITE experience as a freshman. Michelle felt that the beginning of the day was not well organized. "I know many of us IGNITE leaders were often confused on what to do."

The participating freshmen had a different opinion of the day. Naomi Castillo said she had lots of fun. "I really enjoyed the whole family part... I got to meet new people." The community service portion of the day was a favorite for freshman Jeffrey Labeauf. His least favorite? The line to sign in. Opinions also differed on the organization. Jeffrey, among other freshmen, thought the day was well structured and organized. Upperclassmen recalled their IGNITE experiences as busy but fun days. Andrew Haylock, a freshman the 08-09 school year, said, "I definitely wouldn't have gotten to know some of the friends I have if it wasn't for IGNITE". Tyretel Iancu was a freshman the next year, 2010, she enjoyed the family groups as well. Her complaint was that they would sometimes not know what to do next, and so would play a game to "kill time."

IGNITE, regardless of its downfalls, is a great experience for freshmen, transfer students, and leaders alike. It creates friendships that last well into the years to come, and helps new students to become integrated and feel welcome on campus. In the end, all agreed, for positive reasons, it was a day they would never forget. **C**







SIERRA UNIVERSITY CHURCH
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS





ARTS



WHAT TO WATCH

by Jessica Roe



The New Normal. (NBC) A same-sex couple want a baby (Justin Bartha and Andrew Rannells). They get a surrogate (Georgia King). She comes with a daughter (Bebe Wood) and an insane grandmother (think blonde Janis Dickinson). Enough backstory. The show is regularly targeted by One Million Moms, an organization that stands against the filthy entertainment industry. *The New Normal* doesn't let it bother them. In fact, they bit right back at OMM via racist, homophobic Nana (Ellen Barkin), as she addressed a group of little girls to fight the war against homosexuality, "I need the help of every one of you future One Million Moms."

"I need the help of every one of you future One Million Moms."

The show is controversial. OMM opposes it for claiming that anything other than one man and one woman raising a child is "not normal." Liberals say that *The New Normal* solidifies the gay stereotype. The character of Bryan (Andrew Rannells) has a gay accent, wears flamboyant clothes, and decides he wants a baby after seeing it in a stroller. He refers to it as an accessory he must possess. He calls himself the baby's mother - "kind of."

The actors are excellent (keep an eye on little Bebe Wood. While her character, Shania, was going through a *Grey Gardens* phase, Wood delivered a pitch-perfect Little Edie. Move over, Drew Barrymore, darling.). Sex, politics, race, orientation - there is no subject Ryan Murphy (creator of *Glee*)

is too shy to handle. Current events are celebrated with humor. These topics are delivered with witty, high-paced dialogue. The show is humorous and biting, while managing to remain heartfelt and touching. Whichever side one leans toward, this show is something to watch. It is making statements and causing a riot in the media. Watch closely, because "normal" is taking on a new meaning.

The Following. (FOX) James Purefoy (*Resident Evil*) plays Joe Carroll, a literature professor and serial killer who gives homage to Edgar Allan Poe with every victim. Ryan Hardy (Kevin Bacon!) is the guy who caught Carroll, and he knows him inside and out. Carroll's victims, always female, are relegated to the college campus where he spoke. While in prison, he creates a following through blogs and videos. People looking to fulfill some kind of need in their life buy into his ideology and begin practicing. Carroll creates thousands of followers to do his dirty work while he bides his time in the clink. He plans a prison escape and returns to finish what he started. He doesn't have to work hard this time, since he has a following. Oh, and Hardy slept with Carroll's wife. And Carroll knows it.

Although premiering in January, this show's description made the list over the nineteen new programs currently on prime-time television. I have been watching the trailers repeatedly, and blasting this show to everyone I encounter. *House* left a void on FOX and I believe this is the show to take its space, and let the genius spill over the sides. Out of all the networks, FOX is the channel that takes on the freshest pilots, advertises them poorly,



stick them in strange time-slots... and then pulls the plug because 'they were not doing well'. I have



started my own following to promote this show in the hopes that FOX will let it survive and thrive, despite the mid-season premiere (they signed a death-wish with that one.) I mean, it combines Kevin Bacon, James Purefoy and Edgar Allan Poe. January cannot come soon enough.

The Mindy Project. (FOX) Mindy Kaling not only stars in this rom-com, she is the creator, writer and executive producer. *And* it is funny.



She plays Mindy Lahiri, an in-love-with-love OB GYN successful at work, but not-so-successful at relationships. Maybe it's all those Tom Hanks/Meg Ryan movies she is obsessed with. Notable actors include Stephen Tobolowsky (*Glee*) as her boss and Chris Messina (*Julie & Julia*) as her bitter, crusty co-worker. This 33-year-old has left the sinking ship that is *The Office* to start her own venture on the Tina Fey fast-track. Speaking of *Saturday Night Live* alums, *SNL* guys have been appearing all over these episodes. Bill Hader (ex-boyfriend), Seth Meyers (cute bookstore guy). B.J. Novak has shown his support as a consulting producer (He is a writer/director/producer for *The Office*. Oh, and he plays Ryan).



Emily Owens, M.D. (CW) Mamie Gummer stars as Emily Owens, a quirky, fresh-faced surgical intern who quickly learns that high school cannot be left behind (her 12th-grade tormentor is in the same residency). The pilot was well-written and surprising for the CW. It is narrated throughout by Emily herself. It reminds one of *Grey's Anatomy*, but where *Grey's* turned dark and stormy after the first season, *Emily Owens, M.D.* looks to promise drama that leans to the realistic side. Another draw? Gummer's mom is Meryl Streep, and it is clear she is her mother's daughter. It boasts a great sound track and original score composed by Jim Dooley (*Pushing Daisies*). Do not pass up this show. It is worth a look.



Nashville. (ABC) FOX has *Glee*, NBC has *Smash*, and now ABC has *Nashville*. Think *Country Strong* goes t.v. Connie Britton is a gracefully aging country singer. Hayden Panettier, the cocky, over-sexed up-and-comer. Britton refuses to sign onto a deal that will hitch her dying star to Panettier's wagon. Hopefully the talent she discovers in her own preverbal backyard will be enough to save her.



WHAT NOT TO WATCH



Arrow. (CW) A wealthy playboy disappears for five years. When he mysteriously returns, Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell) can suddenly speak Russian and has lightening-fast reflexes. There are scars covering his rippling body. Green Arrow is a DC Comic book character unique to himself, not to be confused with Batman (another DC character). Except they both have estranged girlfriends, giant mansions and attained their skills in a remote region. They patrol the streets at night getting their vigilante's revenge (Oliver has a hoodie instead of a mask.) Batman is popular, and this is as close to the dark knight without the need for a new idea. The actors, writing and storyline are perfectly fine. This show will probably be as interesting as the CW can get (with the exception of *Emily Owens, M.D.*). However, a fresh, new idea does not lurk inside Arrow's quiver.



Ben and Kate. (FOX): This is not to be confused with the TLC's reality show about octuplets, *Jon and Kate Plus Eight*. Kate and Ben are really close. Kate works at a bar and has a kid. Ben has a lot of imagination and zero responsibilities. They live together out of choice, while raising Kate's daughter, Maddie. Oh, and they are brother and sister.

Elementary. (CBS) *Elementary* is not a recreation of BBC's *Sherlock*. This time, Watson is a girl (Lucy Liu, to be exact). Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created something our culture cannot get enough

of: the archetype of Sherlock Holmes. Like all super-heroes, Holmes operates within the outskirts of the law. The symbiosis between Holmes and Watson is imperative. Without Watson, Holmes would spin off into oblivion. In turn, Holmes' genius inspires Watson to push his(or her) boundaries. These archetypes are placed in police dramas, operating rooms and physic departments. Although Holmes is non-traditional, he (or she) is smarter, faster and more intelligent than everyone else. Not only is this "new" show another story about Sherlock Holmes; this idea is so stale, if Holmes was real, he would be appalled. Think about shows and movies with this formula: Holmes/Watson. *House*: House/Wilson, *Psych*: Shawn/Gus, *The Mentalist*: Jane/Lisbon, *Castle*: Castle/Beckett, *Bones*: Bones/Booth. See it yet? The original Holmes would.



Last Resort. (ABC) Members of the United States Navy are on a submarine. They are given an order to launch a missile. Through a series of events, they are fired upon by the United States. A bomb goes off over Washington and everyone ends up on a desert island. I have a few questions. First; what is going on? I may be as confused as the people on the submarine. Second, where is this show going? They have sunk themselves by blowing up their unique element, the submarine, in the first episode. From beginning to end, this is a *Last Resort* by ABC to replace *Lost*.



HOPELESS FASHIONISTA, HOPEFUL SHOPPER

by Jaqueline Flores

Fashion week. A designer's dream to have their collection shown in Paris, Milan, New York. If you are like me, a hopeless fashionista sitting in front of a computer, watching the collections on YouTube, hoping one day to be invited to a show. Wondering, "where can I buy that?" As college students, we don't have an unlimited wardrobe budget, so we have to settle with whatever the Galleria at Tyler offers. As I watch the collections come down the runway each season, I take notes to see what I can find that comes close to the real-deal. Fashion is constantly changing, so when the runway reaches the general public, three years went gone by and New York is on to something new. For example, the most popular clothing article this summer was the high-low skirt (also known as the "mullet skirt"). I remember flipping through *Vogue* in 2009 and seeing a London model wearing the high-low. Skip to 2012, and voila, it is in a Forever 21 near you. Since it could be tedious and time consuming, let me give you the rundown on this fall's trends, which were released in March.

Embellishments. The runway was filled with gemstones, glitter-thread patterns in bold colors and classic metallics. The most popular embellishment is the jeweled school-boy collar. With studs or stones, the color is bound to pop. Bib necklaces in bright colors have seen to make their way on the runway. Add it to any simple blouse to completely transform it from bland to bam!

Prints. Now, prints can be an adventurous step to take, but it would not hurt to try. The runway suggests mixing (of which I am guilty). If you're not ready for print blending, choose a patterned top or bottom balance it out with a solid. Be brave. Start with mixing tweed with an embroidered cardigan, and you will look runway ready.

Leather. Now, I have seen this at the mall, so it should be accessible. Leather skirts, shirts and jackets are extremely popular, especially for winter and fall. I suggest going with a leather with a matte finish, to avoid looking like an extra from *Grease*.

Oxblood. This elegant shade is flattering to all skin tones. May it be on heels, shirts, skirts, or any another item, you are bound to transform any outfit with this color. Lose the peplum shirts, dresses and skirts, and fold away the high-lows. Fashion is moving forward. Do not get left behind.



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ART EXHIBITION: HAS\$ CONFERRED UPON...

by Brenda Delfino



La Sierra University's Art Department began the 2012-2013 season at Brandstater Gallery with former student, Nic Sanchez, and the US Collective project, "Ha\$ conferred upon..."

Sanchez graduated from La Sierra University in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in graphic design. He moved to Los Angeles to earn a master's degree at Otis College of Art and Design. Sanchez and two of his classmates continued to work together after graduation to form what is now the US Collective. The team consists of Sanchez (LA), Tom Ahn (Austin TX), and Ramon Tejada (NYC). "When we come together to work as a group we don't really focus on the money, we all have our individual practices but we join collectively for special projects like this one" Sanchez explains.

The work in exhibition at the Visual Arts Center presents a series of posters titled "Ha\$ conferred upon..." This project was inspired by a series of peace-reaction posters made in Cairo, Egypt by Bart de Baets and Sandra Kassenaar during the violent uprisings in 2011. Moved by the work of these graphic designers, US Collective got together to discuss current, relevant struggles.



They stumbled upon a very personal, yet universal struggle: the reality of college graduates. “What will happen to me after I graduate?” Sanchez remembers asking, “what job opportunities do I have as a graphic designer with a masters degree?” He extended the conversation saying, “we have massive amounts of student loans to pay off, and we realize there are many strings attached in the process of getting a job.”

“Ha\$ conferred upon...” is the term found in student’s diploma once they graduate. The honorary title sounds ironic when students gain knowledge and skills but have nowhere to execute them. These posters are a reaction to the downstream economy of the United States and how it has affected career-seekers. The purpose of this exhibition is to stir up a sincere conversation about this struggle. After exploring the work, visitors have an opportunity to write down their reaction. “Ha\$ conferred upon...” is a unique project that was made for the audience to not only explore and engage the art. 





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IT BE DAT CUDDLE SEASON

by Daniel Olmedo



There's no doubt that our closets are crying out to rotate out of our flip-flops and tank tops and into our scarves and flannels. But Mother Nature seems to forget that Southern Californians crave the changing colors of the leaves and brisk autumn breezes just as much as everyone else. Even with 80 degree, dry autumn days, it is impossible to resist hot steamy drinks and taking out the comfort quilt to make the couch much more enjoyable. The only thing missing from this perfect fall evening is that special someone that keeps you company in a way that your roommate or friend cannot. While it is great to snuggle up and catch up on that Netflix queue, it is nice to break the routine and try something different. If you find yourself asking each other, "What do you want to do tonight?" over and over, may I suggest taking time to make a playlist of hand-selected songs and listen together, sing, or let the music spark a great conversation? Until then, here are some suggestions that just might work.

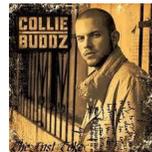


Jack Johnson- "Better Together" (Hawaiian Version)

This Hawaiian native knows how to strike the right chords to put beaux into cheerful harmony. The much-loved single gets a twist with this Hawaiian version. Its relaxed island rhythm is sure to set the evening in a playful mood.

Collie Buddz- "She Gimme Love"

While dancehall reggae may not be the first genre one browse's through at Best Buy to pick a romantic melody for your special someone, Bermuda raised Collie Buddz delivers a great alternative in a sea of cliché love songs with his paradise riddim.



Ingrid Michaelson- "The Way I Am" Keeping the mood playful,

"The Way I Am" pokes fun at a serious love connection with humor. If you don't know how to tell your boyfriend how much you care, make a crack at his future hair loss in a humorous, yet cute, Rogaine comment.



Brian McKnight- "Back At One"

Gentlemen, if you ever feel there are no words to describe your sentiments toward your lovely lady, feel free to blatantly steal Brian McKnight's lyrics and pass them off as your own. There is arguably no other 90s R&B song that will make you count on your fingers in a more romantic way than "Back At One".

Faith Hill- "The Way You Love Me"

A little country never hurt anyone, especially when it is delivered by Faith Hill, this country sensation started off the millennium with this fun romantic single that is sure to show your baby how special they are.



. Mariah Carey- "Always Be My Baby"

You can't find a mix CD in my high school stack without a Mariah Carey song in it. The woman seems incapable of releasing an album without a song that perfectly embodies romanticism at its finest. Make sure to turn this one up to eleven on your stereo because it will be hard to resist belting out those high notes with Ms. Carey.

Michael Bublé- "Haven't Met You Yet"

If for whatever reason you have not met the right person yet, Michael Bublé reminds you to not give up hope.



Savage Garden- "I Knew I Loved You"

You cannot deny that a little creepiness goes a long way in a love song. At least Savage Garden admits it may sound a little crazy to tell someone you loved them before you met them. Regardless, this tune is a must on any star-crossed lover's playlist.

Blaque featuring JC Chasez- "Bring It All To Me"

Laugh all you want, but it feels great to look back twelve years later and find pop songs that are still getting circulation on Pandora. This R. Kelly-produced track delivers a soulful vibe that we do not hear in today's pop music. Guaranteed to bring conversation back to those junior high days, Blaque's one time chart topper was a hit in a world of pop song misses.



FOOD REVIEW: JAFANG PIZZA

by *Rebby Kern*



This summer, food became my number one priority. I tried eleven new restaurants and was mostly thrilled with the quality of food, customer service and timeliness at each restaurant. While traveling and exploring the food world around Riverside I found my hankering navigated towards pizza almost every time.

One night after leaving Back To The Grind coffeehouse it was 11:02 p.m. and I realized my stomach was growling louder than my thoughts. I opened up my Yelp application, searched for 'pizza' nearby and added an "open now" filter.

The first result on my Yelp search was Jafang Pizza. I had never heard of it before so I got in my car and drove up University Avenue towards University California Riverside. Jafang is about 20 minutes away from La Sierra University and across the street from the University Village Theatre, which makes for a great date opportunity.

Jafang Pizza was a pleasant. When I walked in, the place was nearly full, though it was so late! This is a happening place three blocks from UCR. It is a central area for hungry students who are up late!

Jafang offers a diverse, unique menu with options including personal pizzas, calzones, sandwiches and salads. Signature pizzas include mouthwatering options that cater to vegan and vegetarians as well as carnivores. Popular signature pizzas include: "The Big-Cheese" with olive oil and multiple cheeses, "Feel Good," a play on the Greek combination of feta, spinach and tomatoes, and my personal favorite, the "Whoa Mama!" which is Jafang's version of supreme pizza with the house Matticus sauce: a bold, peppery, spicy house tomato sauce. "The Whoa Mama" has a perfect ratio of toppings to crust to cheese, exactly what is expected from any pizza joint.

The best part about this restaurant are the low prices. Every signature personal pizza is only \$5.99. On the back of the menu there is also a coupon for 10% off of two signature items. If you are coming during a lunch hour, Jafang's offers a free drink or free side garden salad with any pizza purchased between 11 a.m.–2 p.m. The best daily deal is one slice of pizza, a regular drink and a cookie for only \$3.50. If you are feeling a little hungrier, you can get a personal signature pizza and a regular drink for \$7.50.

The customer service at Jafang was top-notch. They made sure my food came out correctly and with all the proper fixings. The downside to Jafang's is that because the pizza is made-to-order, it takes time until the food is ready. The wait is well worth it, is so order an appetizer while you wait!

All of Jafang's pizza dough is made in house daily, which means the crust, whether thin & crispy, hand-tossed, whole-wheat, or thick, always comes out crispy and chewy to perfection.

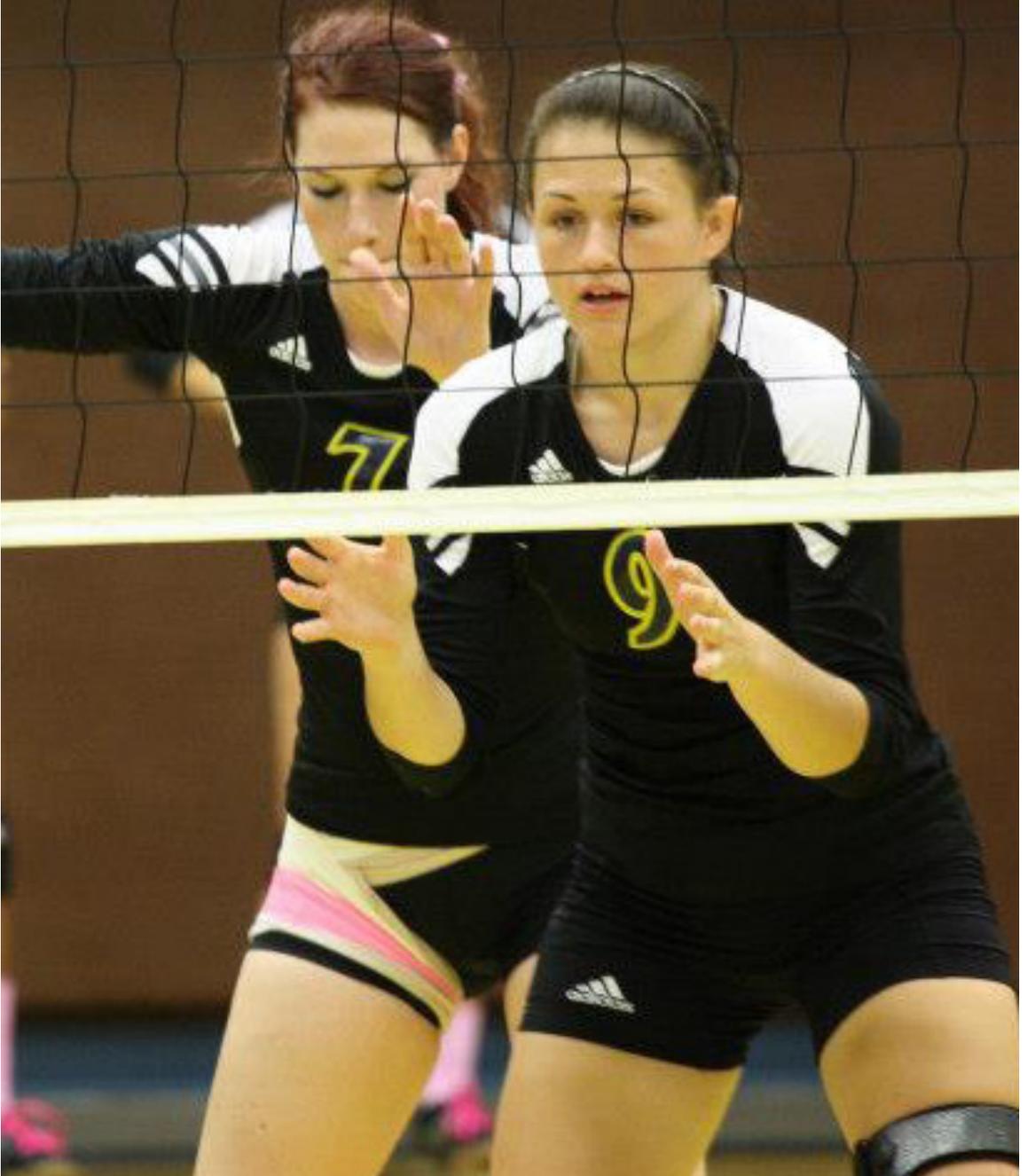
Jafang's is great any time of the day and they are almost always open. Sunday through Wednesday they stay open from 11 a.m. until midnight and Thursday through Saturday they stay open from 11 a.m. until 1a.m.! Being surrounded by people in a laid-back, youthful environment will make for an enjoyable dining experience. I was able to talk loudly if I wished and felt comfortable stuffing my face with pizza because it was that good.

Next time I am at Jafang I plan to try a calzone. Maybe branch out with potato wedges and a Cheeseburger Pizza. The possibilities are endless. Follow Jafang Pizza on Facebook to check out the entire menu, special offers, coupons, and hours at www.jafangpizza.com. (Take a raw pizza to bake yourself!) Jafang Pizza is located off the 91 freeway at 1400 University Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506. Jafang's is open late: Sunday through Wednesday: 11 a.m. until midnight and Thursday through Saturday: 11 a.m.–1 a.m.





SPORTS





THE JOURNEY BEHIND THE NET

by Daniella Hernandez

The ball soars through the air as an outside hitter delivers the final point of the game. The La Sierra University women's volleyball team adds another win to their outstanding record of 15 wins and 8 losses. Head Coach Erin Conley stated, "I am very happy and pleased with the season so far...I see the potential these girls have and I know we can better ourselves."

This dynamic team of 19 women has boosted La Sierra University's athletic reputation. According to the Athletic Director, Javier Krumm, the women's volleyball team has the most wins than any other team on campus. In contrast, four years ago the women's volleyball team had a staggering low record of zero wins.

In August 2009 Conley became head coach of the team, inheriting only nine players. Many of who had little competitive experience. "It was a tough season with no wins and our reputation suffered," said Krumm. Since then, the athletic administration has been working hard to change the reputation of the program. Recruitment has played a major role in improving the

quality of the team. Krumm explained that in the past, students who wished to play sports would be asked to contact the enrollment services office.

quality of the team. Krumm explained that in the past, students who wished to play sports would be asked to contact the enrollment services office.

This method of recruitment resulted in a lack of student-athletes. Some games were even forfeited due to a shortage of athletes. In 2010 the athletic administration decided to change their tactics for recruitment. Choosing a model that

matched the universities they competed with. As a result 85 "new quality student-athletes" were brought to La Sierra University.

Conley places emphasis in performance and skill. She also stresses the importance of self-confidence and consistency in attitude, whether they win or lose. "We face challenges every day on and off the court but it's how we accept them, embrace them, and handle them that shows our true character," said Conley.

Paula Hernandez, a player since 2009, has noted the change in performance over the years. "Aside from winning games, we have become a competitive team, other schools are starting to fear us." Not only is there competition outside the court there is also healthy competition among the 19 players, each working hard to earn their spot on the team. "Playing with so many talented athletes helps motivate and keep me working hard in order to become a better player," said Hernandez.

La Sierra volleyball players not only have practice six days a week but also have to maintain a solid GPA. Their time, dedication, and passion are witnessed in each game. Conley has high standards for her players to perform physically, academically, and socially. "When you are here you represent yourself, you represent your school, and you represent your program," said Conley.

La Sierra University women's volleyball team has made a dramatic leap to success in the quality of their game yet they are grounded and focused. "We still have to work hard every day, volleyball is a game of skill and needs constant practice in order to keep winning games," said Hernandez. There is only a bright future ahead for the women's volleyball team as Conley outlines her plans for the season with one word: "Championships." 





INTERFERENCE, ON THE REFFS

by *Adrian Wilson*

What type of call was that? Are you blind? These are just some of the reactions that are expressed to the referees in the National Football League. When it comes to football referees are usually the most overlooked people on the field. When talking about the referees during the games it is usually negative, because they can sometimes alter the game which for some does not well with teams or the fans. No one, other than referees, knows how hard life is being a referee for the National Football League. The NFL may be known as the greatest game in America and when referees are dictating the game it becomes a problem. In 2008 referee Ed Hochuli made a call that altered the game when he called an incomplete pass on Broncos wide receiver Eddie Royal, causing the Broncos to lose the game to the San Diego Chargers. Were Bronco fans angry? Yes. Did the Broncos get cheated out of a victory? Some may say so, but at the end of the day referees are human just as the rest of us. They make mistakes like everyone else, after the game Ed Hochuli admitted that he made a bad call and since it has ruined the reputation of referees.

Referees have been unappreciated for a very long time especially by fans. Teams usually say that referees cannot make the deciding factor in a game, the players and coaches do. So when the original referees decided to have a lockout. Players as well as fans were not really concerned about this lockout, but once the season started their stance has changed dramatically. Since the referees were already overlooked by the league, team owners as well as NFL commissioner Roger Goodell decided not to meet the terms of the referees' new collective bargaining agreement. In 2011 the NFL players association went through the same thing because the owners did not want to meet the terms of the players which led to the players going on strike and putting a lockout on the season. The lockout lasted throughout the whole offseason and one preseason game. Once the owners realized that a season without football was too much to risk because the players are the most important part of the NFL they decided to end the lockout and give the players what they wanted. This year the referees decided that they deserve a new deal along with a revised contract. In the new contract referees wanted a raise from \$149,000 to \$189,000. They also wanted to switch from a pension to a 401k, this would result into a retirement plan for referees. They also wanted to have full-time officials for the season because most of the officials were part time, and for most officials it is required to look over and study game film as well as stay in shape by training 30 hours a week. For some referees with other jobs this was close to impossible. The league was also think-

ing about hiring 21 new referees to take the place of the referees that make poor judgment calls. The referees did not want this, they were all for hiring new referees but they want to have a lower number of new referees and train the new referees so they could be up to speed on the pro level. The owners denied their proposal which led to a lockout. Since the league owners and Goodell did not believe that they deserved what they were asking for the NFL decided to get "replacement referees" to start the new season. This was a sign of disrespect to the original referees because they were not held to a high standard as the players were. Yes the players are a huge part of the game, but these referees were the best in the world to call a fair game.

When finding replacements referees you would think that the NFL would just take the referees from the NCAA, but this was not the case they found referees that were retired, referees that have worked for junior college, even worked for the Women's Lingerie League. The NFL felt that these referees were capable to make calls just like the original referees little did he know that he his plan to replace the original referees was harder than he expected. During the preseason most of these referees were not up to speed with the professional play, the game was a lot quicker for them to call, the rules were a little different, and the players were intimidating. A lot of bad calls were made during the preseason, but no one really noticed because it was the preseason and everyone including the players and coaches were trying to get back to football form. Even though there were a lot of mistakes during the preseason mostly everyone figured once the season started they would not accumulate to the regular season.

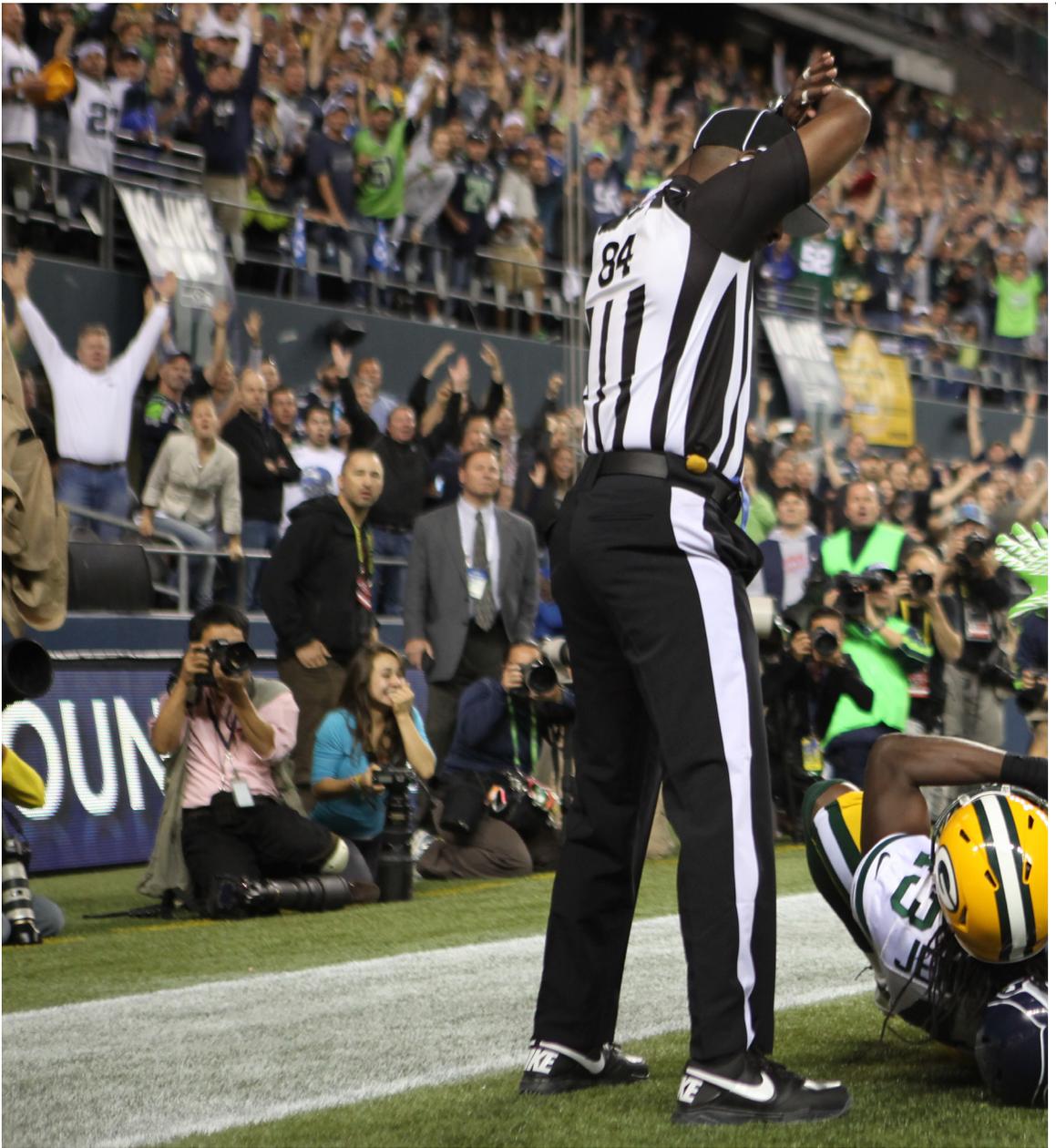
During week one the referees were bound to make bad calls during the first week of games. Some referees called bad calls all through games, some referees did not make any calls at all. The second week it became worst, as the coaches and players began to get frustrated with the lack of experience from the referees. On Monday night the game between the Broncos and the Falcons took over 3 and a half hours and with the NFL's contract with television games are supposed to end and be ran according to plan. Most games are supposed to end on time, this is something that the replacement refs were not taught. When it came to reviewing plays they took more time than what was scheduled. During the Eagles and Ravens game, LeSean McCoy told ESPN Radio that he heard an official not make a call because a player was on his "fantasy football" team. In the NFL there are guidelines that states that referees cannot be bias during games and they



cannot alter the outcomes of games by gambling on the side. There was also a referee that wrote on twitter that he was excited that he would be officiating the game that included his favorite team, the New Orleans Saints. The NFL was aware of this and terminated his contract the next day. Goodell said that he was still confident in the replacement referees and said that everyone needs to stop criticizing

them. Then week 3 came where games were filled with controversy. All around the league the story between the referees incapability to make the right calls during the games. The game between the New England Patriots and the Baltimore Ravens ended in controversy not only because of blown calls but at the end of the game there was a field goal that the referees were uncertain if it was good or not.

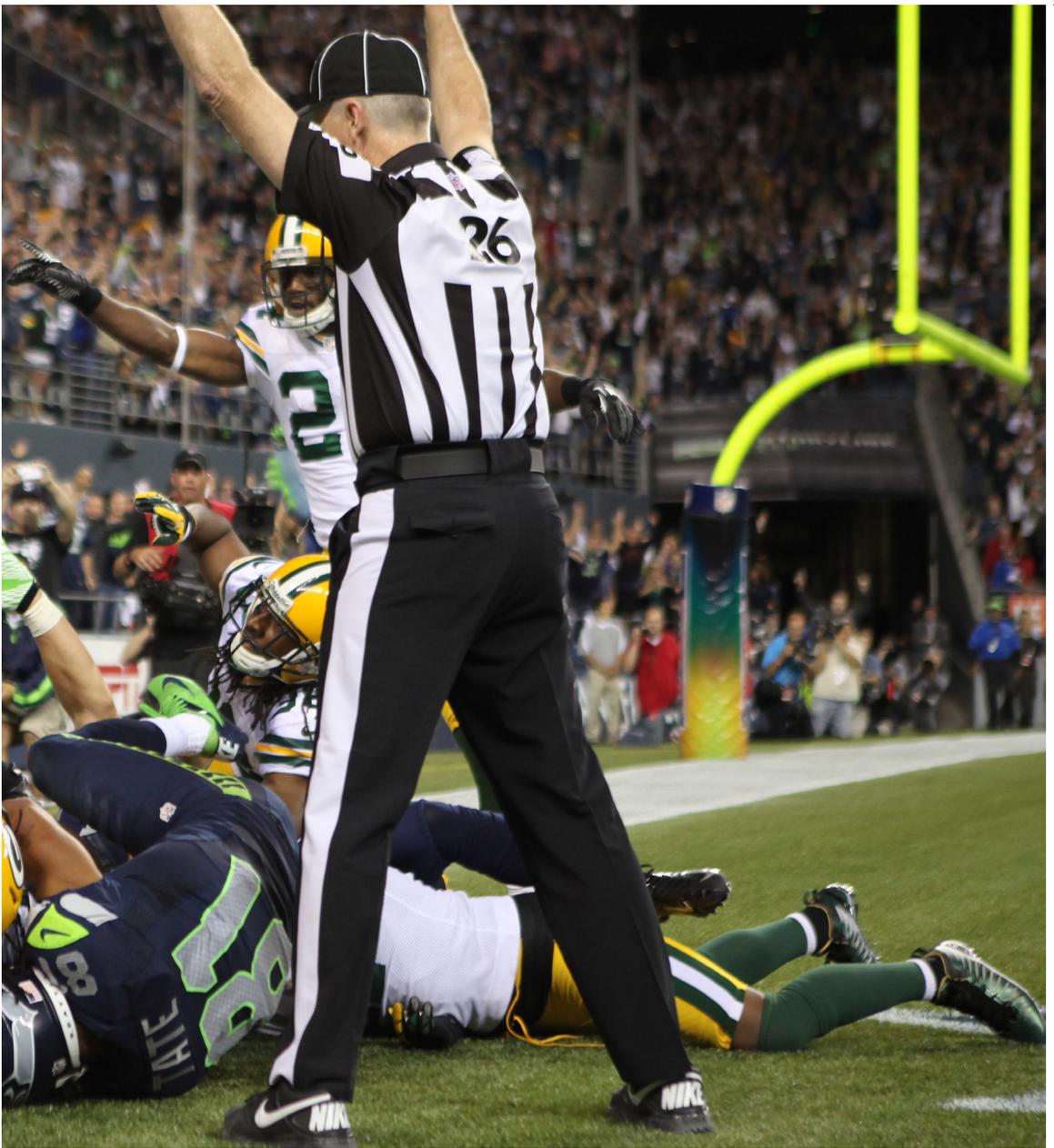




The referees decided to say that the kick was good, but the Patriots thought differently. According to the rules the last minute field goal could not be reviewed, but if all scores are review from the booth why is this rule any different? This question was never answer it also resulted in a fine for Patriots coach Bill Belichick for touching an official. He did not want to get into an altercation with the referee; he just wanted an explanation on the call. The fans, players, and coaches thought we had seen it all when it came to the replacement referees, little did they know that it could get a lot worse. The game between the Green Bay Packers and the Seattle Seahawks went down as one of the most controversial games in sports history. With three seconds, left on

the clock Seahawks quarterback throws a hail-mary pass into the endzone. From the replay it seemed that it was a clear interception but, one referee called it a simultaneous catch which would automatically go to the offense. Not only did they make the wrong call but they missed a penalty on wide receiver Golden Tate, but they also failed to discuss the play among the other referees. This final play took the media by storm. ESPN had the most views of the year for the following day after the game. The president of the United States Barack Obama was fed up with the referees. With all that going on Goodell still supported the replacement referees.





A few days later the owners and the referees came to an agreement to settle the dispute with the lockout. Not only did the NFL give the referees what they wanted but they gave them more than what they bargained for. That Thursday the referees were back in business and ready to work and fans, players, and coaches all gave them a great appreciation. Do the referees still get booed from time to time? Of course, but at least they are making the right calls this time and there is no bias in the process. Now people may look at the replacement referees as some of the worst referees to ever officiate a professional game, but we can't really blame them, they were put in a tough situation that they were not ready for. The players never the replacements

what happened, it was more so against the owners that did not want to show the respect to "the other guys" that are on the field during the game. Did anything good come out of this by having replacements? Not much but the NFL did make history by having the first female referee officiate a NFL game. Other than that not much has been said about the replacements. Everyone is just happy is that the original referees are back and here to stay. They finally got the respect they have long deserved. **C**





RELIGION





MISSING THE MARK: WHY OUR MISSIONS ARE BROKEN

by Sterling Spencer

I grew up as the son of missionaries so my earliest memories involve sailing to tiny islands and being taught to gamble by little naked kids using bits of coral and coins. In high school I spent every spring break doing service trips and after my first year of college I took off to Micronesia for a year to be a 6th grade teacher. The idea of Christian service is engrained in me. Since I was raised in the church I soon found that there's a lot of foolishness being preached from pulpits around the world yet the words that always made sense to me were the ones that presented Christ as a person firmly planted against oppression and injustice. They were the words of Matthew 25 where the Son of Man says, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." That seems like something I could, with good conscience, put faith in. It's the reason I still call myself a Christian. After graduation, I'm going to work for a Christian non-profit so I've been spending a lot of time thinking and critiquing the ways I've seen the church doing service. The result of this time has been that I keep running into these broken ideas of care. I keep finding that, for all the money, effort, and talk that go into missions, we're not doing much of anything. Often we even border on doing harm.

There's a grand sense of enthusiasm that comes with American Evangelical Christianity; a need to simplify, to stop thinking and start acting. We want practicality and relevancy. The result in many congregations is a summary of Christianity that comes down to "love people and do nice things for them." Sure, this isn't a bad summary but it doesn't express the density of a 2000 year old religion. When we couple this simplicity with the American values of individualism we get an amalgamation of Christianity that pushes service with the emphasis on the server. We hear, "Go to Africa and take care of starving people because they're going to change *your* life." This narcissism not only seems to be in opposition to Christ, whose ministry to others ended in crucifixion (not the best self-help plan) but also leads to thoughtless service because we plan our missions with the missionaries in mind as opposed to the people we plan to serve.

I've identified three problematic formulas for mission trips, all of which I am guilty of taking part in. Hopefully they will help when you think about any service you plan to do in the future or have already done and will open a new conversation on how to responsibly follow the call of Christ.

The Baptismal Blitz

This is where missionaries pay lots of money to travel to developing nations and preach to poor, hungry people about how God will feed them. They baptize everyone and then go home and no one leaves in any better shape from when the missionaries first came. This increase in membership often leads small church leaders, who were already overworked, to be completely overwhelmed. Churches can't handle the numbers and are depleted of energy and resources. Soon new members see that their conversion experiences have done little to fix the very real problems they deal with every day.

God is an American

Like I said, I was a student missionary and when I taught kids it didn't take long for me to realize that I wasn't the best teacher in the world. I worked as hard as I could and I did what was asked of me but I didn't have the kind of training necessary to see all the possible mistakes. I just simply wasn't a trained teacher. The only reason the school hired me was because I had gone to a little bit of university in the States. If teaching positions couldn't be filled with American SMs, the school asked for the back-up teachers from the Philippines. Americans were preferred despite that fact that the Filipinos were often better trained and experienced, their culture was closer to that of the kids, they needed the jobs more than we did, and they were able to commit for multiple year stays. This led to a disservice to the students as they could have had better, more consistent teachers and also contributed to a feeling that America is the ideal. It's the blessed nation. This meant that the best and brightest of the island people left after high school and for the most part, never came back. The notion that Americans are superior based solely on nationality runs through our culture as well as our acts of service. Being aware of this bias can lead us to changing from the idea of serving to actions of relationship, learning from other cultures and joining together to share resources.

Don't Think, Do.

Lastly, we often run into the good intentioned service hiccups, when people are so excited about helping others that they forget to stop and think about the larger issues. It's the churches that spend thousands of dollars on airfare to get students to build buildings that could have been put up with a fraction of the travel expenses in countries where thousands of families are desperate for work





just to feed their kids. It's the trips that see social justice issues as only material, teddy bears solve child mortality rates, Bibles fix teen pregnancy, and shoes completely turn around a kid's self-esteem. It's forgetting that there are cultural and psychological barriers that stand between people that must be taken into consideration; the missionaries that go to play with orphans and tell them how much they love them only to leave a week later, not realizing that perhaps orphans are kids with huge abandonment issues and having more people in their life say they love them and then leave isn't a good thing.

Certainly there is a great deal of value in mission service. I'm a product of the lessons I learned in the mission field so I see the importance, but I'm unwilling to endorse mission work done to change our youth at the expense of people in developing nations. You don't need to be an expert to look around and realize that we live in a world in need. The call of Christ is one that directs us to do something about that, but we must remember that despite what we hear promoted in many churches, Christianity is not a simple, foolish call. Life is complex and therefore the Christian reaction must be also. Service is the duty of the Church but I'm tired of seeing us do a poor job for lack of critical thought as to what we're doing. We need to stop serving for the sake of service and start intentionally serving for the sake of those we intend to care for. **G**





SHOULD WE ORDAIN MEN?

by Shane Akerman



Should the Adventist Church ordain women, or should they not? That is the question—or so it would seem. But what is lost in all the din and racket surrounding the ordination of women is that there is no shared understanding of what ordination even means. There is often a rush to find the right answer without much consideration being given to whether or not the right question is being asked. On the subject of ordination, then, it should be realized that until we ask for the meaning and purpose of ordination then the significance of who is or is not ordained is minimal.

Among Roman Catholics, Anglicans, and the Eastern Orthodox ordination is understood as a sacrament. This means that ordination effects an actual conferral of grace. In these Christian communities it is believed that ordination actually accomplishes something. In Adventism, however, the official position has been that ordination is not a sacrament but an ordinance. An ordinance is an outward sign of that which is already accomplished.

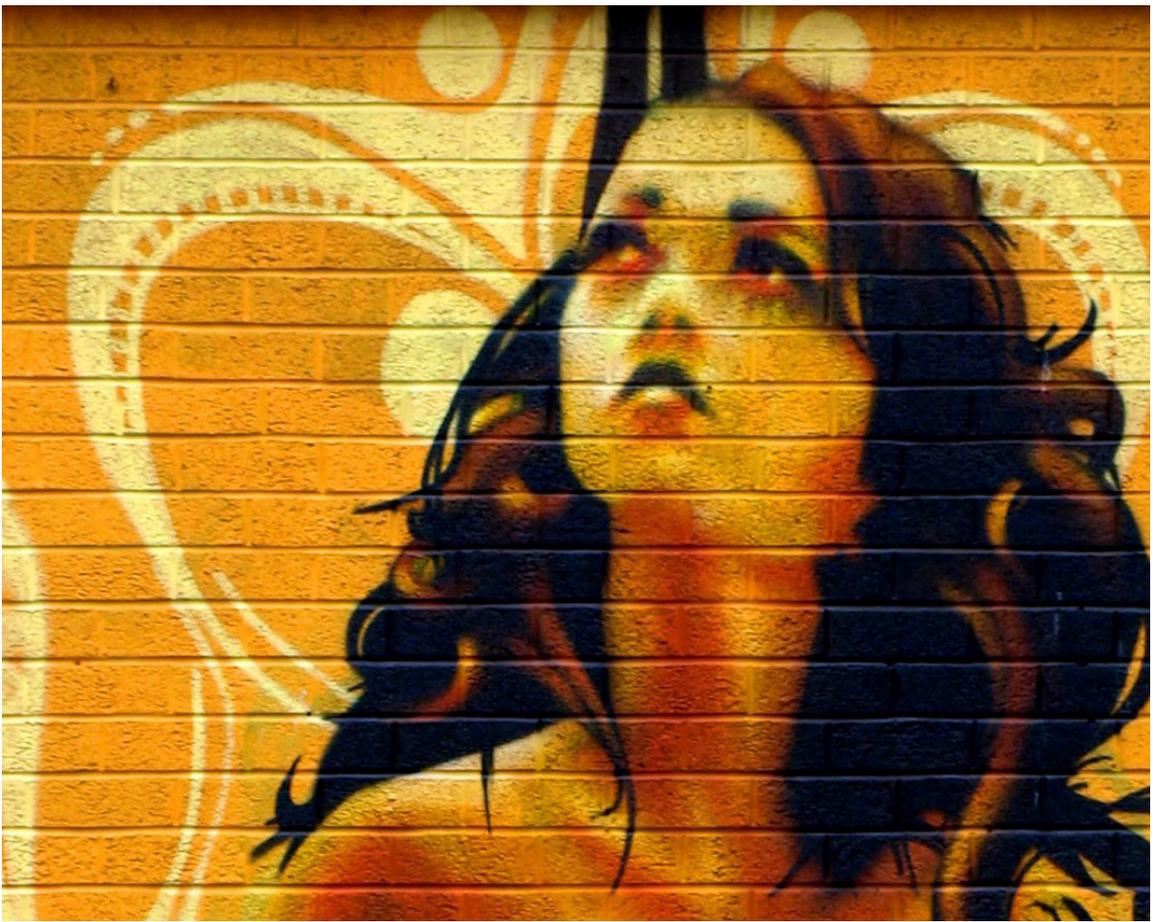
Ordination, in a sacramental theology, is important for at least two specific reasons. First, it marks historical continuity with Jesus and the Apostles. Jesus conferred on his twelve disciples

a certain responsibility and authority. With the passing of the apostolic generation that authority and responsibility was handed down. Ordination is the means by which individuals are brought into Church leadership and the apostolic commission is passed down. Second, those who are ordained are given a special responsibility to oversee the other sacraments: Communion, Baptism, Marriage, and so on. If baptism is understood as actual regeneration, or if communion is understood as the actual body and blood of our Lord, then the performance of these rites cannot be done by just anyone. So goes the logic of the sacramental communities.

But this is where Adventism's rejection of the sacraments is not so clear. According to the Church Manual, only those who are ordained are allowed to baptize or to officiate during communion—as if they were sacraments. But if these are non-efficacious practices, mere outward signs of that which God has already accomplished, then it is entirely unclear in what way a bath is different from baptism or a corn chip from communion. If neither actually accomplishes anything spiritual, then there seems to be no way of formally distinguishing an everyday bath and an everyday meal from baptism and communion.

On the subject of ordination in regard to gender, the Adventist hesitancy to ordain women adds to the confusion. If ordination is non-sacramental, that is, if it does not actually do anything then who or what the recipient of ordination is should not matter. It only matters what they do, not what they are. As someone once quipped, any animal could be ordained if they demonstrated the right qualities. Think of the talking ass. And if ordination is an ordinance and not a sacrament, then it recognizes what God has already accomplished. In the case of ordination it would not qualify one for ministry, but be given to those who are already ministers according to God's calling. And it is precisely here where Adventist practice is most contradictory. Women are already serving in ministry. The refusal to ordain them is without any justification since ordination is supposedly a mere recognition of what is already the case.

Furthermore, Adventists have generally rejected the notion of apostolic succession so that



instead of ordaining deacons, elders (or presbyters), and bishops—all of which are biblical offices—the Adventist Church ordains local deacons and elders while electing presidents. The use of the term “president” instead of “bishop” makes a rather distinct point. President is a secular term of administration and carries with it no theological significance. This is why those at the highest positions in Adventism are still referred to as simply “Elder So-and-so,” because elder, a local office, is the highest position to which one can be ordained.

One would assume from all of this that Adventism used a congregational model in which the local church had the last say. But this is not the case. Conferences, Unions, Divisions, and the General Conference, all headed by presidents, attempt to flex their theological authority despite having titles suitable to the business world.

What Adventism needs is a serious discussion about the nature of theological authority and who has it. But here’s the irony of the situation: without a clear ecclesial structure, communal discussions of theology are nearly impossible.

One of two ways forward seems most consistent. The Church could become more congregational, meaning the local church would decide who its leaders are—and what race, gender, or class their leaders may be. This, of course, is a recipe for total fragmentation. On the other hand, Adventism could dispense with the secular terminology of Conference, Union, Division, and President and introduce ecclesial language: Diocese, Archdiocese, and Bishop. This would mean a revision of the theological education expected of Church leadership. For if one intends to exercise the authority of a bishop, then one ought to have the qualifications of a bishop.

Admittedly, neither of these routes is very plausible. But a reorientation of the discussion is proposed here so that the reader might be equipped with an alternative perspective. The fight over women’s ordination is not over and a discussion of the role of the LGBT community in Church leadership is inevitable. Unfortunately, in these circumstances Adventists cannot lean on a theologically informed leadership, since it is the very composition of that leadership which is at stake. Instead, Adventism must have an informed laity, which knows above all which questions ought to be asked.



HALLOWEEN & CHRISTIANITY

by Alyssa Hunt

Every year on October 31, people around the world dress up in costumes, decorate houses, and head door to door to collect candy. However, in the Christian community, the celebration of Halloween has always been a controversy. While some believers chose to join in the festivities, others decide to ignore all aspects of the holiday.

The idea of Halloween originated back to the Celtic Festival of Samhain. The Celts believed that every year on October 31, the underworld would open up and ghost would roam free in their villages. In order for the Celts to protect the people and keep the ghost away, the community would light bonfires and dress in costumes made of animal heads and skins in order to scare off any ghost. Along with the fear of the ghosts also came hope. The people believed that being in the presence of supernatural spirits meant that their fortunes could be told. Therefore, priest would attempt to predict the peoples' futures, fortunes, and crops. Overall, the festival's tradition was created simply to frighten any supernatural being that would attempt to bring harm to the people while also hoping that the presence of the ghost could bring accurate predictions of the future.

As time went by, the influence of Christianity spread. The church chose to honor the Saints by creating a holiday on November 1st. This day was named "All Saints Day" or "All Hallows." The church also wanted to honor the dead, therefore, November 2nd was pronounced a "holy day." This became the holiday "All Souls Day." However, the people did not forget the origins of their beliefs. On the eve of All Hallows, it was still a tradition to celebrate the Festival of Samhain. Soon, the three holidays begin to intertwine. The Festival of Samhain, All Hallows, and All Souls Day was combined to be called All Hallow Even, then All Hallow's Even, followed by, Hallowe'en, resulting in Halloween.

In the 19th century, immigrants popularized Halloween in America and therefore the holiday was born. As time went on, the fear of ghost shrank, the bonfires dwindled, and predications of the future were less relied upon. Halloween began to evolve into a more kid friendly atmosphere with candy, fun costumes, and decorations. Costumes were no longer about scaring off ghost, but an unspoken competition as to how creative one could be. Fear of the underworld mixing with the living had become a distant myth.

Now, Halloween has become all about the candy and the costume parties. Few people remember its roots. Some see Halloween as a day to fear because

of hooligans and their mischief. Others prepare all month for the excitement and fun it brings to children and adults. So the question is, should a holiday that originates from superstition, supernatural fears, and fortune telling be recognized and celebrated by Christians?

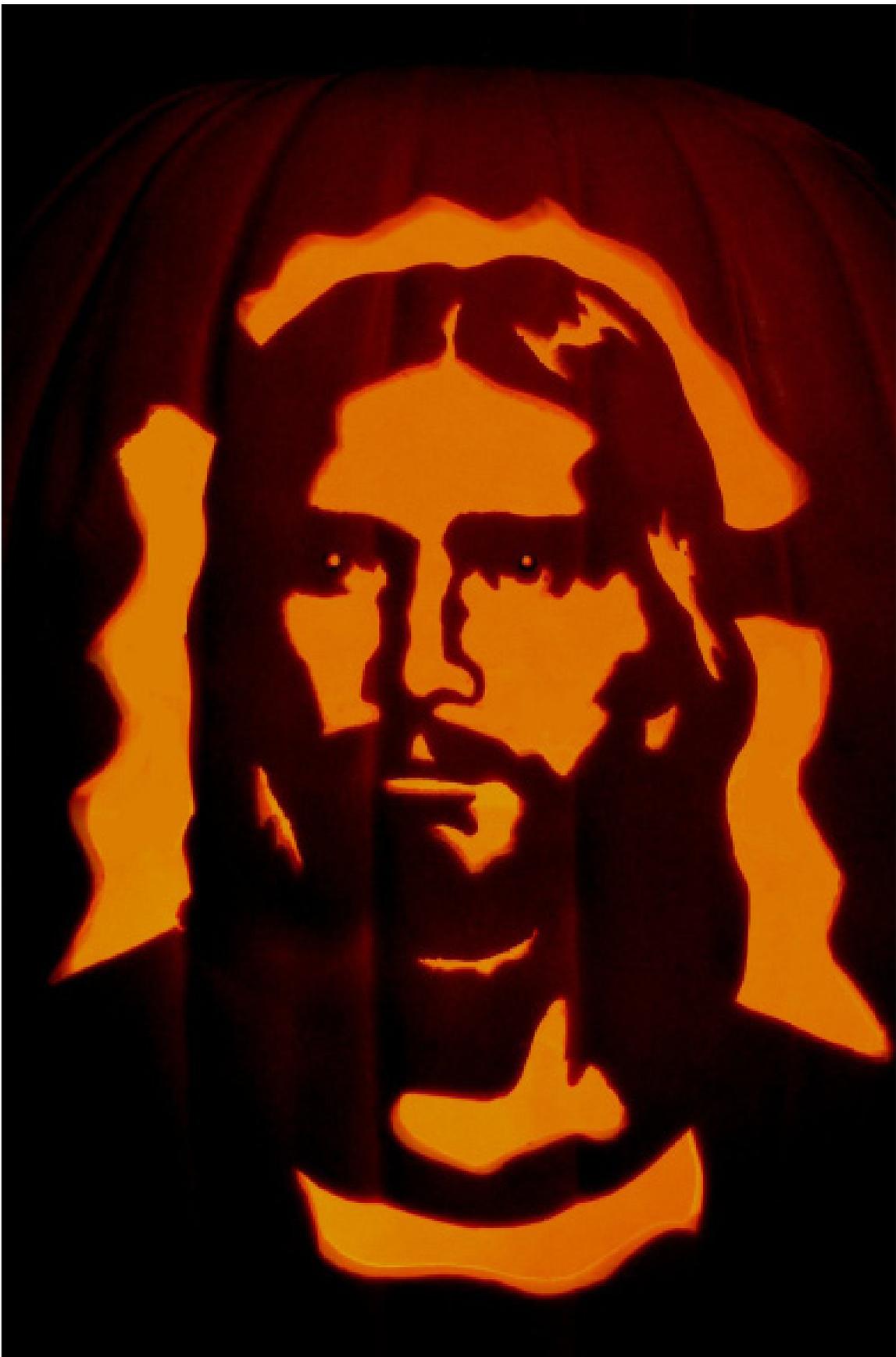
Many believers have dealt with Halloween in their own ways. While a vast majority of Christians do choose to recognize Halloween, multiple alternatives for the holiday have become popular in the Christian community. Many churches have adopted the idea of "Trunk-or-Treat" in attempts to give children the chance for safe trick-or-treating. Members and volunteers from the church decorate the trunks of their cars in the church parking lot and have children walk around saying "Trunk-or-Treat!" to receive candy. For small children, this alternative can be as fun and exciting as actual trick-or-treating because costumes and candy are still involved.

Other churches have adopted the idea of "Halloween Harvest" or "Fall Festival." This is the idea of celebrating the incoming fall with food, games, and fellowship. Harvest festivals stay clear of the scary atmosphere and extreme costumes by focusing on pumpkins carving contest and bounce houses. The idea of celebrating harvest is the primary focus unlike Trunk-or-Treat where Halloween is still strongly recognized. While Christians have the option to participate in church events such as the Trunk-or-Treat or the Halloween Harvest, some believes choose to ignore the Holiday all together. For some October 31 is just another day.

There is much disagreement over whether it is acceptable for a Christian to participate in such a holiday. Of course the bible never directly mentions Halloween but in Deuteronomy 18:10-12 it says, "Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; BECAUSE OF THESE SAME DETESTABLE PRACTICES THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL DRIVE OUT THOSE NATIONS BEFORE YOU." THE BIBLE IS SUBJECT TO PERSONAL INTERPRETATION AS IS HALLOWEEN, THEREFORE IF A BELIEVER THINKS THAT HALLOWEEN RECOGNIZES SPIRITS, WITCHCRAFT, SORCERY, ETC. THAN IGNORING THE HOLIDAY ALTOGETHER IS PLEASING TO GOD.

REGARDLESS OF HOW A CHRISTIAN CHOOSES TO RESPOND TO HALLOWEEN, IT IS ALWAYS HELPFUL TO UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY OF THE HOLIDAY AND TO TAKE A MOMENT AND REMEMBER THE PAST.

C



TOXIC TWOSOME: HOW RELIGION AND POLITICS MAKE UNCOMFORTABLE BEDFELLOWS

by Joseph Richards

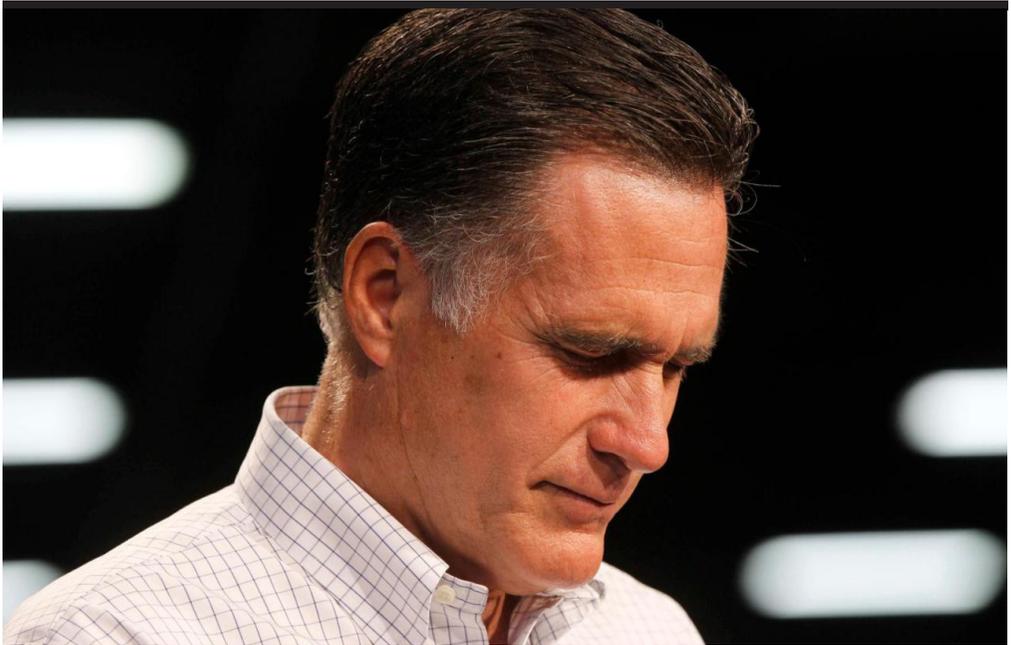


Religion and politics. Advised to avoid them around the dinner table, they can instantaneously turn a calm conversation into a volatile one. Reference them in the same sentence or phrase and you're begging for things to turn nuclear. Remarkably, this unwritten social norm applies to our national political discourse as well. The savvy politician knows that beyond the prerequisites – general faith in God, church affiliation, and the obligatory “God Bless America” to conclude every speech – speaking of one’s faith is like walking on a tight rope. Consider the October 11 Vice Presidential debate for instance.

Moderator Martha Raddatz asked the candidates about the role religion played in their stance on abortion. Ryan quickly pivoted to “reason and science” while raising religious liberty concerns. Going into somewhat more detail, the Vice President highlighted “Catholic social doctrine” which pushes him to support the disadvantaged and not impose his faith on others. But the candidates clearly failed to substantially engage the question at hand – abortion – from a personal faith perspective, justifying their positions on neutral grounds instead.

If asked at a presidential debate during this election cycle, the responses could have been worse. Both major party candidates have had their religious beliefs put under the microscope. Right after 9/11, Reverend Jeremiah Wright, pastor of then-Senator Barack Obama, used the denunciatory refrain “God Damn America” in his sermon. The contentious phrase came to light in the heat of the 2008 Democratic primaries and the Senator, facing pressures from within and outside his party, withdrew his membership from Wright’s church and delivered a 37-minute speech on race relations in Philadelphia.

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ism of George W. Bush, and the Baptist traditions of Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton. To be sure, the faith journeys of Obama and Romney have distinct roots when compared to those of recent presidents: the mainline Anglicanism George H.W. Bush, the evangelical Methodism of George W. Bush, and the Baptist traditions of Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton. President Obama’s spirituality is carved out of Black liberation theology, which seeks to make the gospel relevant to the life and struggles of American Blacks. Since a God worth worshipping must side with the oppressed, Black liberation theologians argue that God is black. In the 1980s, a young Barack found a home at Rev. Wright’s Trinity United Church on the South Side of Chicago, a place where he felt loved and called to improve the plight of the poor and marginalized. Community organizing was a natural fit.

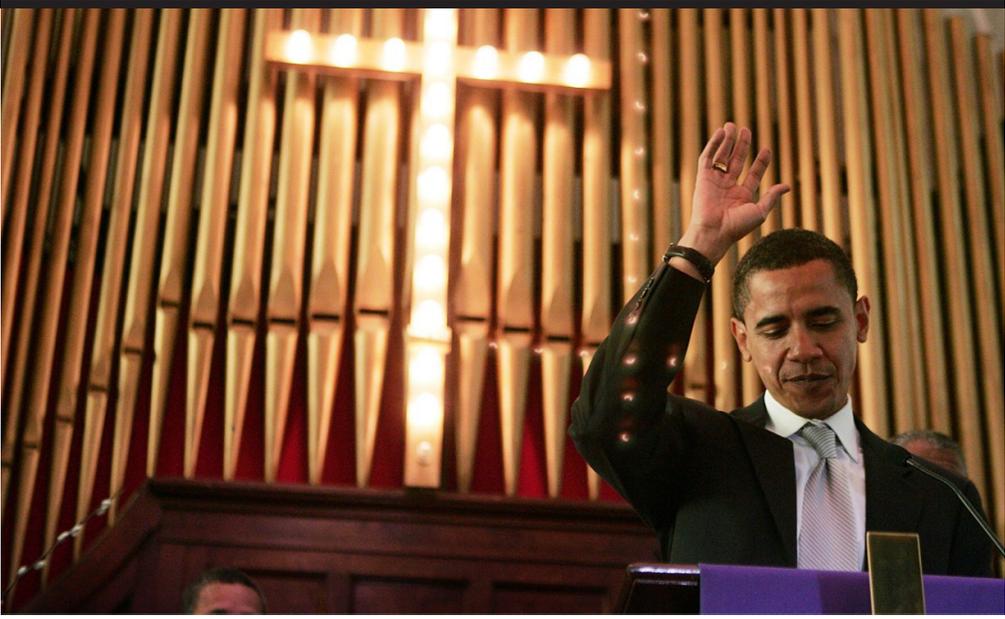
For Republican nominee, former Massachusetts Governor Willard Mitt Romney, the situation is similar. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ (Mormons) tumultuous relationship with mainstream Christianity has been well-documented for over a century. Mormons emphasize the distinctiveness of each member of the Godhead, believe that humans exist before their physical bodies (pre-mortal life), and believe that humans can become gods after death (exaltation). Combine these with the skirmishes marking the movement’s inception as it tried to establish an idyllic “New Jerusalem” and the 1844 murder of Mormon founder, Joseph Smith, Jr., and the reasons for viewing the church suspiciously – justified or not – become apparent.

Romney’s enculturation to religion, on the other hand, began at birth. Raised a Mormon, his father, former Michigan governor and Republican presidential candidate George Romney, went from poverty to becoming the Chief Executive Officer of American Motors. Mitt, the last of George’s four children, did missionary work – a rite of passage for young Mormon men – in France from 1966 to 1968. More recently, he followed in his father’s footsteps holding spiritual leadership in the church as bishop and stake president, roles which made Mitt responsible for thousands of church members. His commitment to Mormonism is attested to by the consistent 10% he gives to the church.

To be sure, the faith journeys of Obama and Romney have distinct roots when compared to those of recent presidents: the mainline Anglicanism George H.W. Bush, the evangelical Method-

Not all is sunshine and apple pie, however. How could a young senator be mentored by a pastor who condemns the very nation he intends to lead? How could a rising Bain & Company consultant remain a loyal member of a movement that barred Blacks from leadership positions until 1978?





Surely such questions are legitimate. In fact, they would be more revelatory than anything we have heard so far in the campaign. Obama and Romney have compelling, if not peculiar, faith stories to tell. Why the reticence?

The overarching problem comes from our inability to fit spirituality into neatly-packaged sound-bites. Sure, Romney derides 47% of the population for its victim mentality and government dependency. And the President chides Pennsylvanians because they “cling to their guns and religion.” Shift the conversation to deep-seated religious beliefs, however, and forget about it. It takes an Obama-esque oration of 37 minutes. Not even the eloquence of President Obama could scratch the surface, for instead of defending the pastor who introduced him to Christ and officiated his wedding, he severed all ties. On that morning in March 2008, politics met with theology and theology lost.

A paradox of great proportions lies in our midst: Americans have traditionally shown a desire for a president with a spiritual compass, but not one who shares his or her faith explicitly and certainly not one that uses religious-speak to make a claim on our everyday lives. Religious but not too religious. That’s the perfect mix.

Americans have traditionally shown a desire for a president with a spiritual compass, but not one who shares his or her faith explicitly and certainly

not one that uses religious-speak to make a claim on our everyday lives. Religious but not too religious. That’s the perfect mix.

But religion is a complex beast. It’s wrapped in identities, emotions, actions, and beliefs. Earnest religion peels away superficial layers and exposes who we really are – with all our vulnerabilities. Of one thing we can be sure: vulnerability and politics are incompatible. Authentic religion and politics make uncomfortable bedfellows.

So far we’ve followed two candidates with nerves of steel, immense confidence, and competitive spirits. But if Americans wanted to evaluate the true measure of these men, they would clamor for stories of faith, stories exploring what governs them from dawn to dusk, stories that chart their awesome encounters with the Wholly Other. Canned campaign rhetoric would be rejected, even boycotted. Far from seeking to judge the intensity of an individual’s religiosity, the goal is to gain greater insights into the character of the future occupant of our house, the People’s House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Authentic religion can accomplish this with a unique facility. Pulling from its Latin roots, religion means “that which binds us.” If nothing else, American politics needs more healing, more unity, more “binding”, objectives attainable by demanding rich and engaging interactions between proposed policies and entrenched personal convictions. We, the people, deserve nothing less. **G**





ESSAY



Chapter One

Roudlieb

of the day. The time of day in which
 and mingled with the oncoming c
 of the day Isaac loved most. He
 perhaps it was how during t
 shifting from blue to orange, t
 brief the twilight lasted whi





MARVIN MARTIN: THE EPITOME OF AN ACCOMPLISHED MAN

by Isaac Carreón

To say the Professor Marvin Martin is an accomplished man would be an understatement. Professor Martin grew up in Brooklyn New York and spent much of his youth with his father who worked with the Dodgers before they moved to California, part of the reason he too moved to California. He would watch day games and see some of the big hitters such as Don “nuke” Newcomb and Jackie Robinson.

Unlike his natural love for baseball and the Dodgers, Professor Martin’s talent for mathematics and science did not manifest itself until he was 12. His Uncle Robert, who worked on the Atomic Bomb project, was the leading chemist in his field of work. Taking his nephew to a lecture for the American Chemical Society in New York, the young Professor Martin would look over his uncle’s papers and would try to decipher it for himself. Seeing his budding interest, his uncle presented him a book on atomic theory. Finally having a foothold on the subject, Professor Martin interest for the sciences grew exponentially.

He eventually triple majored and graduated in Physics, Engineering and Mathematics from New York University. He took 20 units every semester and rarely had time for anything else.

“I wasn’t allowed to try out for baseball. They were going take my scholarship away if I made the team. But I’m making up for that here at La Sierra. My son is a freshman and he’s on the baseball team. So I’m living baseball through him,” laughed Professor Martin.

Decorating Professor Martin’s wall are dozens of awards and certifications of recognition for his work in the Central Intelligence Agency and from several Presidents such as Nixon, Reagan, Carter and Bush. In his twenties Professor Martin was noticed by the CIA for his skills in engineering. He was elected to be 1 out of 15 candidates for the executive responsible for the Analysis Division, chair of the Research and Development Program Plans and budget staff. Upon being chosen, on the first day was confronted by the senior staff assuring him that he was in a serious position in the government and that they would hold to a very high standard.

“They came to my office and told me that they understood that I knew nothing about the CIA or the division or what the division did and that they were devoted to one thing. That I fail from the job.”

Professor Martin was unfazed by their comments and was excited nonetheless to be part of the agency. His time at the CIA was viewed as a “tour of duty” for the United States.

Later after departing from the CIA, he was involved in a Intelligence Think Tank that supported the Nation’s Defense Department and worked on the space satellite program that were going to be launched by space shuttle. This led him to his work on the “Star Wars Project” for President Reagan. Here he developed a prototype brain for satellites that could operate in the vacuum of space, using radar satellites and infrared satellites as its eyes and ears to lock on true targets and shift from decoys against rocket attacks from the then Soviet Russia. Professor Martin even went to the White House to present his idea and met Edward Teller, known as the “Father of the Hydrogen Bomb,” to which he said to Martin,

“Young man, you think I’m going to congratulate you on what you accomplished but I’m not going to do that because what you did was purely logical and is what anyone would have done under the circumstances.”

“Young man, you think I’m going to congratulate you on what you accomplished but I’m not going to do that because what you did was purely logical and is what anyone would have done under the circumstances.”







Mr. Teller couldn't be more wrong as Professor Martin was granted a contract of \$15 million to develop the prototype.

This eventually led Professor Martin to starting up MSI –Martin and Stern Incorporated, a special series of computers and application software. The company was eventually bought by the renowned Fortune 500 Company.

With his incredible talent of not just understanding the sciences but also integrating them with technology, engineering and math, Professor Martin developed STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). This program is meant to interweave these subjects to a cohesive understanding.

“At certain point, all these subject these subjects overlap.”

Professor Martin developed the theory that the human mind understands concepts by finding relations with other subjects. So if science programs were integrated with other related subjects, students would not only grasp ideas better but also see the practical use of that application.

“The complexity of interweaving concepts of biology, chemistry, and engineering, that complexity is what your brain is designed to resolve. It's called pattern-recognition.”

Professor Martin is currently applying STEM not to just the sciences but he's also created a STEM program for American History. Along with this Professor Martin has written several books on science and medicine. He teaches a graduate course here at La Sierra involving STEM learning.

It's a marvel that Professor Martin found himself here at our humble university. He hopes to stay longer than his just 9-month stay. He enjoys watching his son play baseball here at the university and, of course, staying close to the Dodgers.

Putting it lightly, Professor Martin is a modern patron to education and it is an extreme honor and pleasure to have him here at La Sierra University. If you ever find yourself near the education department, stop by his office to say hello. Our university has many great teachers but not so many rocket scientists, former CIA executives, and President recognized contributors of the sciences all rolled into one professor.





MY FEET

by Kathy Zinzun

I don't know the distance my feet will travel before I begin to feel the sentimentality of it's affect
on my body. I just hope to keep on going.

I didn't stop when I ran the finish line of cross country at our league finals, when we were crowned
league champions and handed red victory shirts for free. I didn't stop when rain befell cloudy activity
above our heads that one time my brother and I were in Los Angeles, and we didn't have the cliché news-
paper to guard our heads against droplets cleansing us on our way for an overhead to permit us shelter.. I
didn't want my feet to stop when I was running late to work, and my hands were busy balancing a meal in
an off white container box.

I often like to think that I have something to run to. I have something to run for. I have it in me to
run for even someone.

I don't think I ever ran for someone. Just selfishly for myself.

But I don't crave it, running for someone. I don't crave it in my bones to run out into another's
arms, when mine are perfectly adequate. I don't feel my feet feeling light as snowflakes as I walk in your
direction. If anything they morph into drops of rain smashing head first into concrete, their fate interlaced
with interference of humans.

I am a selfish human being. I care for no one. I care for nothing. Nothing but the soles of my feet.

It's strange to think my soul could be living there. But it doesn't. I don't know where it is. I don't
know the significance of a foot other than it's use: to migrate. To be a mobile entity.

My feet. They are mine. They are feet. They are what I use to get through the day. One foot in front
of the other, racing with each other to see who is the most superior foot. The dominant gene versus the
recessive gene. They are neither. Because I win them both.





THE COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF EVERY PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE FROM 1988 TO 2012 INCLUDING FOOTNOTES FROM MODERATORS.

by Sheldon Benjamin

Wait, listen to me.

No you listen.

But you are wrong!

I know you are but what am I?

Wrong, according to the people who say you're wrong.

No you.







FALL





CRITERION

THE STUDENT NEWS MAGAZINE OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2012





WINTER 2012



EDITOR'S NOTE



IC

I know.

Things look a bit different this time around. You'll have to excuse us. We were still finding out how to feel comfortable in our own skin; however, I'm pretty confident that we found it. While our look is new, our quality coverage of stories remains the same. And boy, do we have an exciting issue for you.

When a person starts their life there is only one direction- forward. Here at the Criterion, we're always moving. Forward.

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

Israel Carreón
Editor-in-Chief

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NEWS



SHOW ME *the* MONEY

Where our tuition dollars go?

Katie Huffman

We all know that school is expensive. The term “broke college student” did not come out of nowhere. Ever wonder where all your tuition money goes? Pam Chrispens, Associate Vice President of finance, answered some frequently asked questions.

When the cost of living goes up, so does tuition. Unfortunately, there is no direct correlation between enrollment and tuition costs; when there are more students, the school needs more money to provide for them. Just because we have record enrollment numbers this year does not mean our tuition will be decreasing any time soon. The tuition increased by 3.9% this year, as compared to last year. It typically increases from 3-5% each year and the school looks at what other schools are doing to try

and stay within the same range.

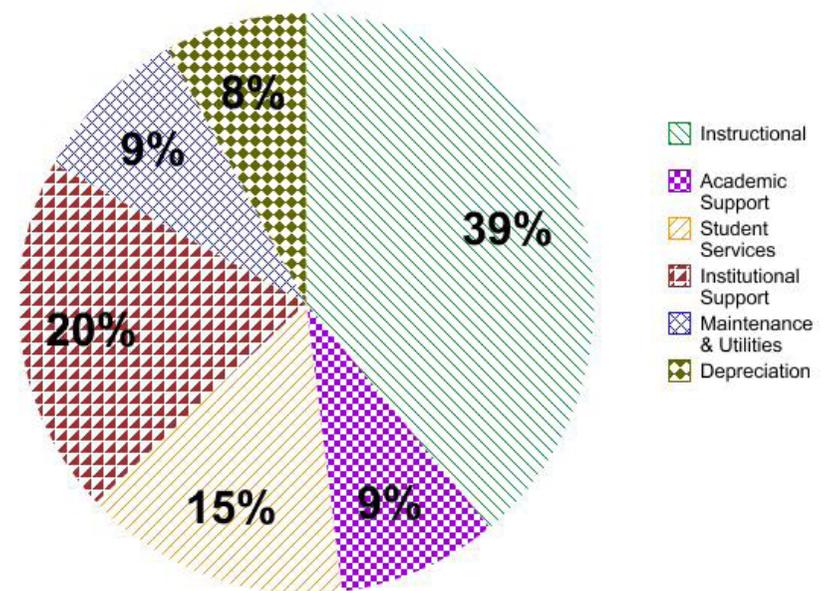
The school’s biggest challenge is providing services students want and need while also trying to keep costs down. The amount of money the school makes in a year depends on enrollment, but student tuition generally covers 75% of the school’s needs, while the other 25% is covered by a subsidiary from the Pacific Union Conference and some auxiliary operations, like rented land that the school owns. The comprehensive fee included in tuition goes toward student health insurance, technology, SALSU, and recreation facilities, like the gym. The senior fee is a onetime charge for all students once they qualify as a senior. The senior class officers manage the cash and use it to pay for senior class activities and gifts.

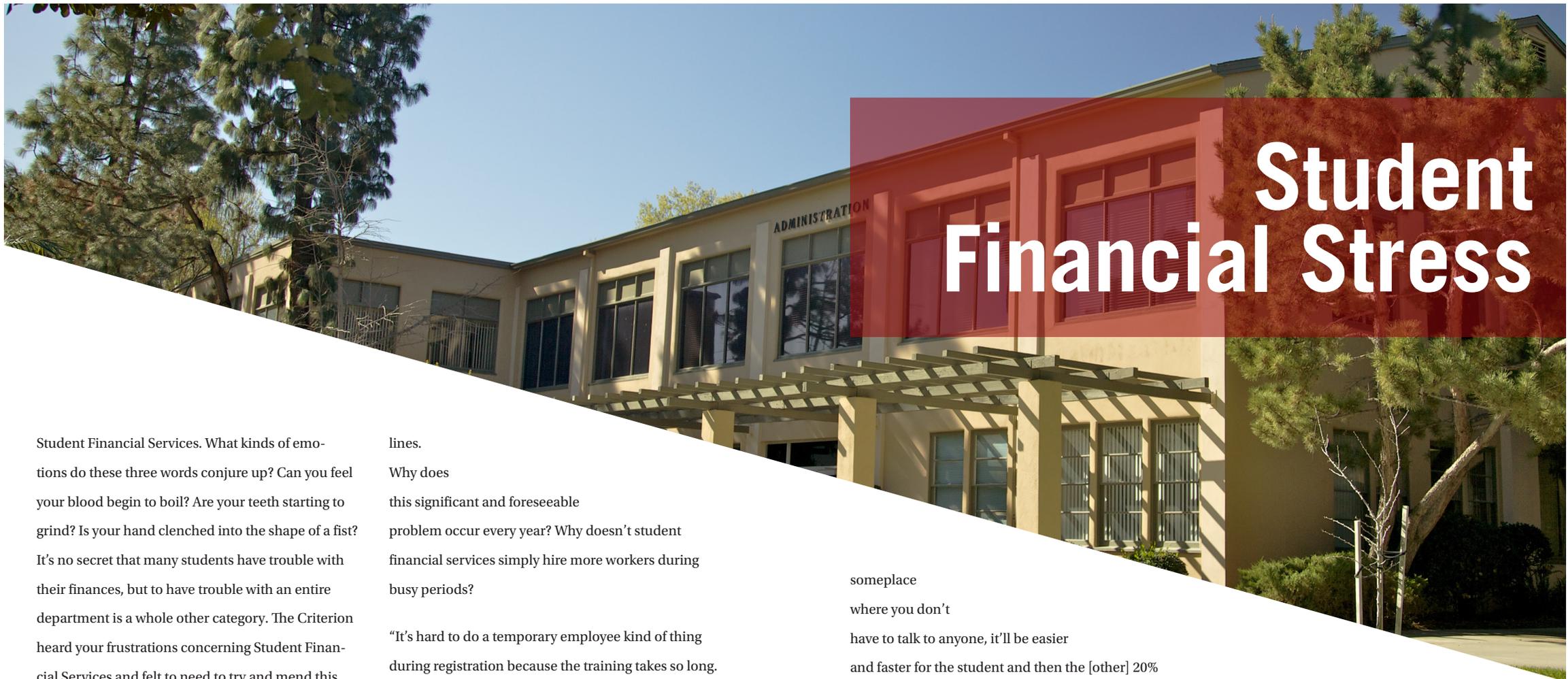
The budget for SALSU varies according to the number of full time students enrolled per quarter. Student Life sponsors help the Financial Vice President and President make decisions about how SALSU money is divided among other officers, who then plan their own budgets for events. Extra money goes into a contingency account which either helps pay off any SALSU debt or goes toward special projects (such as helping fund the baseball fields six years ago). SALSU President Melody Illacas says overspending “can be avoided with a good Financial VP and proper spending practices,” otherwise the debt is taken from the next year’s SALSU budget.

The faculty senate works with the strategic planning committee to make decisions about recom-

mendations and projects, which get filtered down to the budget committee. The budget committee, consisting of the four academic deans and four Vice Presidents, decides where and how money is spent. The budget percentages projected for this year vary little from last year’s numbers, with the majority of the budget going to instructional and institutional support. The rest of the budget is divided among student services, academic support, depreciation, and maintenance and utilities, as seen in the pie chart below. When paying back loans or working two jobs to afford each quarter, it may be hard to see where all the money goes. But in reality, it all comes back to the students. Our teachers, computer labs, and facilities kept open until midnight all cost money: tuition money.

Budget 2012-2013: Educational & General Percentages





Student Financial Stress

Student Financial Services. What kinds of emotions do these three words conjure up? Can you feel your blood begin to boil? Are your teeth starting to grind? Is your hand clenched into the shape of a fist? It's no secret that many students have trouble with their finances, but to have trouble with an entire department is a whole other category. The Criterion heard your frustrations concerning Student Financial Services and felt to need to try and mend this splintered relationship. We asked you, the students, for your questions and hair-raising problems and took them straight to Esther Kinzer, the Director of Student Financial Services. The following conversation transpired.

Why was it so difficult to work out my finances or to even get in contact with SFS this summer?

"We had big delays with responding to phone calls and emails and that's one thing we're looking to fix."

Small staff size and high demand have created this bottleneck problem of too many students and not enough counselors, especially around financial dead-

lines.

Why does this significant and foreseeable problem occur every year? Why doesn't student financial services simply hire more workers during busy periods?

"It's hard to do a temporary employee kind of thing during registration because the training takes so long. [Student Financial Services] finds it takes about three months to train somebody to fully be useful to answer financial aid questions and then a whole year to be competent."

Kinzer is working on solutions that require using only existing staff. For instance, SFS would like La Sierra's website to be the students' first source of information. This would at least cut down on the time officers spend answering questions.

"We're really hoping if we can get the information online, where it's easily readable, that a lot of questions can be answered without having to talk to anyone.

If 80% of the questions can be answered by looking

someplace where you don't have to talk to anyone, it'll be easier and faster for the student and then the [other] 20% can get through."

She presented another possible solution that circumvents the staffing shortage. If students didn't all have the same financial deadline, perhaps the flow of students could be regulated.

"What if we had staggered deadlines so that we could spread things out? I don't know how that would be received. I don't know how the students would feel about that. We could stagger things enough so that not everybody is trying to reach us all on one day or in one week."

You can expect more queues and long response times from Student Financial Services because even they don't have a cure-all.

"When you have 100, 300, 500 people come in, in a day or a week and you've got 8 people to help them, the capability of getting that many people through without them having to wait--I'm not sure how you do that."

By: Molly McCary & Alex Hirata



Why do I keep getting emails telling me that I need to submit paperwork or payments I've already submitted?

"We're working on that. We had a glitch in the system this past summer that was triggering these emails."

To anyone who received these emails repeatedly, this would make sense. So what has SFS done to address the issue? Not as much as some would hope.

"We think we've fixed it, but I'm not sure."

My financial counselor admitted that the SFS desk worker gave me the wrong balance to pay. Why do they have access to my account if they're going to give me incorrect information?

Kinzer explained that this can only be answered based on each individual case. In these situations it's possible that the counselor has access to new information about the student that the worker at the desk doesn't. For example, a student may speak with a worker at the desk and get a certain balance. But later, when the student is speaking with their financial counselor, the counselor may obtain new information from the conversation with the student and that will alter the balance amount.

"There are some legitimate reasons why the front desk worker wouldn't have the same [info] as the counselor if the counselor got more information. But it should be consistent. And we are working on that."

It may be better to save the big questions, e.g., how much you owe, for the financial counselors and the less expensive ones for the desk worker.

I've gone to the student workers in Student Financial Services and they've neglected to inform me about issues concerning my finances. I feel as if the student workers don't know the new procedures.

"I think that's a training issue in our office, honestly, when we have new staff."

Perhaps the actual issue isn't of training, but of retaining.

"We had a complete turnover this year in our student staff. We had 10 student workers last year and they graduated or left for other things, so we only had one. We're working on our training program. When you have turnover, getting that training in there is critical.

Every year I have a different counselor and I have to explain my situation over and over to each one. Why can't I stay with the same counselor every year?

"We have high turnover. For example, we have two brand new counselors that just started in the summer. We lost two counselors between the spring quarter and the summer quarter and the year before that we had two new counselors and the year before that we had one new counselor."

The reality in the SFS office is that the counselor positions are entry-level jobs.

"We have quite a few young counselors and they want to move up, they want to expand their careers. When you get done with college, you don't want to stick in an entry-level job the rest of your life. It's the same kind of thing for the counselors."

Essentially, you get what you pay for. The University pays the financial counselors a salary that is not sufficient for many to live on for years to come. The counselors, in turn, look elsewhere after they've built up a year or two of experience for a more long-term, better paying job. If La Sierra is a test lab for their successes, then we, the students, are the guinea pigs. Are we willing to shell out even more tuition to pay for the permanence of these financial lab TA's?

"There are promotions and there are raises, but it only goes so far. I don't know how to solve that problem within the current structure of the university."

Different counselors have told me different information about financial procedures or the types of loans I'm eligible for. How does this problem get fixed?

"As you heard me say earlier, consistency is something that is very important to us. We want to be giving consistent information. What we find sometimes is when a student sees one counselor and then sees a different one, they ask for different information thinking they're asking the same thing or we interpret it as they're asking for one thing when they were really asking for something else. Or [the student] gives us

new information, so one counselor has information the other one doesn't."

She went on to say that financial aid is fairly involved and complex. Most of us can attest to that fact. It can be messy and one more thing to keep track of on top of school. But why is it that our interactions with the financial counselors have to be confusing, too?

"Students don't always know what question to ask, and we're not always good at interpreting what they ask in order to really know what they're wanting to know. Are you sure you're understanding what the person's asking and you're answering the question that they really want answered? And does the student even know that they're not asking the right question and they're not getting the information that they're really wanting to get?"

Kinzer suggests that this trouble may stem from miscommunication, most likely on the student's end. It is difficult for us to ask the right questions, especially when we're unfamiliar with finance and all of its terminology.

Online it says I owe a certain amount, but when I ask a counselor, they give me a different number. Is there a way to update my balance online so I don't have to come in to know the actual amount?

"Consistent online information is our number one priority. It's going to have to be a collaborative effort between IT and us because of course we can't do it on our own. We have to have IT's help. Right now, we're in dialogue with IT on how to make that happen."



Before I could finish asking Esther Kinzer my question regarding inconsistent online information, she began nodding her head. She knew where the question was going. It was apparent in that moment that student financial services were well aware of this dilemma.

"In our office we're very frustrated with that too. Because that creates a lot of phone calls. Phone calls that we wouldn't have had to get had the information matched. We're working on it. Do I have an estimated time of when it will be done? No. But that is honestly our number one priority."

Esther Kinzer's answer, though hopeful, is too diplomatic for comfort. This problem with conflicting balance amounts is not a new issue to the students. This is my fifth year at La Sierra and I've been having problems with contradictory online information since my sophomore year. If we, as students, want changes to be made on campus, we need to start putting a little more pressure on the departments we want to see improved. This article you're reading is only step number one. We will check back in with student financial services in three months to see what improvements they've made to their system and hold them accountable for making those necessary changes. You, our readers, will be the first to hear our findings.





FEATURES





Carmaggedon

Sarah Sagala



Los Angeles area natives, or any southern Californian who keeps up with the news, should find this term familiar. Local news stations, as well as international stations, assigned this term to the closure of the 405 freeway back in July of 2011. The closure was due to the need to fix parts of the Mulholland Drive portion of the freeway. The 405 is known for being one of the busiest interstates in southern California. This should not come as a surprise considering the thousands who commute to their work place in Los Angeles, as well as those making their way to the infamously hectic Los Angeles International Airport. It seems as if there is never a time when there is not gridlock traffic on the 405 but this closure in particular forced everyone to find a different route to get to their destination. Imagine - Interstate 405 completely desolate? That is unusual and almost unthinkable. For a short while, the city of Los Angeles was relatively quiet.

Not too long ago on September 28 of this year, another closure of the 405 freeway occurred. However, parts of the 405 were already being closed off the weekend before in preparation. The mayor of Los Angeles declared it "Carmageddon II." This time, the lanes and parts of the Sepulveda Pass were being fixed. Since this was the second time around, it was not as much of a hindrance to people who travel through the Los Angeles area as they were sufficiently prepared. Those who tried entering the freeway anyway were given quite the reward; citations. Other than that, the closure went by smoothly and ahead of schedule, opening back up early on September 30 instead of the projected October 1st.

Luckily for those who frequent the 405, those past closures mentioned had occurred on weekends. Weekend plans may have confined Los Angeles residents from leaving town or other Californians from driving into Los Angeles, but at the very least it did not affect a whole week or more of commuting to work or school. However, the same does not go for interstate closures more local to La Sierra University. For example, the 91 freeway. The 91 stretches from Riverside to Buena Park, Long Beach to Santa Ana, and also from Gardena to Long Beach with the west end ending in Gardena and the east end ending here in Riverside. Although it is not as well-known as the 405, it is just as busy since it is the only freeway that connects the Riverside, Orange, and Los Angeles counties.

The part of the 91 freeway that goes through Riverside was shut down this year on September 16th to September 19th. The Caltrans workers had worked on the freeway late at night from 11:00 P.M. into the early morning around 6:00 A.M. This would naturally seem to help affect fewer drivers. However, whenever there is any type of construction or work being done on the road at night while the freeway

is not closed completely, it becomes a danger zone. Caltrans workers use giant, bright lights to illuminate their work area, creating a hazard for drivers. Having experienced this, I can say that it is not at all pleasant. Furthermore, during the day, any evidence of construction continues to affect commuters. When there is visible construction, the flow of traffic slows considerably. This occurs despite workers being absent and without any posted official reductions of the speed limit.

People who use the 91 freeway often may wonder what could possibly need to be changed that would warrant the shutdown of an overpass. Evidently, this closure was part of an ongoing freeway widening project that is estimated to cost 230 million dollars. In Orange County, State Route 55 is a four-lane freeway until it comes through Costa Mesa where it becomes an eight-lane freeway. These four additional lanes help free up congestion. State Route 91, through Riverside, has four lanes. However, some portions for several miles at a time have been reduced down to three lanes because of the work on the overpass. Even though it may seem as though one less lane would not make a difference, it still slows down the flow of traffic. The closure of this overpass is an inconvenience to most people. It is right next to the exit that many of the students from Riverside Community College use to get to school. I witness this section of the freeway become backed up every weekday as I make my way to La Sierra.

It is logical that Interstate 91 would benefit from additional lanes. On the other hand, how would it be possible to expand the 91 freeway? The west bound portion of the 91 through Riverside is already cutting it close to buildings. For example, near downtown Riverside, a new building that partially houses a law office was built extremely close to the freeway. When it was still being built it appeared so close that it probably was a distraction to drivers on occasion. Though there is not enough room in this particular area, once you drive a few more miles, just before passing the Magnolia exit, there appears to be ample enough space. However, even if these areas were to be expanded, is the inevitable additional increase in traffic worth it?

Some of you may think, "What does any of this have to do with La Sierra University students?" Well, La Sierra University is considered a commuter school by many people. I myself am a commuter student. Last year, the drive to La Sierra University from the Loma Linda area would take around 20 to 25 minutes on a good day. When freshman Melissa Pardosi, a fellow commuter, was asked what she thought about the repercussions of construction and closure on the 91, she replied "The drive to school noticeably takes longer than it should." Ever since this school year has started, the same commute often takes longer, from

about 30 to 45 minutes. With many classes starting at 8:00 or 9:00 A.M., students are on the road at the same as those who work nine-to-five jobs. The congestion from this is already awful, but in combination with the closing of lanes as well as construction, there is a domino effect. With an increase in traffic, the time needed to leave in order to get to school on time increases as well. Thus, the time spent commuting cuts into the necessary time spent for sleeping, studying, and doing homework.

The 91 is not the only local freeway that has been closed. The 215 was closed for an entire weekend earlier this year in May. An entire mile of the freeway was completely shut down. Thankfully, it was only a single weekend closure so it did not affect as many people as the 405 and 91 closures and construction. Another freeway in the area that was shut down was a section of the 10 freeway that goes through the San Gabriel Valley. This closure of the 10 occurred last August for repair of the road itself. Most scheduled closures of ramps are during the slower traffic hours of 11:00 P.M. and later, but for the 10 closure multiple on and off ramps were closed as early as 7:00 P.M. which must have posed an inconvenience to many.

"The drive to school takes noticeably longer than it should."

With all of these closures that have occurred so far and are currently ongoing, this year seems to be the year of road construction. Unfortunately, the construction of the Riverside portion of the 91 freeway is not scheduled to be completed until 2015. What will this mean for commuters? Well, if you believe in the proclaimed Mayan prophecy, the end of the world may come before the work on Interstate 91 is completely finished. In all seriousness, this means we will have to get used to leaving earlier than usual in order to get to our destinations on time. Since the people of Los Angeles were able to survive both "Carmageddon I" and "Carmageddon II," we should definitely be able to take on the effects of construction on the 91. Bring on "Carmageddon III."



It seems change is the only constant in the world today. The people in one's life change, the places one lives change, the titles one become accustom to change, and furthermore, the momentum of change itself can change. Each of these statements is applicable to one Ethan Weber, President of the La Sierra University Enactus team, formerly known as SIFE, or Students in Free Enterprise.

Following the 2012 SIFE World Cup, the international non-profit organization officially changed its name to Enactus: Entrepreneurial, Action, Us. When an organization such as this has been on campus for 20 years, a significant name change takes some getting accustomed to. But the new name is not the only change to La Sierra's team. It is time to officially introduce both Ethan and the 2012-2013 Enactus team.

When asked how he felt about the new name while sitting in Washington D.C. at the October Enactus World Cup, Ethan described both his sense of surprise and pleasure at hearing the announcement. "What's in a name? Well, everything. It's a first impression... and it should outline what we do." He explained that "Enactus" does just that, as it stands for "Entrepreneurs in Action." Johnny Thomas, Dean of the Zapara School of Business, also commented that the new name better represents the team's mission. While the name SIFE reflected a model for *teaching* about free enterprise, Dean Thomas explains that Enactus reflects an *action-result* model. In the past, La Sierra Enactus has been

somewhat penalized for focusing too heavily on results and less on the teaching aspect. Now that the Enactus organization heavily pushes for results, the team ultimately has a huge advantage over the competition.

For those who are unfamiliar with Enactus, the organization is international (with over 1,600 teams representing 39 countries in counting), non-profit, and focused on interaction between college students and business leaders. Entrepreneurial approaches are used to reach the overarching goal: improving the quality of lives and standards of living for individuals globally through the power of business. Each team creates and develops its own business projects, which are then presented to corporate-America at three levels of competition: regional, national, and world cup (this year the host city of the Enactus World Cup recently changed from Beijing, China to Cancun, Mexico). La Sierra Enactus has been chosen six times to represent the United States in the World Cup (formerly known as the SIFE International Competition), of which the team went undefeated. Needless to say, there is a considerable



amount invested in the name La Sierra University within the world of Enactus competition.

These accomplishments take considerable time, resources, and, most importantly, the student's investment in his or her project. It is those students and projects that form the backbone of La Sierra's legacy in Enactus competition. La Sierra arrived at the 2012 Regional Competition in Hollywood, California with mostly new projects, as Ethan believed his new team needed a fresh start. A few past projects with great promise continued on, such as "Project Columbia," a program focused on creating business curriculums for struggling individuals in Columbia. However, as stated, the inception of most projects began either last school year or Summer of 2012.

One such project is entitled "Biz Book" - an umbrella concept that essentially encompasses six sub-projects known as "Biz Expo," "Biz List," "Biz Buzz," "Biz Boost," "Biz Fund," and "Biz Card." The project director is Andrew Brooks, an Accounting and Finance double major and the Chief Financial Officer of La Sierra Enactus. His project aims to support the growth, success, and sustainability of local Southern California businesses.

Another new project created last school year focuses on educating low-income, Riverside families on how to live more healthfully on budget. The "REAL Healthy" Project promotes Riverside Eating and Living Healthy and its project director is Ehsan Tabatabaei, a junior Marketing and Psychology major. Last spring "REAL Healthy" organized a "5-Can 5K" run to support local food drives and to market for the project's classes on basic nutrition and budgeting. Another 5K run is projected for the community this school year.

The headliner project from last school year was the "SIFE Field Station." La Sierra Enactus students followed Ethan Weber to the Indian village of Denkanikottai to build two classrooms. These classrooms alone provided space for 300 village children to receive an education, who would have otherwise continued working in mines and fields. The team partnered with Maranatha Volunteers International, a non-profit organization that concentrates on the construction of buildings in countries of need. Currently, 12 more classrooms are under construction and furthermore, La Sierra Enactus's 10-year commitment to the village includes plans for water, power, and other infrastructure projects. Other countries including the Philippines and Brazil are now being considered for implementation of future field stations.

Each project makes up only part of the equation necessary for a successful Enactus competition. It takes a leader who can see the big picture and who

can fit all the pieces together for the team to be truly successful. Ethan Weber can do just that. After a mere eight months into his presidency, Ethan led the team to become ranked 10th in the nation at the 2012 National Competition in Kansas City. This being said, let us step back to 2009 and take a look at his journey to La Sierra Enactus.

His freshman year at La Sierra Ethan began his part-time business career by founding "WALLEE's Window Cleaning." This small business gave Ethan his first taste at marketing techniques, customer service, and business development. In the summer of 2010, he offered his client accounts to trusted businesses in the area. Using this as an opportunity for a fresh start, Ethan then pursued sales in Houston, Texas. There he became involved in a business-to-business bartering service, in which businessmen trade services through the "ITEX system." Ethan found that though school and business offered him good experience, he was searching for a new and different challenge. He found it in world travel.

The month of November 2010 was spent in India, working with Maranatha Volunteers International on construction of needed buildings. While in India, Ethan also co-founded a blind clinic for the village of Shankar. To date, over 600 patients have been seen and some 100 individuals have received their sight back following cataract-removal surgery.

Ethan then returned to Houston, working full-time at International Exports, Inc., a global grocery supplier. Maranatha soon sent him an invitation to travel to Zimbabwe and build what would be the first of many one-day-school projects. Upon finishing the schools, Ethan continued his travels to Dubai, Singapore, and the Philippines. After traveling much of the East(?), he came back La Sierra University to continue his studies for the 2011-2012 school year. It was then that Ryan Foss, a graduating senior and president of the then La Sierra SIFE team, called and asked Ethan if he would take his place as president.

It has now been over a year into Ethan's precedence and the team has sincerely benefitted from his leadership. He has fostered projects such as the Enactus Field Station by using connections and relationships built during his time working and traveling the world. The latest project he has cultivated, which is so new it has not as of yet received an official name, was made possible through Ethan's connections with a Houston-based company called ATRS (American Textile and Recycling Services). With millions of pounds of clothing being dumped into land fills around the country, ATRS decided to combat the issue by distributing recycling bins in high-traffic, community areas. The goal is for families to drop off unwanted clothes, of which ATRS then sells to individuals in third-world countries who can then themselves make profit. This project

is a win-win-win for La Sierra Enactus now that it has become a partner: a win for the team, a win for the individuals abroad, and a win for the environment. The recycling project and “Biz-book” are rumored to headline at this school year’s Enactus competitions.

Ethan wanted to make it clear that it is not he who makes this team great, but each and every one of his hardworking team members and leaders. He wishes that there could be an article covering each member and individual project to highlight the dedication of the team. Johnny Thomas agrees that La Sierra Enactus students are some of the most gifted in the world of Enactus. Recently, Ethan was one of 40 students invited nation wide to attend a then “SIFE Partner Summit,” in which CEOs of all the Enactus sponsor companies gathered to discuss development of the organization. There, he was given the opportunity to sit with the CEO of Wal-Mart International and discussed ways to improve the structure of Enactus.

Alvin Rohrs, CEO of Enactus, quoted in a recent press release that, “This is a time for leaders who can see opportunity where others can’t, and turn that opportunity into value. Leaders who can look beyond the status quo and bring imagination and ingenuity and a sense of possibility to the challenges of our time. Enactus is committed to fostering that kind of leader.” That being said, Johnny Thomas bluntly explained that he, the Dean of the Zapara School of Business, is 100% behind Ethan as the President of La Sierra Enactus. “Ethan is a self-starter, a risk taker, and though he may have weakness like the rest of us, he *will* be a star.” And it takes a star to lead a high-caliber team such as La Sierra’s. With magazines such as *Fortune* publishing statements in 2007 that “La Sierra has earned an almost-legendary position in SIFE-lore” it is no doubt that this team is, as Dean Thomas likes to put it, a “big dog.”

Considering both positive interior and outside press, the question remains, “What can one expect from La Sierra Enactus at competition this year?” Dean Thomas’s answer is straight-forward, “We are gonna win it.” With over 50 enthusiastic students involved with the team this year, a dedicated and experienced president, and strong support from campus leaders, it looks as though this could be the year La Sierra brings the World Cup back from Cancun, Mexico. Ethan and the rest of La Sierra Enactus, we wish you luck this year in your team, in your competition, and most significantly, in changing the world, one project at a time.





THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE

BY: BRIANNA JONES

The stage is painted, the flats are set, and Matheson Hall has been transformed into the magical world of Narnia. This is the setting for the stage adaptation of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. The play is based on C.S. Lewis's tale of four children who discover an enchanted land inside an old wardrobe.

Shane Wood, last year's co-director of *Molière's Imaginary Invalid*, returns to La Sierra University to direct the fall production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Rehearsals started in October, and the set was completed the week before opening night.

Wood describes the set, designed by Nikki Jara's, as "a true feat". The theater is aspiring and creative, and involves movable flats that depict fantastical places of Narnia. Original costumes and make-up by Lauren Campbell assist in creating the illusion that the audience is in an enchanted world. He added dance pieces choreographed by Intricate Movement's Kevin Perdido and Molly Knecht.

With five years of theater experience involvements and production involvement since childhood, Wood found it easy to direct. "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe has been a favorite story since I was in the fourth grade. It [is] full of adventure [with] a deep (and sometimes dark) story of what happens when we fall and God picks us up. It seems like the perfect story to be shared," said Wood.

Along with the stage and tech crew, the cast worked hard to execute Wood's creative vision. Actor William Appiah, who plays Peter, said, "Once I was off-book, I was able to be in the moment. Movement became natural."

For most of the actors, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* is their La Sierra debut. Jared DeVries is a first-time actor who bring wit and charm to his character, Edmund. DeVries found the production to be a great learning experience. "I have never been apart of this process before, but the energy from fellow actors and some good direction have helped me come a long way," said DeVries.

Chris Sepulveda plays Aslan, the king of Narnia. His energy and carriage make him perfect for the role. Alyssa Doyle is Lucy, the faith-center of the play. "She is sweet, but with just enough attitude to keep Lucy from [getting] pushed around. She's incredibly energetic...she's a performer [who] is hard to ignore," said Wood.

Sarah Lancaster plays Susan, Lucy's elder sister. As the oldest sister, Susan works to keep her siblings together and makes sure they are cared for. Lancaster brings her wise character to life with a graceful performance.

The rest of the cast includes the following actors: Alex Hirata (Mr. Tumnus), Kelly Reed and Marjorie Ellenwood as the Beavers; Katie Huffman (Dwarf), Joan Wanjau (Fenris Ulf), Rachel McClain (Centaur), and Desiree Lacey (Unicorn).

Also starring: Benardo Cruz, Brionne Stuart, Kendra Karvig, Hannah McBride, Julia Geriguis, Nikki Jara, Rebbly Kern, and Sabrina Cerda.





ARTS





Bond, James Bond. *Skyfall* opened early November. It is the 23rd film in the Bond franchise. Starring Daniel Craig as Agent 007, Javier Bardem as the villain and Judy Dench as M.



Bond, James Bond



The film begins with an action-packed scene. James Bond (Daniel Craig) is engaged in an intense fight atop a moving train, while Eve (Naomi Harris) is ordered by M (Judi Dench) to take the shot. She hits Bond by mistake and he falls into a waterfall.

Skyfall is unlike the other films. Don't get me wrong, there are the iconic Bond features: the gadgets, the girl, the cars, and Bond's classy sharpness. But this Bond film is, well, different. The audience finally sees Bond as more than an agent. The shot to his shoulder from one of his own makes him physically and mentality weak. So he goes off the grid. On an island. With a girl. Next, he's in London. But his loyalty to M, and news of M16 bombings propell him to back to work.

Even though he fails his physical tests, he is sent on a mission to Shanghai to stop the murder of an ambassador. In one scene, a panoramic view of Shanghai is filled with futuristic neon lights and immense skyscrapers. Bond follows the sniper throughout the hotel. Backlit by neon signs, they struggle. This is the first time Bond realizes he can't keep up with the younger agents.

The film continues with a classical gambling scene. We meet the new Bond girl, Séverine, played by French-Chinese actress, Bérénice Lim Marlohe. Their conversation is filled with sensual tension, followed by Séverine falling for Bond, and, well, you know. Bond needs to know who is bombing MI6 and Séverine has the answer. She brings him to a deserted island to meet Silva (Javier Bardem), an old friend of M's. Bardem is an ex-M16 agent bent on revenge.

The latter part introduces the film's namesake. Bond grew up on *Skyfall*, a remote estate in Scotland.

Overall, this great action movie does not fail to entertain.

Hoping to draw Silva to him, Bond returns to him home and arms the ancient house for battle. Bond is the last rat to survive. (Spoiler alert:) Unfortunately, M dies in his arms. The new director of MI6 (Ralph Fiennes) assigns Bond to his next mission, so there is an open door for future Bond films.

What sets this 50th anniversary film apart is Bond's humanity. The audience learns about his childhood and sees him breaking down. I enjoyed seeing Bardem as an unusual Bond villain, with his comedic one-liners and outrageous appearance. Overall, this great action movie does not fail to entertain.



Bearclaws & Burgers & Brew

{Review and Photos by Daniel Olmedo}



Rodeo Burger

Nothing says 'America!' like a masterfully prepared hamburger and fries. Add your favorite milkshake and you have a combination that few would pass up. Rodeo Burger in Norco serves breakfast from 6 am and churns out big-appetite burgers until 10 pm. Rodeo Burger has something on their massive menu for everyone. Located on the corner of Sixth Street and Temescal Avenue in the middle of old western Norco. Enter the double glass doors and feel like a cowboy without all the dust. The menu can be overwhelming for first-timers, so stick with a burger and fries. I had the Rodeo Burger with fries; it's made with Angus beef. The toppings are no-nonsense lettuce, tomato, onion, and pickles. There's no need to mess with the classics, but if you're feeling adventurous they do have the California favorite, avocado; as well as western-inspired burgers and sandwiches. The portions are generous, so don't be afraid to share. If you're feeling like breaking the norm, try an order of fried zucchini. They have vegetarian options like grilled cheese and veggie patties.

What makes Rodeo Burger a winner is their way of making you a regular customer after a few visits. This place makes you want a burger even if you're not a burger person. You'll feel right at home in their feel-good, small town environment. Rodeo Burger is a great place to go for breakfast, lunch or for a late night.



GO: If you aren't worried about calorie intake and want to satisfy that big burger craving.

DON'T GO: If you prefer a salad or something.

GO: If you're a coffee, pastry, or sandwich lover with a taste for fresh food and a cozy, friendly vibe.

DON'T GO: If you're looking for a frappuccino and free Wi-Fi.



Coffee Court

Nestled in the municipal district in downtown Riverside on 10th Street between Orange and Main, this small corner-coffee house is a go-to for business and legal professionals in the downtown area. With a need to fuel Riverside's legal officials, the Coffee Court delivers fresh baked pastries and bagels every morning. If you're not a coffee and pastry person, their breakfast sandwiches are sure to give you the energy needed to start the day. Coffee Court is not afraid to take the time to craft you an egg sandwich with a variety of options. Ready for lunch? They also offer a menu of hot or cold sandwiches created on the spot. If you have a particular craving, they also have a build-it-yourself option with a large sized list of breads, proteins, cheese, vegetables, and condiments to calm hunger. If that isn't enough, there is a great selection of chips, fruit, and in-house yogurt parfaits to accompany your sandwich.

During the summer this was a go-to spot for my cycling buddies and me. I am a sucker for cheese danishes and haven't found a place in Riverside with a better pastry-coffee combo that whispers 'good morning' better than Coffee Court. It has a vibe that Starbucks executives attempt to duplicate.

Donut Tyme

If you're stuck in your dorm room after 10 pm and have that itch to go out, grab a couple friends and take a ride up La Sierra Avenue. Head east on Arlington until you see the neon yellow sign that reads DONUT TYME. Don't worry about people walking around the parking lot. Everyone is there to satisfy their midnight craving. While it may appear to be a run-of-the-mill donut shop, one look at their stocked display will reveal this place is much more. Sure, they have maple bars, old-fashioned glazed, and chocolate sprinkled donuts on the menu, but it's their special donuts that set them apart. Try an orange-glazed or apple pie donut. Their classics are equally delicious and always fresh. Donut Tyme knows you can't turn off your sweet tooth, so they're open 24 hours. The staff is friendly and interested in making sure your craving is satisfied. It's cash-only, so they've conveniently placed an ATM inside and outside. If you're going for the first time, bring friends and split a dozen for little more than six bucks.



GO: If you have a sweet tooth and want to do something fun late at night.

DON'T GO: If dark parking lots scare you.



Clothes Make the (Wo)Man

Jessica Roe
Photos by Daniel Olmeda

I trim everything: hair, face,
and chest. - Chris Sepulveda



By the Beard of Zeus

I don't want to look like a lumberjack. If you look good with a beard, you do you, but don't be shocked if people judge. - **Nathan Oles**

Love it. Scruff is the sexiest thing ever! It's my favorite thing they do. Keep it up! - **Joan Wanjau**

Only shave your legs if you are a professional racer or swimmer. Men should be hairy. It seems more natural.

- **Erik-Scott Lunsford**

It took me like, 18 years to grow this [mustache]. I've shaved my beard and then it grows back in like a week, but my mustache, it's since birth. I don't trim it or line it up. I just left it. I never touched it. I don't know what I look like without it. - **Ian Walker**

To each his own. I'm just so used to having my chest hair, I can't imagine myself without it. Fortunately, it's not a wild forest under my shirt. I think it's kind of classy; just enough. - **Matthew Zavala**

I trim everything: hair, face, and chest. I used to think it was weird but I don't now, because I don't think it takes a lot of time. If a guy is spending a lot of time in front of the mirror, it can be problem. - **Chris Sepulveda**

If you are a politician, you need to not look like Moses. If you are a lumberjack, that's the thing to do; rough it up there with the trees and whatnot. - **Matthew Zavala**

People ask me all the time if I do my eyebrows. No. I don't. One time, this lady was like, "Excuse me, you have the *best* eyebrows I've ever seen." Weird. - **Ian Walker**

I personally like it because it gets cold. It keeps you warm and looks more masculine. I've been growing this beard since October 30th. - **Gus Abdul Karim**

I like scruff. But some people that have patchy hair shouldn't try scruff, or the Mexican mustache (it doesn't connect). I think my favorite is shadow, a tiny bit longer than a [five 'o clock] shadow. Or a well-manicured beard. - **Michelle Taboada**

I absolutely loathe "No Shave November." By the end of the month females are surrounded by Neanderthals! Hey, you want us to keep everything nice and smooth, guess what, make sure you take care of your [expletive] too. You're not given a free pass to let your hair, *any hair* for that matter, grow wild and unruly, just because you possess the male sex organ. Girls would never ever be allowed to do that in the eyes of men. The same should go for men. Can we say goodbye [to this] double-standard?! - **Alyssa James**

I think I like the younger look - very little hair. Seriously, I don't like hairy guys. It bugs me. I'm sorry, if I have to shave to be looking all fly, your [expletive] better be looking good too. - **Holly Padovano**

One time my beard was two and half inches long. It was really itchy, people kept making fun of me. They called me Rug Face, Wolverine. - **Gus Abdul Karim**

I do not mind facial hair unless it is kept trimmed and cleaned. So, I'm all for manscaping.

- **Gabriela Guerrero**

Unless he looks better *with* facial hair, it never hurts to shave. I think guys with facial hair look good, unless they're going for some 90's R&B singer look. - **Samantha Nottingham**



“ I tried to bring back the flat-top... it
made me look a little ghetto. Never
again. Rest in PEACE flat-top.”



- *Will Appiah*



My man needs to have a booty. He needs to make up for mine.

- Holly Padovano



The Ladies Love It

Lumberjack. I just want a young, healthy, clean lumberjack. Where you know that underneath that flannel are muscles that could bulldoze a tree. - **Michelle Taboada**

Muscle. That's it. Muscle. Intelligence. All the things that are attractive about a guy to me: tall, intelligent, somewhat tan (at least with color), goal-oriented, fun to be around. As long as there is muscle. - **Holly Padovano**

Just dress well, that's all I'm asking. If I'm trying to look really bomb, I want my man to look good. Levis; dark-washed and a plaid shirt. Oh. - **Joan Wanjau**

If a guy can have a fresh wardrobe and work it, I think it's sexy. No baggy clothes. - **Samatha Nottingham**

A booty! My man needs to have a booty. He needs to make up for mine. - **Holly Padovano**

More guys should buy a nice pair of shoes and get a haircut. - **Gabriela Guerrero**

Men can always look hot in a white shirt and jeans. - **Michelle Taboada**

If you look good in the gym you are going to look great everywhere. - **Holly Padovano**

There is nothing sexier than a man in a nice suit. Men in suits. Yum. Yes it's *that* good. More guys should wear cardigans. I love cardigans on men. If a man has a sense of style he is already ten times sexier than one with naturally good looks and a [expletive] sense of style. - **Alyssa James**

Plaid, long sleeve shirts never can go wrong. Any solid colored V-neck; black especially, and you have me.

- **Joan Wanjau**

I like guys that have a fitted jacket of some kind. When I say fitted, I mean *fitted*, and a tee shirt of their liking. A white V-neck is always good. And clean shoes. No, actually, suits. Man in a suit. Or those thin ties with a white button-up shirt. *Mmm*. - **Michelle Taboada**

I feel that when you look into a person's eyes - you can tell if you are attracted to them. When it comes to people, I like to notice their eyes. You can look deep into their soul. - **Melody Ilacas**

Gentlemen, Cease and Desist

Shants! (Shorts that are so long they could be pants.) Shants are so horrible! Anything a cholo wears. Or grey shirts you can tell that used to be black. Washed out black stuff is horrible. And sneakers with jeans, *unless* you need to abruptly run away from something. If you have to go to the gym later, don't be a lazy [expletive], bring extra shoes. - **Michelle Taboada**

If I had my way I'd set fire to every pair of gym sorts being used for anything other than the gym. I will never understand the appeal of gym shorts. Ever. - **Alyssa James**

[Don't] wear sweat pants. - **Samantha Nottingham**

The shoes, they kill it with shoes! Any [shoes] that a 60 year old or higher would wear. Some no-brand and I am done, I'm through. - **Joan Wanjau**

Wranglers, or any dad-like jean with a blazer that looks like he got it from Men's Wearhouse, and boots. Men should not wear dress boots. What is that? It's just wrong. No. Take those off now, sir. - **Michelle Taboada**

My cousin wears the same t-shirt with holes, jeans, a fedora and a long goatee. He doesn't dress up! - **Holly Padovano**

I don't understand why guys wear pants with flip-flops or basketball shorts out in public. For example: when they're out with their girlfriend. - **Gabriela Guerrero**

I still see guys with their butt hanging out of their pants. Please stop, guys. Not sexy - **Holly Padovano**

My ex-boyfriend always wore tank tops. It drove me crazy because even when it was super cold outside he would be wearing a tank top. It was so annoying! - **Gabriela Guerrero**

Oh gosh, these ugly, baggy jeans. They were *not* flattering. - **Samantha Nottingham**

[He] used to wear these XXL South Pole sweaters down to his knees. - **Holly Padovano**

Gym shorts! He'd even do it on purpose just to annoy me! - **Alyssa James**

Chase Would Like to Add

Nobody needs an extremely low-cut V-neck going down to their belly-button. - **Chase Matamoroz**

Ladies, Please

There was this girl in high school, she was pretty; but this is [going to be] materialistic to the fullest - she would dress up like 50's rockabilly pin-up. I don't know why, it made me utterly attracted to her. - **Matthew Zavala**

Fortunately, it's not like a wild forest under my shirt. I think it's kind of classy; just enough [chest hair].

- *Matthew Zavala*





Nothing too revealing, but at the same time, if you have her at your side, you don't want her covering everything up. It's that fine line. A nice V-cut dress with the skirt not too short, at the knee-caps. Very classy. She's not trying so hard, not a ton of makeup. When a girl is not trying to impress someone is when she looks her best. - **Ian Walker**

I think a girl looks best when she is confident about what she has on. I've seen girls dressed up really nice, but if they aren't confident, they aren't very attractive to me. If the girl is comfortable in a sweatshirt from 8th grade she is more attractive to me. - **Matthew Zavala**

Dressed down, but not completely. I also like when they dress up, with little to no makeup. I don't want to be able to wipe it off. - **Will Appiah**

A dress, not too long or too short. A nice color; turquoise. Something that sticks out. - **Gus Abdul Karim**

Ladies, Please Refrain

Weaves! If it is short, let it stay short. Shave your head bald. But do not get a weave. - **Luke Gardner**

Everything is good except when they try to look like Hilary Clinton. Suits. Don't wear suits. - **Gus Abdul Karim**

This person had this perfume, DKNY Apple. I grew really tired of it, because I would smell it everyday. We're sort of related. Okay, she's my sister. - **Matt Zavala**

I don't want to sound mean or rude, but when clothing is too small for them. Let's say they're busting out of their shirt in all aspects. Everything should be under control. Sometimes I think, "Why?" It looks uncomfortable. - **Will Appiah**

Classy, feminine, modest, confident; not giving all your goods to everyone, visually. No one respects anyone that is too easy. It's a discourtesy. - **Chris Sepulveda**

There was a girl in high school. She kept wearing the same thing, because she kept getting attention. It was this jean skirt, the top was like onesie/button-up with a V-neck. She wore that outfit three times out of the week. It showed off her [expletive] a little bit. - **Ian Walker**

When girls spend a lot of time in front of the mirror it's okay, but it can be a problem for guys to do so. It becomes obsessive. It takes up enough time. If you need to look good, as an actor, a model, okay. If you really have no reason to look on point when you have other things to do... - **Chris Sepulveda**



I used to have really long hair. I'd go out to dinner with my sisters. People would say, "Hello ladies!"

- Erik-Scott Lunsford



Guys Obsess Over

Nike Air Macs: the same shoes [Marty McFly] wore in *Back to the Future*. They're close to 2 grand. They never went on sale at retail level. They were auctioned off. They don't tie themselves. Yet. - **Ian Walker**

They are all right. I love *Back to the Future*. They were created for the film, as a movie prop, so the laces tied themselves. In 2015, Tinker Hatfield, he's a really famous shoe designer, said they will tie themselves. - **Matthew Zavala**

Sexy, Sexy

Oh, I'm a dime. It's my attitude. I have a great personality. - **Holly Padovano**

I feel like a 10 with room for improvement. I may not be perfect to other people, but I am comfortable. I'd date me, and I feel like I could look better. I could probably hit the track a few more times. I look really good in a size 34. That's just not feasible right now. Since you asked me right now, I feel like a ten. I don't feel any pressure to be any more or less than I am right now. I feel that fashion and style are an important component of a person, but they don't go well if they aren't accompanied with a good sense of self. You don't have to be comfortable all the time. People have moments, but you should always be comfortable in a sense. - **Matthew Zavala**

I plead the fifth. Probably eight point five. - **Chase Matamoroz**

Eight, because I don't want to sound arrogant. I know there are people who don't think so, but there are plenty of other people that do. Especially my girlfriend. - **Will Appiah**

A seven because of my lack of a hot bod. - **Michelle Taboada**

I don't think I'm ugly, but I'm not super-duper gorgeous. I'd say a six. - **Samantha Nottingham**

On a scale from one to ten, I think I am a five. - **Gabriela Guerrero**

Five. I don't know; I don't want to come off like I think I am too good-looking. I don't think I am that good-looking. I don't think I'm ugly as [expletive]. I'm confident in certain things, and a bit unconfident in other things. A little more self-determination would bump me up a few more points. - **Ian Walker**

When I didn't have [groomed] eyebrows, I was cute. I was all right. But now that I have eyebrows, now that I think I'm good-looking, I'm comfortable with who I am. I can laugh at myself. - **Joan Wanjau**

I try not to think about that. What matters most as far as attraction are conversations and values. I just try to talk to someone and see how that goes. I place the importance on the conversation. - **Chris Sepulveda**

I know I'm not a Victoria Secret Model but I'm also not Rosie O'Donnell. I work with what I got, and I was fortunate to get what I did. - **Alyssa James**

I express myself through my clothing. I'm an emotional shopper.

- *Alyssa James*





During late elementary school, I was skinny-fat. My hair [was] a bowl-cut with a part down the center.

- *Chris Sepulveda*

Magazine Industry

I think it affects other people a lot. Media even crosses the boundaries of culture. If people live in North America, they can have the style of Korea at the tip of their hands and vice versa. Media allows me to see what I could potentially like or dislike, but I don't take cues of what looks good. I choose for myself. - **Melody Ilacas**

Quite a few [magazines] are unrealistic. They heavily promote unhealthy images and some people are influenced by that. They heavily re-touch photos to put them on magazines. To completely alter it sends a negative message to society. - **Will Appiah**

I don't like the pressure they put not only on women, but men. With their idea of perfection, no one is going to be satisfied. They do nothing but categorize. It's superficial. It affects me a lot, and I don't watch TV much or read magazines. It's just from being around people, watching movies where everyone is flawless. That's probably why I feel like I am not perfect. - **Holly Padovano**

They advertise very extravagant clothing that only celebrities would be caught wearing. Some of the things are reasonable and have a cute style, but for the most part, I would not take my fashion from out of a magazine.

- **Gabriela Guerrero**

A lot of the media's agenda is negative. Many Americans just eat it up. People don't think, Why was this made? They just think, I'm going to copy it, do it, become it. I feel like the media is in the business of influencing. I wish people would see that each and every thing they do has an impact on their lives, and their spiritual walk. I started out [in life] doing whatever I wanted. I know that road. And I know the road past that. - **Chris Sepulveda**

A lot of the media determines what we eat. It bugs me. It affects the amount we eat, We eat three times more than we need to. - **Holly Padovano**

The media doesn't allow for individuality, but I don't know how we could be individuals because no one makes their own clothes. It's forced style. But that's what consumerism is. We have to buy what is available. - **Michelle Taboada**

In my opinion, British Vogue is the Fashion Bible. It's fun to see clothing trends from the fifties or sixties come back in season or a [specific] heel make its return to the runway. It's such a huge industry and at the same time very exclusive. - **Alyssa James**

Worth Every Penny

I can't answer this. This is emotional. I think it would have to be my fascinator. My mini top hat. It's quite iconic of me; hearkening back to an earlier time, to what I wish the world was. - **Nathan Oles**

I bought a blazer and slacks that came up to a discount price, but I would pay the original price, \$300. It looked nice. - **Luke Gardner**

My pair of True Religions, \$120. Not too bad. I was 13. I don't really like asking my parents for things, but I begged

for these jeans. *I love jeans. I will go to war for them.* - **Joan Wanjau**

Anything I buy for myself is always worth it, because I won't buy something unless I really want it. I'll feel guilty. But for other people... - **Chase Matamoroz**

About \$60. It was a very classy pink blazer. I think it was worth it. Still hurts though. - **Sarah Nottingham**

A pair of Steve Madden boots. \$300. It was worth it. - **Gabriela Guerrero**

I think I've spent \$400 on a dress. It was BCBG Max Azria. - **Michelle Taboada**

\$200. On a watch at Zumiez. It's Nixon. You can definitely spend a thousand on a watches at Zumiez.

- **Chris Sepulveda**

Bottle of YSL Black, unfortunately it's running out. It's a really great exclamation point to a nice button-up shirt and a jacket. I've actually had articles of clothing stolen because of that cologne. I don't know when the scarf stopped being mine; more like it was never returned. [My cologne] smells really nice, it gets the pheromones going. I feel like it compliments my body chemistry nicely. Like really nicely. - **Matthew Zavala**

Ultimate pair of jeans: Dark wash. Turn them around; button-flap pockets. Long enough that when you cuff them they are white. Tad bit high waisted. Hudsons. - **Joan Wanjau**

I just recently bough a suit, the best suit I ever bought, it's tailored. - **Ian Walker**

Might as well have your name on it? - **Matthew Zavala**

Yeah. - **Ian Walker**

I live in my Guess cologne. It smells like Skittles. - **Ian Walker**

Like *fancy* Skittles - **Matthew Zavala**

\$375. Kimono. Yes. - **Nathan Oles**

Sometimes, it's Not About Clothes

I used to have a little bear cup. I had it up until I was 13, and then I finally gave it away. It was **this** big. That was *my* cup. I *always* had that cup. I always took that cup with me. If my aunt still has it, I think I'm going to try and get it back

- **Will Appiah**

This is Why They Look So Good:

My best is different. I can be my best everyday Nathan, best steam-punk lord Nathan. I'm different people all the time. I am my most comfortable when I am wearing normal clothing. No extravagant makeup, just some things to hide scars. - **Nathan Oles**

I brush my teeth. That takes five to ten minutes. I put the toothpaste on, and then I brush the inside. I put more on, brush the outside, and put more on and then do the tongue. I put on my undershirt, deodorant and choose what to





It took me like, 18 years to grow
this [mustache]. It's since birth.

- Ian Walker



wear. My roommate always catches me standing in front of the mirror before I get dressed. - **Luke Gardner**

On test days I dress up. It makes me more confident. I wear my favorite outfit. - **Erik-Scott Lunsford**

To know that I'm ready, I go to my sister. I never get fashion advice from her, she's such a hater, but if I can get her to say that I look cute, I am pretty confident. - **Joan Wanjau**

Every Tuesday, [is] Tie Tuesday. - **Melody Ilacas**

If I'm going out on a date, I'll sit down for a good five minutes and think about the evening. I like routines, in that sense. - **Ian Walker**

Once I'm ready and everything is planned out, my shirt is ironed; I just put on a smile, because I feel good when I'm dressed up. - **Matt Zavala**

When I work out now, I just kind of go through the motions, now it's just maintenance. It wasn't until last summer I got all the things that I really wanted, like clothes and working out down. - **Chris Sepulveda**

I talk to myself a lot, but I have learned to internalize it. But I always look up to see if anyone is looking at me.

- **Will Appiah**

My skincare regimen literally covers my entire body. I check to make sure there are no scars, burns, or acne. All the places that need to be trimmed/shaved are. I do half in the morning and half at night. There are medications [and] creams. I am very meticulous. It would be strange for someone to see. My hands, I focus on them. I make sure everything is just right. - **Nathan Oles**

Skin Deep

I feel my best when I am dressed my best. - **Gabriela Guerrero**

I express myself through my clothing. I'm an emotional shopper. It's never just [about] buying clothes [or] expanding my wardrobe. It's about expressing myself. I'm not going to buy something I don't like, or don't feel comfortable in. The fact that I may look good at the end of it all is just a plus. - **Alyssa James**

Appearance is more than how you look; it's how you carry yourself. It does say something. - **Will Appiah**

I would probably have more piercings without judging the way they can make a person look, or judging that it's not the way Adventists are supposed to look. Sometimes I don't wear certain things because I have this Christian image that I feel I need to maintain. - **Gabriela Guerrero**

I mean, if the occasion is lazy Sunday, I'm not going to be too concerned. But if I have a wedding coming up, then... No, not mine. - **Matthew Zavala**

I want the perfect body, and I don't, therefore I am unsatisfied with my muscle tone. I feel like a chub because I haven't reached my goals in the gym yet. I feel sexiest after a workout. - **Holly Padovano**





I work more on my personality. Appearance isn't much to me. Freshman year of high school, I was diagnosed with scoliosis. I was in a back brace. I wore huge sweaters, but I didn't care. I had to use my personality. Beauty is really in your personality. - **Joan Wanjau**

My attitude, my frame of mind affects me more. My appearance comes after that. It's important because it's how I express myself. I feel great already, so I don't want to waste my time in front of the mirror for 20 hours to look pretty much the same. - **Holly Padovano**

My choices have been conscious recently; realizing the effect you have on people. It really matters how you present yourself, how you carry yourself, however vain or shallow that may seem, because people let it [be important]. So you have to play the part. Look at the value of life; people *are* life. Unless you want to go live in the woods, it makes a difference. - **Erik-Scott Lunsford**

Sometimes people notice me more just because I am tall. They expect me to be a certain way because of the way I look. It is not always accurate. - **Chris Sepulveda**

People are going to interact with you based on how you look. If I looked aggressive, stern, [people would be] less inclined to approach me. - **Will Appiah**

If I looked like a scrub everyday, people wouldn't bother being associated with me. - **Samantha Nottingham**

Stronger legs, a more defined six-pack, a higher-jump, faster sprint. There's always room for improvement. To do a back flip, be better at parkour and snowboarding. I don't downplay anything. I don't think it's effective. I used to downplay that I was pudgy and had skinny arms. I used to be out of shape, now I exercise a lot. It's really important to me. - **Chris Sepulveda**

If I feel that I look ugly or I do not like what I am wearing, I will feel more self-conscious and be worried about the way I look, when that should be the least of my worries. Sometimes I wish I were more natural because I feel it would take away a lot of self-consciousness. - **Gabriela Guerrero**

I've gotten random compliments from strangers, I've been given certain liberties because of the way I dress and look, I've even been asked out on several dates. But the greatest effect my appearance has had is how people perceive me. People think I'm very materialistic and dress up to show off. Materialistic I may be, but in the end, what I do is for myself. I love wearing nice clothes and I love wearing heels. I'm comfortable in that. No one should ever wear something they aren't comfortable in. Clothes just happen to be how I express myself. - **Alyssa James**

I think that it's definitely important for people to be conscious of their appearance, how they appear, what they're wearing, [and their] behavior. You should present yourself differently with friends than in a meeting. Sometimes people can often be too concerned about their appearance and what others are going to think. - **Chase Matamoroz**

My job is customer service. It's all about how you present yourself. How you look is the first thing people see.

- **Erik-Scott Lunsford**

[My] motivation to change isn't as important as it should be. I would spend more time on getting ready and I would make an exercise routine a higher priority on my list. - **Michelle Taboada**

I believe we should look the best we can. - **Gabriela Guerrero**

Be presentable, whether you are going to class. I feel more comfortable. Leave an impression with your professors. It's networking. The way I look reflects the impression that I am going to leave - **Chase Matamoroz**

That Was Bad

When I was in third grade, I had these jeans, [and a] jean jacket, with a fishnet design. My brothers picked out my clothes. People made fun of me. Said things like, "Your clothes is *ugly*! You look like a homeless person!"

- **Ian Walker**

Mushroom cut! Every time I see a kid with one, I wish... Oh, man. - **Gus Abdul Karim**

Fades! My mom wanted me to get them from 5th to 12th grade. And I used to have a ponytail. People would yank on it. - **Luke Gardner**

I used to have really long hair. I didn't do anything with it. I'd go out to dinner with my sisters, and people would say "hello ladies!" - **Erik-Scott Lunsford**

Definitely has to go to my hair. If I don't take care of my hair, it gets knotted, matted, like *mercy*, like you need a bandana to cover it. It needs to be washed. It can get *bad*. - **Joan Wanjau**

When I tried to bring back the flat top. Honestly, it was a fresh haircut, but I was too old, it made me look a little ghetto; made me look like one of those dirty, ratchet kids. I was trying to make a statement freshman year. "Oh! Fresh Prince!" Never again, unless it is for a movie role. Rest in peace, flat top. - **Will Appiah**

In the 8th grade, everyone was bleaching the tips, [and had] spiky hair. I said, "This is it Mom! I'm going to cut my hair, spike it and bleach the tips!" But I left [the dye] in longer than I was supposed to, so it came out mustard-yellow. Since then, I've never touched my hair with *any* dye. - **Chase Matamoroz**

Short hair. *Not* my best look. I tend to look like a boy. My build is not feminine enough for short hair.

- **Samantha Nottingham**

In high school I had pink bangs. - **Gabriela Guerrero**

When I was younger, I had a friend who used to put baby oil in her hair. I used to do that and it looked horrible. I used to wear a checkered top with mismatching checkered shorts in 7th grade. Oh, and I had a Lakers Outfit - a dress, made of jersey material. I wore it to church. I sit and think "who was I?" [I think] it showed midriff. - **Holly Padovano**

Antennae bangs, a part down the middle, and butterfly clips. That was 5th grade. Fourth grade, I had a boy haircut. Actually, it might have been flattering, I don't know. My mom used to let me dress myself. I would wear printed leggings with cowboy boots and a vest. If I saw a little kid dress the way I did, I would high-five them and compliment them on their awesome outfit. I like to encourage individuality. - **Michelle Taboada**

I went through my awkward stage during late elementary school. I was skinny/fat, but only I knew. I wore baggy clothes to cover it up. My hair had a mix between a bowl-cut with a part down the center. Most of my clothes were given to me, so they didn't fit or they weren't what I wanted. - **Chris Sepulveda**

Man, I don't know what it was about me, and Saturday and church shoes. I had a habit of losing one or both of them, so I'd come to church wearing my tennis shoes. - **Matthew Zavala**

Letting Yourself Run Free

This person would have sun scars, because I can't go in sun. I would be much more broken out. Long, flowing, extremely curly hair; very strange multi-facial hair. But other than that I wouldn't really look that different.

- **Nathan Oles**

I look, not trying to be disrespectful; I look like a Muslim if I let my beard grow. And disheveled and homeless. [If I couldn't work out] I would look either hungry or *very* hungry, or extremely obese. But I think I would look extremely hungry. - **Will Appiah**

I'd be unshaved and my ears would be waxy. I'd have a uni-brow, not drastic, but there'd be some fuzz. And hair in my face. - **Erik-Scott Lunsford**

Oh my eyebrows. Once you start [plucking], you will look like a bald person. They kind of disappear. I look like an African boy without them. - **Joan Wanjau**

That's a bit frightening! I value being healthy because I wasn't before. It helps me feel better about a lot of things. - **Chris Sepulveda**

The person sitting in front of you is probably very different from the *complete all natural* me. I paint my nails because I hate them without polish (have been doing so for almost 7 years now), I pluck my eyebrows because if I didn't, I'd probably have eyebrows like a wookie. The all natural [look] is something I find daunting and disgusting at the same time. - **Alyssa James**

I think I would grow an appreciation for the basic necessities, and I think that would result in me feeling less insecure about upholding a certain image, because my mentality would change. Making sure my hair is cut, dressing my age; all of those things would change. - **Chase Matamoroz**

What They're Hiding

I have a type of body dysmorphia. How I think I look isn't how I look. I'm not as thin as I think, but because of my body type I can't achieve a certain look. So I wear long sleeves to cover my thin arms. - **Nathan Oles**

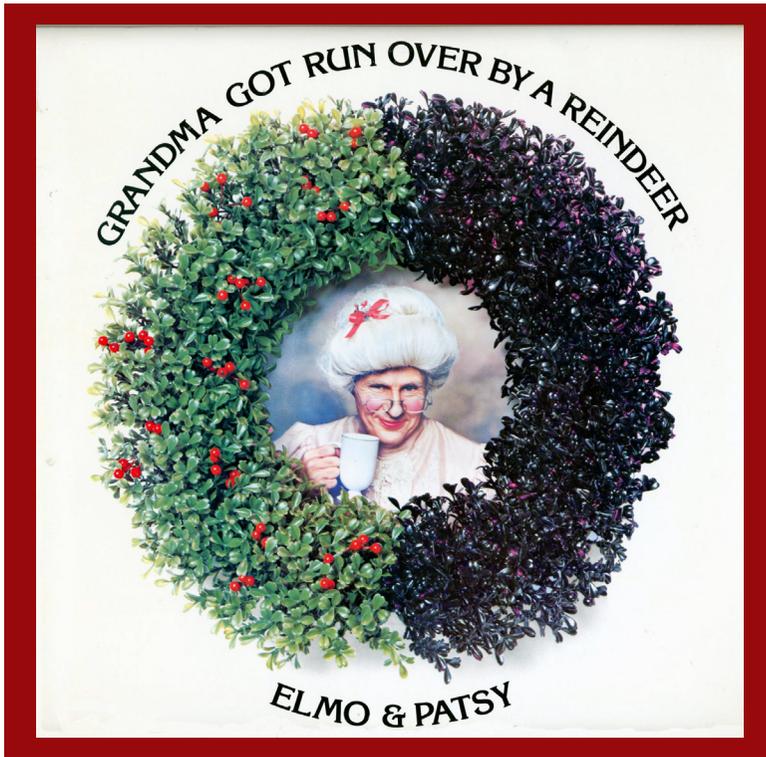
I don't know if I try to hide anything. It could be my stutter, so I talk slow. - **Will Appiah**

I've tried to hide my reactions and emotions, I don't know if I'm very good at it. - **Michelle Taboada**



I don't want to look like a lumberjack. If you look good with a beard, you do you, but don't be shocked if people judge.

- **Nathan Oles**



Germany uses the term *Ohrwurm*, or ear-worm, to describe a song that has an upbeat melody and repetitive lyrics that get stuck in your head. Holiday music is notorious for being sticky and hard to shake. While these songs are meant to bring joy, peace and love during the season of giving, we hear endless renditions of the same songs for weeks before the Holidays arrive. This list includes some top songs to avoid this season to keep your mind sane during holiday vacation.

Jose Feliciano



“Feliz Navidad.” Remember to roll your R’s when singing this tune! Truth is, no one likes to hear their native language butchered. Save your Spanish-speaking friends’ sanity and resist singing along.

“Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree.” Who spends their time head-banging and air-guitar-playing while parading around a Christmas tree? The answer is, no one! Don’t feel bad skipping this track.



“Santa Baby.” There is something just not right about the sultry way the singer asks Santa for gifts. A please-and-thank you is all a person needs to make their Christmas requests. Anything else should be kept private and out of everyone’s ear.

“Jingle Bell Rock.” Not only is this song full of awkward lyrics and imagery, it is weird to rock on the day that traditionally honors the birth of Christ. This song is acceptable only when accompanied by The Plastics’ classic dance routine and Gretchen Weiner’s clumsy high kick.



“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.” No one wants a little Christmas. We all want a big, over-the-top, snow-covered Christmas and there is no shame admitting it. Do not let this song con you out of your dream, so dream big!

“Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer” is upbeat and cheery, but tells the tale of how Santa’s sleigh kills Grandma. Meant to be subversive and amusing, we sympathize with Grams and find ourselves feeling morbid.



“I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus” reveals hints to adultery and the true face behind the holiday gift-giver. A reminder to adult folks how difficult it was to find out that Santa wasn’t real. (If you believe, disregard this item.)

“The Twelve Days of Christmas” needs to end after five golden rings. This song stays in your head for weeks! A clever way to teach counting, but still an incredible ear-worm.



“The Little Drummer Boy.” Pa rum pum pum pum. Enough said.

“Jingle Bells” by The Jingle Dogs takes Christmas music to a whole new level. We could go without this song. If you aren’t familiar that dogs are barking this classic, keep away from E-cards during this holiday.



“Santa Claus is Coming to Town.” No, he is not! And this song does not need to come to town, either. Why acknowledge Saint Nick this holiday and allow him to steal your present-giving thunder? You are the one waiting in long lines and spending your free-time wrapping those presents. So sing your own anthem and avoid Mr. Claus’ song.





SPORTS





NBA Preview

As the 2012-2013 National Basketball Association season moves towards the playoffs, there are many questions that still need to be answered
- Adam Becker

Will Dwight Howard and Steve Nash revitalize the aging Lakers and push for Kobe Bryant's sixth championship? Can LeBron James put together another statistically historic season and lead the Miami Heat to back-to-back championships? Will the Oklahoma City Thunder really miss the presence of James Harden? Can the aging and declining Boston Celtics put together one last championship run? The NBA is filled with story-lines that will captivate audiences throughout the season.

Around the La Sierra University campus, the atmosphere has been electric. The most talked about story-line at La Sierra, and in the basketball world over the off season and beginning into this season has been the Los Angeles Lakers rise to power once again by acquiring both Dwight Howard, among the best centers in the league, and Steve Nash, one of the best point guards of the game. The Lakers had to make a huge step up from last year in which they were thoroughly dismantled by the eventual NBA finals runner-ups, the Oklahoma City Thunder. Throughout the series, the Thunder was faster, more athletic, and completely dominated the Lakers point guards. To simply win the Western Conference, the Lakers needed to shore up many gaps, and they did

that by improving their defense with Dwight Howard and legitimizing their point guard play with the acquisition of Steve Nash. Whether or not the Lakers are good enough to hang championship banner number seventeen in the Staples Center rafters is still to be seen. However the Lakers have put themselves right back into the race for best team in the NBA.

One other major story that has captured the headlines has been one person, one name, LeBron. After the 2010-2011 NBA season in which the Miami Heat lost in the NBA finals to the Dallas Mavericks, LeBron was the butt of every joke at the office and bar. "LeBron's hairline" became a trending topic on Twitter, Cleveland partied, along with the Mavericks, because of LeBron's loss, becoming synonymous with him collapsing in the 4th quarter. After the 2011-2012 season, however, LeBron has cemented his legacy as one of the greatest players of all time after putting up historic numbers (27 points, 8 rebounds, 6 assists, and 2 steals per game) in an MVP season, winning and NBA championship in dominating fashion, and following that up with an incredible, gold-medal-winning performance in the 2012 Olympics in London. LeBron James' quest for immortality and his continued goal of becoming one of the all-time greats will be a popular storyline throughout this NBA season

There will be many continuing and changing storylines as the NBA season continues toward the playoffs; these are only a few of the key focus points that the NBA has produced over the off-season and into the beginning weeks of the year.





Giant Champions

By Jamie Perchez

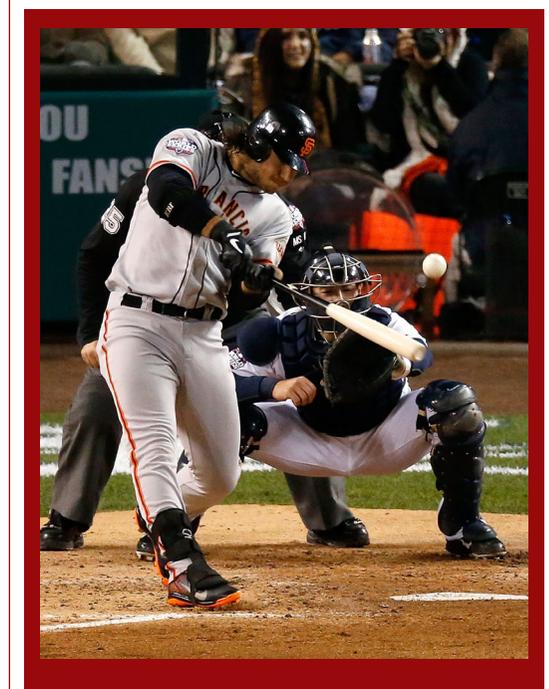
The Detroit Tigers are no strangers to the sweep. In the ALCS they had no problem when they swept the New York Yankees and advanced to the World Series. The only difference between that series and the World Series was they were the victims of such a dominated run. The Tigers manager Jim Leyland never “guessed the Giants would have swept” them, but he also “would have never guessed [they] would have swept the Yankees.” All betting odds leaned greatly in favor of Detroit taking it all by game 5. The biggest reason for Detroit being favored was because they had possibly the best pitching in all of baseball. But as Giants general manager, Brian Sabean, said they “had a date with destiny.” The Giants’ Hunter Pence said they had their “backs against the

wall and...knew it wasn't going to be easy.” Seeing as how they came back to win in the previous two series someone should have seen that despite the phenomenal pitching from Detroit, they were going to need more. Game four stretched into an extra inning before the San Francisco Giants finally closed out the night, in Comerica Park, and defeated Detroit 4-3. Despite the damp and biting weather, and the struggles during the regular season, the Giants were able to stay on top through the first three games. Though they hit a minor snag in the third inning in game four with a homerun from Detroit’s Miguel Cabrera, resulting in two runs, Buster Posey answered back with his own two-run homerun in the top of the sixth inning. However in the bottom of the sixth the Tigers’ Delmon Young tied the game with a homerun of his own. The excitement in Detroit was

reignited and it looked like San Francisco would have to fight a little harder to keep the series from reaching past four games. They fought all the way into a tenth inning and Marco Scutaro hit a single allowing Ryan Theriot to score what would be the winning run for the Giants. After the game Cabrera said, “We could not find our game in the World Series.” The stats agree with that statement because the Tigers were held to a batting average of .159 compared to their regular season average of .268.

The Giants have won two of their seven championships in the last three years. The road to this most recent title was not an easy one. Tim Lincecum, a two-time Cy Young award winner, was not able to play up to potential and found himself in the bullpen. Brian Wilson, the “fear the beard” closer, was limited to two innings in his season before it was ended due to an elbow injury. And in August, Melky Cabrera, who just a month prior won the All-Star game MVP, was suspended for testing positive for testosterone and was not permitted back to the team when his suspension was over. All this happened before the postseason. Once they made it past these obstacles they faced new ones once the regular season ended. Facing their first opponent, the Cincinnati Reds, the Giants found themselves down two games going into Cincinnati. Their odds looked bleak yet they astonished many when they took the series by winning the final three games in a best-of-five divisional series. Looking hopeful to continue their march into the World Series they met up with the defending champions, the St. Louis Cardinals. By game four of the best-of-seven championship series, the Giants once again found themselves trailing by two games. San Francisco needed to make another run at winning the final three games in the series if they hoped to make it to the World Series. They did just that and almost effortlessly dominated the Tigers.

Though the Tigers’ regular season was not plagued with the drama that the Giants’ was, they did have some of their own problems. Before the season began they had high hopes of how easy their season could go, however by June things did not look that way. Detroit pushed on and made it beyond the regular season. Their postseason did not have the dramatic come backs that San Francisco had; as a matter of fact they seemed to breeze right through to the World Series. Though they never fell a game behind the Oakland A’s they did allow them to win two straight games which tied the series 2-2. In game five, however they shut out the A’s with Justin Verlander, an MVP and Cy Young winner, on the mound. The Yankees proved to be no match against the Tigers in the ALCS. Though no one can prove that their lengthy time off between games may have been part of the quick way their postseason ended, it is a thought worth considering.



Steroids in Professional Sports

Katie Huffman

Bulging muscles, an aggressive attitude, and no signs of fatigue on the field are an athlete's dream, but also possible signs of steroid abuse. The cheers of the crowd in the arena, expectations from the coach, and sportscaster's criticisms leave professional athletes with a lot of pressure to succeed. Some of them turn to drugs.

The U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration defines anabolic (tissue growing) steroids as "synthetically produced variants of the naturally occurring male hormone testosterone." Steroids allegedly increase strength, reduce body fat, and shorten recovery time between workouts to build endurance. Prescriptions are not required to buy steroids in Mexico and various European countries, so they are often bought elsewhere and smuggled illegally into the United States.

After the Controlled Substance Act of 1991 made steroids illegal in the U.S., the International Olympic Committee and National Collegiate Athletic Association, along with many professional sports leagues—including Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, National Football League, and National Hockey League—banned athletes from using steroids because of their potentially dangerous side effects and the competitive advantages they provide. There is also concern that young people who look up to these athletes will follow their lead and experiment with steroids. Those in favor of steroid use in sports believe the side effects are exaggerated and that banning this helpful substance from athletes is unfair in today's society, which turns to drugs as a solution for so many other issues. Norman Frost, a professor of pediatrics and bioethics at

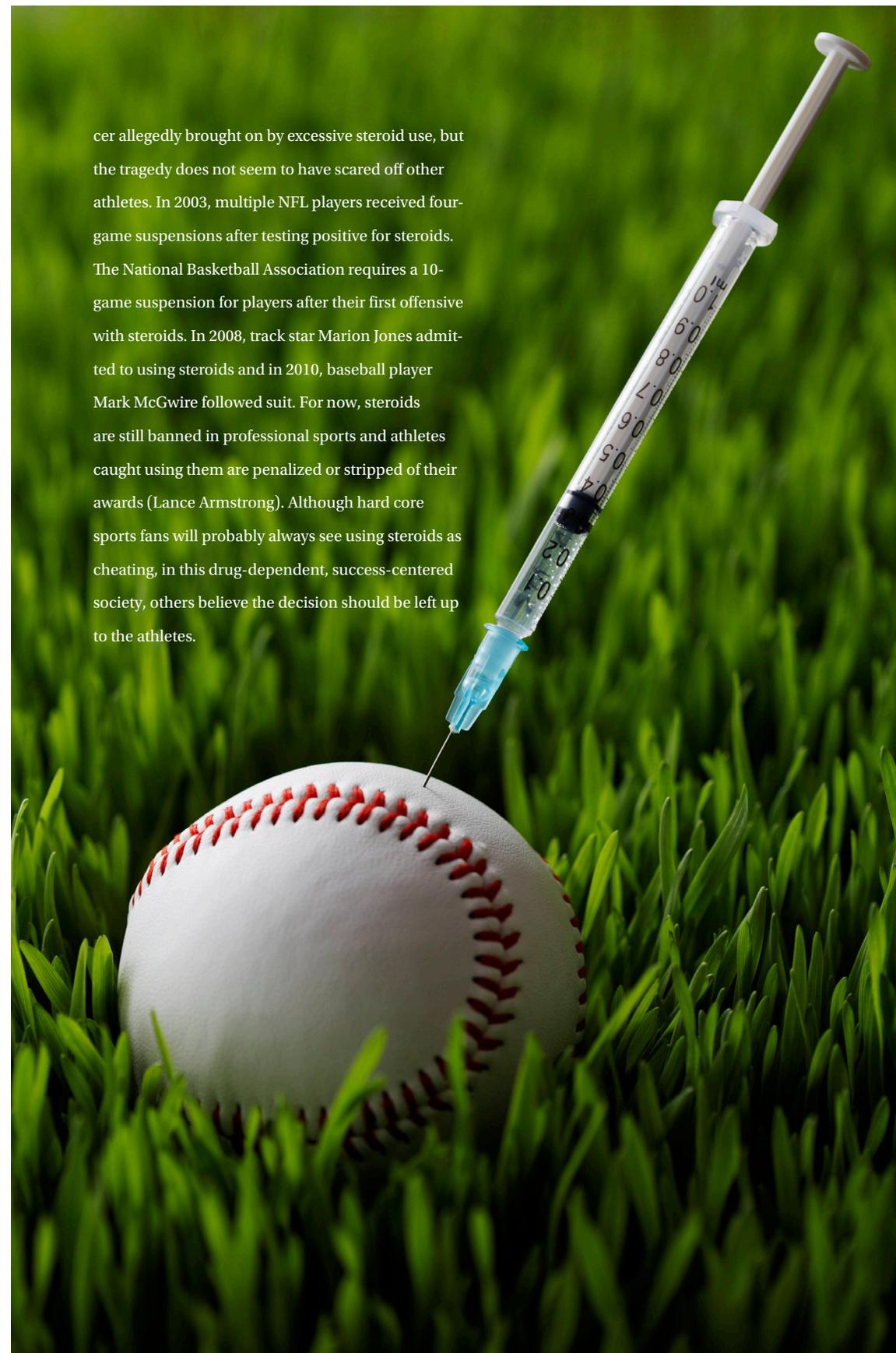
the University of Wisconsin, argues that the tackles, strained muscles, and head injuries involved in playing sports are far more dangerous to athletes than the side effects of steroids.

Steroids and human growth hormones (HGH) are usually injected or taken in pill form by athletes for a short period of time in order to help them achieve a specific goal in their sport, like quick recovery time from injuries incurred in the arena; a huge benefit for the rough-riding cowboys of the rodeo. While the rodeo prohibits 'cheating,' riders are not drug tested, and there is much suspicion of secret doping taking place to help riders "bulk up." For the sports leagues that do drug test, there are no specific guidelines for the frequency of random drug testing, but all players are given only 24 hours notice. They are required to provide a urine sample in the presence of a drug program agent, which is then collected and sent to a lab for testing.

While steroids are proven to enhance performance, they are also believed to cause sexual and reproductive disorders (including infertility), severe acne, high blood pressure and cholesterol levels, serious mood swings, depression, and even delusions. Women who use steroids often develop a deeper voice, baldness, and unwanted body hair. These short-term side effects are reversible for *male* athletes once they quit using steroids, but this is not the case for females. Do the pros outweigh the cons? Are strength and endurance worth the reproductive issues and depression that steroids can cause?

National Football League (NFL) defensive end Lyle Alzado died in 1992 at age 43 from brain can-

cer allegedly brought on by excessive steroid use, but the tragedy does not seem to have scared off other athletes. In 2003, multiple NFL players received four-game suspensions after testing positive for steroids. The National Basketball Association requires a 10-game suspension for players after their first offensive with steroids. In 2008, track star Marion Jones admitted to using steroids and in 2010, baseball player Mark McGwire followed suit. For now, steroids are still banned in professional sports and athletes caught using them are penalized or stripped of their awards (Lance Armstrong). Although hard core sports fans will probably always see using steroids as cheating, in this drug-dependent, success-centered society, others believe the decision should be left up to the athletes.





A LESSON IN GETTING BACK UP

By: Daniel Olmeda





The news of Lance Armstrong's Tour de France titles being revoked came fast and hard Monday morning on October 22 this year. I knew what had happened. I had been following the case for some time but I ignored the weight of the story; I did not want it to be true. *Lance gave up!* It rang in my mind the rest of the day. I asked myself so many questions: what was going to happen to Lance? Is he going to be able to keep riding? I was in disbelief that it had finally happened. The man who taught a generation to never give up had thrown in the towel.

The Facts

The story behind Lance Armstrong's doping scandal is fuzzy at best. With such serious allegations against him and his cycling career one would imagine there would be equally serious evidence to back up the doping claims. The truth is that most of what the United States Anti-Doping Agency and the Union Cycliste Internationale call evidence is not much more than weak drug test results and personal testimonies from questionable associates of Armstrong.

Lance Armstrong is a singled out rider in a sport that is known for its high doping activity. There is no doubt that Armstrong possesses a high level of athleticism and talent but his consistent success in a sport that is littered with doping raised questions with cycling's governing authorities. These questions have been answered time and time again by negative drug test results and exceptional performance come race day. The USADA and the UCI have both taken on a mission to prove Armstrong's guilt and strip him of his achievements. Throughout Armstrong's cycling career both the USADA and the UCI have administered drug tests at random times to try and

catch Armstrong doping. With no success, both organizations have made it their mission to disqualify Armstrong's achievements. But why go through years of this dance to pull cycling's most decorated athlete down from the podium? Perhaps Armstrong's persistence to win plays a role.

Armstrong won his first Tour de France in 1999 after going through extensive cancer treatment including brain surgery and chemotherapy. Before his diagnosis he had begun to prove himself as a competitive cyclist by winning a handful of Tour de France stages and the 1993 World Championship. His fighting spirit during his cancer battle and his beating of the illness gave him a special place in cycling as a person that does not give up. He rejoined the professional cycling world in 1998 where he placed 4th in the Vuelta a Espana. In 1999 he showed the world what he was capable of by winning his first Tour de France. He continued to win for the next six years.

Armstrong's consistent performance on the bike led the USADA and UCI to believe that he had to be enhancing his physical abilities with drugs or doping. The organizations took Lance's wins as a slap in the face along with his ability to pass about 600 drug tests that have been administered to him. The USADA and UCI organizations were out for blood. They used whatever means possible to try and taint Armstrong's name to the public. Earlier this year the USADA set forth with a handful of questionable witnesses and another set of allegations against Armstrong. This time, however, Armstrong had had enough. He took a moment of the American public's time to announce that he would no longer be fighting doping allegations and that, "...enough is enough."

The USADA took this opportunity to finally give Lance Armstrong what they had tried so hard to do in years past. In early October the USADA sent their 'reasoned decision' to the UCI recommending immediate action against Armstrong for, as Travis Tygart puts it, his role in "the most sophisticated and successful doping program sports had ever seen". Shortly after on October 22 the UCI announced their decision to strip Lance Armstrong of any titles including his 7 Tour de France wins and banning him from professional cycling for life.

The Issues

To many, the subject of Armstrong's alleged doping is very black and white and find no place for sympathy towards Armstrong's situation. However, there are some important things to note when we look at the facts surrounding Armstrong's case. The USADA used sworn testimonies from Armstrong's former teammates, team staff, and other individuals who stated they saw Armstrong use doping as a means to increase his physical abilities during the professional cycling season. Armstrong was said to have both used and distributed drugs to his teammates coercing them to use performance-enhancing drugs to be supportive of the team. With these testimonies his teammates and staff incriminate themselves as users, distributors, or administrators of performance enhancing drugs. The USADA chose to give Armstrong's eleven former teammates who acted as witnesses for the case a minor six month suspension from professional racing. Lance Armstrong took the fall for a whole professional cycling team's actions. While his participation of the alleged doping scandal is not justified, the years of accusations, name smearing, and finally having his Tour de France titles stripped are

not equally weighed when taking the whole situation into perspective.

The decision by the UCI to strip Armstrong of any titles won in professional cycling including his seven Tour de France titles, brings up a very important question. Who gets awarded those titles now that Lance is forced to step off the podium? The answer is no one. The UCI chose to not award any runner up during those seven Tours because according to them there is no way of knowing if those cyclists were in fact clean of performance enhancing drugs during the race. How can an organization condemn a cyclist for drug use, strip his titles, and say that there is no way to award any other cyclist because they could have been doping too? While the UCI holds its ground on the matter, their decision shows the professional cycling community that as long as you do not win seven Tour de France races in a row, doping is ok. Professional cycling is a sport that is known for its illicit use of doping and performance enhancing drugs. The Tour de France is a race that has a history of cheating since its very conception. The first winner of the Tour, Maurice Grin, was later discovered to have taken a train to secure his victory along with eleven other competitors using other vehicles. With cheating and the Tour going hand in hand, performance enhancing drug use has risen in the last decade. The UCI has failed and continues to do poorly at regulating professional cycling's drug problem. There responsibility for the use of drugs in cycling was placed on Lance Armstrong as they attempted to make an example out of his penalties.

Lance Armstrong is not the first cyclist to ever be accused of doping. In the last there have been more doping accusations and investigations than ever



before in professional cycling. These allegations have never brought on a penalty as severe as the one that was given to Armstrong. To make Lance Armstrong the scapegoat of the USPS cycling team's organized doping scheme is an agenda that the USADA and UCI have set forth since the late 90s. In 1998 the Festina cycling team was disqualified from the Tour de France after the UCI's discovery that organized doping was occurring within the team. This is not unlike the USPS cycling team's situation. The difference? Lance Armstrong was too good a cyclist to stop winning and his determination led him to his grand victories. This caused both organizations to become fixated with bringing the cyclist who could not lose down.

The Aftermath

Cycling continues to be a sport where doping is a way to level the playing field, not give a rider an edge against other cyclists. With the UCI's incompetent ability to control doping their penalties against Lance Armstrong hold no ground in making cycling a cleaner sport. The decisions made by the USADA and UCI have hindered the professional cycling community. More than ever professional cycling is viewed as a sport of cheaters. It will take a lot of effort from either of these organizations to rise from this catastrophe. Their goal was never to clean up cycling but rather to stop one person from dominating the ranks. Without this one person how will America view a sport that was brought into our living rooms by his ability to not give up?

Armstrong will forever hold a special place in cycling history as the man who was able to overcome. His legend is now scared by doping allegations and penalties

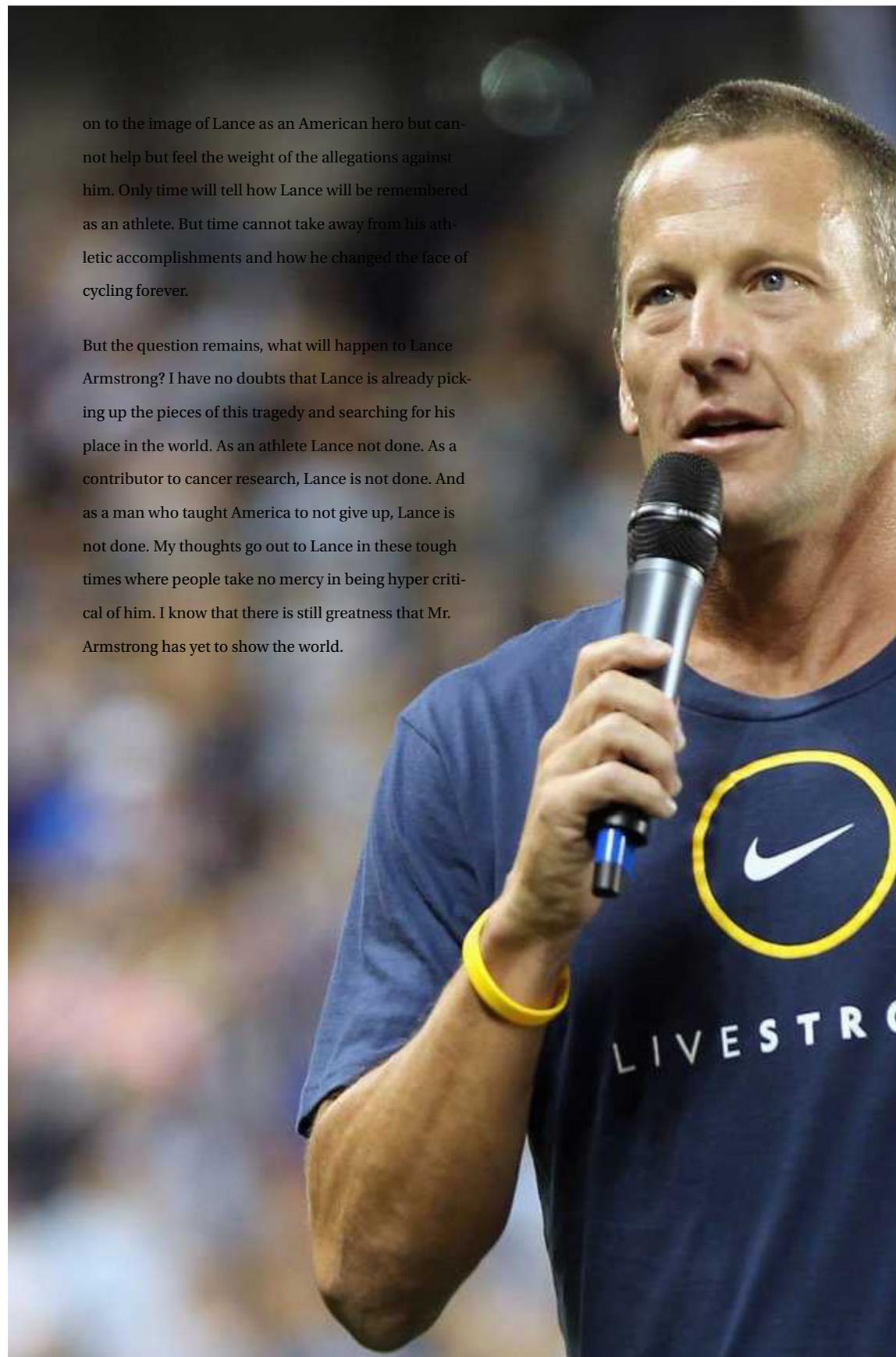
brought on by bullies. As hard as some may try to remember Lance as a great cyclist, the stripping of his titles now taints his whole life. What is left for cycling is no longer in Lance's hands but in the hands of the next generation of cyclists. May history never repeat itself in cycling's case and may the only performance enhancer needed by riders be a determination to overcome. If I were ever privileged enough to speak with Lance himself I think he would agree that what gets you to the top is only your ability to push forward regardless of what is falling apart around you.

A Legend Remembered

There have been incredible feats completed by extraordinary individuals in the world of sports throughout history. Babe Ruth is remembered for his home run prowess. Magic Johnson is considered one of the greatest point guards of all time. And Muhammad Ali is known for his grace and power when placed in the boxing ring. All three of these athletes have incredible accomplishments under their belts and reigned supreme in the world of sports for their time. It was only a matter of before someone else came along and performed better. Lance Armstrong has won the Tour de France seven times in a row from 1995 to 2001 as well as being a successful triathlete and marathon runner winning various Ironman events. There are those that say that Lance will never be matched. Others set their sights on younger cyclists today waiting for promise of greatness. No matter if you agree or disagree with the USADA or the UCI decisions no one can deny Armstrong's contributions to cycling and the world of sports. As an athlete, his dedication to greatness is on par with Babe Ruth and Muhammad Ali. As a person I pray that his dedication to greatness was pure enough to resist doping. I hang

on to the image of Lance as an American hero but cannot help but feel the weight of the allegations against him. Only time will tell how Lance will be remembered as an athlete. But time cannot take away from his athletic accomplishments and how he changed the face of cycling forever.

But the question remains, what will happen to Lance Armstrong? I have no doubts that Lance is already picking up the pieces of this tragedy and searching for his place in the world. As an athlete Lance not done. As a contributor to cancer research, Lance is not done. And as a man who taught America to not give up, Lance is not done. My thoughts go out to Lance in these tough times where people take no mercy in being hyper critical of him. I know that there is still greatness that Mr. Armstrong has yet to show the world.





RELIGION

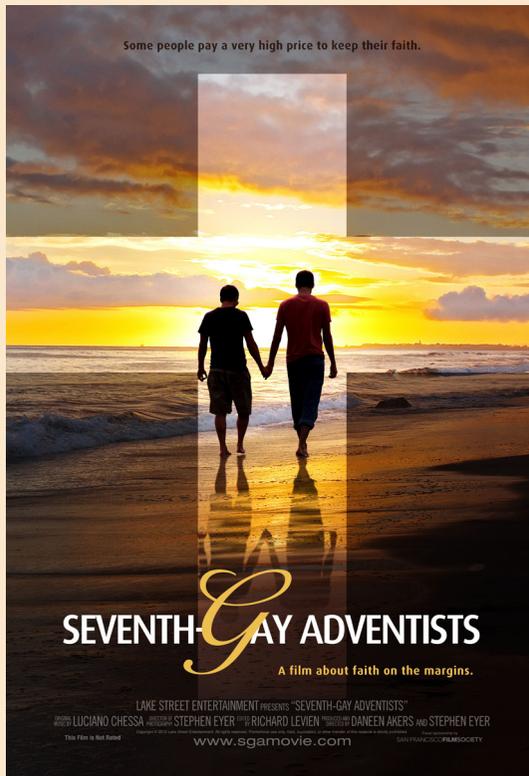




Seventh-Gay Adventist: A Review & Reflection

Rebby Kern and Sterling Spence





Review

Seventh-Gay Adventists is a film about three couples in their journeys to embrace two very distinct identities: Seventh-Day Adventist and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender). Both identities have cultures that run deep with unique historical background. While the film appeals to multiple communities, the film is directed to the LGBT, and straight ally community as well as the Seventh-day Adventist community.

Wife and husband production team Daneen Akers and Steven Eyer from San Francisco have been working on Seventh-Gay Adventists since 2009 as a channel to advocate for LGBT issues. They spent three months on a production tour covering over 11,000 miles across the United States capturing LGBT folk's stories on film. Now Daneen and Steven are screening Seventh-Gay Adventists on college campuses, churches, theaters, and homes in hopes to spread the dialogue about what reconciliation looks like between faith and identity. The film is an official selection for the Miami, Seattle and Southwest Gay & Lesbian Film Festivals and has screened over 40 times nationwide.

During a 2010 interview with IndieGoGo Daneen Akers says, "We want to reach an audience both within the Adventist church and beyond who is willing to engage in a meaningful conversation about religion and homosexuality. This topic has become extremely contentious recently, and the Adventist church makes an interesting case study for the broader political and cultural conflict between religion and sexuality."

This film plays an important role because it can be the first exposure for struggling LGBT people to see their story. Young folk watching the film can relate to how one remains faithful to God while finding affirming places of worship or general acceptance from their community. Marcos Apolonio, featured in the film, is a man of God and serves his spiritual community in Second Wind, a gay-affirming church group that meets on Sabbath mornings. Second Wind was filled with folks who did not find an open church where they felt welcomed or accepted to worship. When Second Wind closes Marcos starts Church 1.0 because he sees the importance of faith in life and mediates this conversation.

Seventh-Gay Adventists is an incredible opportunity for all members of the Adventist church because it provides a much-needed first-time exposure to LGBT people. The film gives face to those who are struggling with their identities in a conversational tone. The film is not an in-your-face documentary like For the Bible Tells Me So, a film about hateful oppression against homosexuality derived from the Bible.

There are three very relatable couples in the film that represent the diversity of folk who are LGBT identified. Jill and Sherri are middle-aged lesbians who keep active in the church. Their main goal is to insure they find a church family who will accept them and their children equally. Collin and David, young newlywed gay couple, both endured different forms

of gay conversion therapy. Marcos and Obed, devout middle-aged gay couple, fight for Marcos' citizenship to be approved while their courts do not recognize same-sex marriage.

Seventh-Gay Adventists presents a difficult topic by using people who represent a minority of a minority: dedicated Adventists who also claim their sexual identity. This causes difficulty for Seventh-Gay Adventists to be selected for LGBT film festivals because of the unique culture of Seventh-Day Adventists. In one scene Jill's mother is sharing stories about Ellen G. White and William Miller using felt cutouts. Also in the film, "haystacks" are served for Sabbath dinner. The film has its criticisms: for not being radical enough; for the Worthington Church not making their statement changes on homosexuality more affirming; for David's parents to condone his ecstatic new partnership instead of only addressing their devotion to God. There is more work to be done in the Adventist church to catch up with the equality for which the current generation is grasping.

La Sierra University Church is now setting an example for all universities and churches to continue the dialogue about identities. On December 1, 2012 LSUC was the first Seventh-Day Adventist Church to screen Seventh-Gay Adventists inside the sanctuary. When Pastor Chris Oberg made the public announcement during Sabbath worship the congregation applauded for our forward movements. This film is about what happens when religion and sexuality meet. And what better a place than inside a church?

REBBYKERN

Reflection

Christians claim to be the voices in the world calling for justice. The message of the prophets and of Christ himself is that God is righteous and on the side of those who are oppressed. However, when we talk about the church historically, it is easy to show that we certainly aren't on the front lines of social change. For example, the nation as a whole made a powerful statement about the equality of women way back in 1919 with its decision to give the vote to all people regardless of race. Now, almost a hundred years later, our church is fighting for the rights of women. We definitely aren't ahead of the curve. However, as we move forward with women's ordination, there is always a lurking question: what happens next? Though we may try to wrestle with one issue at a time, life doesn't work that way. The church is beginning to open its eyes to the concurrent struggle happening all over the country and the world for the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

As Christians we may take a stand on either side of this issue and time will tell what happens. Looking at the past few years, our battle lines have been drawn in opposition to this community, we now have the choice as to whether or not this will change. Perhaps we won't be 100 years behind this time.

The film *Seventh-Gay Adventists* has been taking up the call for equality within the church and has faced opposition as well as acceptance. Here in California, if I can make a broad generalization, we're usually, theologically, ahead of the world church by a few years. So I hope it doesn't come as a surprise to you

that the majority of the theological community within the Christian faith, has for a long time sided with the LGBT community, calling the treatment of the church towards these individuals unholy. But you and I are probably not part of the theological community: that group of academics locked in their offices with shelves of books and dust. We are just Christians and as such we know that the theologian isn't always right. It is not their place to be the decision makers for us. Instead we, the actual people of the church, make the choice.

Our main point of conflict is in the way we look at the Bible. Opposition to homosexuals within the church has mainly been spawned by the texts in Leviticus calling same-sex acts an abomination as well as the passages in Paul's epistles, especially Romans, calling these acts lust and impurity. If we choose, as the majority of Adventists have, to look at the Bible from a traditional reading, in which the words are to be taken at face value, our judgment of the gay community seems to be pretty clear.

As rational human beings we can't end the debate here. Biblical scholars have argued that the texts must be taken within their historical, literary, and linguistic context. When we do so, the original language in some of Paul's writing appears to be referring to temple prostitution especially between men and young boys. Lists of sins that include "homosexuality" seem to give it no more weight than disobeying parents or being a gossip. Leviticus along with same-sex acts condemns mixing fabrics and orders the stoning of children who do not obey their parents. As we take this sort of critique into account traditional stances start to lose weight. However, this route of justification seems like a short one. Though we can write off most of Paul's texts against same-sex relationships and perhaps the story of Sodom and Gomorra as well, we can't get rid of everything so easily. It is undeniable that Paul and his community did not have the concepts of same sex

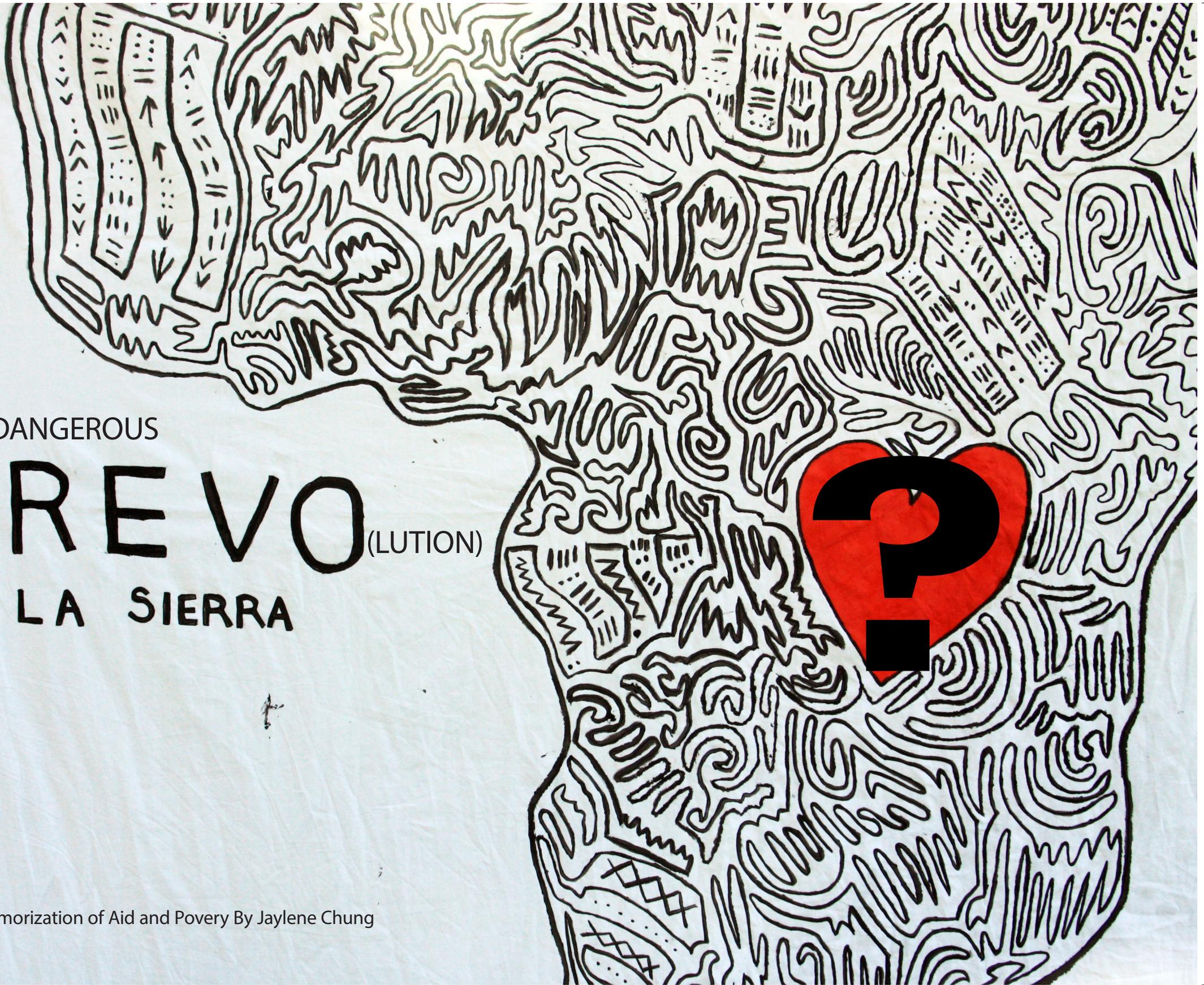
relationships that we have today and there was certainly a sense of cultural judgment against "nontraditional" behavior. While contextual critique of the Bible texts will help us, it will not get rid of the issue all together.

There is another branch of theology that lends a voice to the discussion. Liberation theology, first developed in Latin America as a movement to recognize that the image of God revealed within the scriptures portrays the Divine as, without fail, being on the side of the oppressed. Even with a quick read through scripture, we see this theme that God sides with the slaves in Egypt, with the poor in the country, with the alien and the widow. Jesus spends his time with the sick and the ostracized community, those from which others stay away. In Matthew 5:11 He says, "blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you." Without a doubt, we can describe the LGBT community as being ostracized and persecuted, especially within the church. According to the principles of liberation theology, this means that God is on their side, standing in solidarity. God creates equality not oppression. God is the God of love. Through these themes we begin to understand scripture. Jesus was not hesitant to revise and re-envision what had

been written. Matthew 5:21 portrays Jesus speaking of the laws of Moses and correcting them. Moses says you shall not murder but Jesus says don't even think angry thoughts. Like Jesus, we must look at the world around us, the changing of our communities, our scientific discoveries linking homosexuality to genetics, our understanding of God as being fully loving and completely against the oppressors. All of this must be taken into consideration if we are to be rational, modern, thinking Christians. When it is we have a right to argue with what we read in the Bible, as exemplified by the Gospel writers and Paul. Ultimately, our decision may hinge on what we give greater value to. Do we lovingly side with people or do we side with a hurtful text. Do we call ourselves followers of the Bible or are we as Christians, followers of the suffering Christ and the God that is revealed in the scriptures but not always fully understood?

STERLING SPENCE





THE DANGEROUS

REVO (LUTION)

LA SIERRA

The Glamorization of Aid and Poverty By Jaylene Chung



When I first arrived here at La Sierra University three years ago, starting a REVO chapter on this campus was one of the few bright spots in the dry, brown landscape of Riverside. REVO, short for "Revolution,"

was a small "grassroots movement" that provided people with a unifying banner under which they could organize various events to raise money for anything and everything: already-established organizations, schools, people in need of medical treatments, you name it. Initially begun in Hawaii and unaffiliated with any sort of Christian organization, it was brought to Pacific Union College (my alma mater). Various REVO chapters popped up around the country, so we at La Sierra decided to hop on board, and there have been three REVO events to date.

In 2010, we organized a concert, art show, and fashion show in order to raise money for the Rwandan Seventh-day-Adventist-Union run Gakoni Orphanage, where one of our university's own student missionaries, Michelle Jacobson, was serving as the director. During that event through ticket, food, and art sales as well as donations, we raised about \$24,000. We wired off the money to Jacobson, and that seemed to be the end of it. Occasionally, people did ask us, "So, what happened to the money?" It was difficult to tell. It was only when she came back that we realized that sending monetary aid to foreign countries is more complicated than anyone might suspect.

In our example of Rwanda, a country recently emerging from the trauma of genocide, there were enough governmental and political problems to make it difficult to trust that Jacobson would actually receive the money. Though Rwanda has been listed as having one of the lowest rates of corruption in its region (Transparency International ranked it the 8th cleanest out of 47 countries in sub-Saharan Africa in 2010), it is not uncommon in many countries, particularly Africa, for aid money to be siphoned off by those in authority, while very little trickles down to those in the most need. But despite Rwanda's supposedly clean(er) record, corruption is still very much a problem. Previous directors of Gakoni Orphanage, who all claimed to be Christians and were a part of the Rwandan Adventist Union, were not exempt from the temptation to engage in corrupt behavior either – one embezzled funds in order to pay for his daughter's wedding, while another infected an orphanage caretaker with HIV.

To say this is frustrating is putting it mildly.

Countries in Africa have received over \$1 trillion dollars

in aid over the past 60 years from rich countries, with over \$200 billion of that amount coming from the U.S. alone. Aid organizations, both secular and religious, have attempted to pitch in monetarily or begin development projects, but, as evidenced by the prevalence of deaths caused by AIDS, malaria, and malnutrition, as well as stagnant growth rates, aid seems to have had little effect. In fact, the aid organizations themselves might sometimes be corrupt, keeping aid money for administrators or doing ineffective work in order to ensure continued employment. Many impoverished countries are saddled with ongoing problems that affect political or economic performance, such as geographical location or oppressive policies or are still dealing with the effects of being under colonial rule. Some economists believe that monetary aid itself is a roadblock that prevents poor countries from taking ownership and responsibility for their own futures.

Since it is impractical to try to solve a riddle that economists with Ph.D.'s and years of field experience cannot resolve, and many of us are not going to be directly involved in development, let's bring things back to a more local situation. Perhaps we must first answer the question, why do we try to help in the first place? Certainly, as a Christian campus, much of our philanthropic motivation comes from desiring to fulfill the biblical mandate to care for the poor person, the orphan, the widow, and the resident alien. Even if some of us are not Christian, there is on some level in (most) people a basic, fundamental desire to help others.

However, when other motivations come into play, that's when things get dangerous. Maybe we feel that as a rich, first world country, we ought to help out the poor countries who don't know how to care for themselves by giving money that we won't miss. Maybe we feel guilty for the suffering that much of the wealthy West has inflicted on others, and want to somehow pay for the sins of our fellow Westerners. As musician and activist Bob Geldof once said during a benefit concert, "something must be done, even if it doesn't work." Or maybe we decide that designing skimpy outfits to be shown off while Chris Brown plays in the background, all in the name of helping to emancipate sex slaves (as was the case in the 2011 REVO event), is not ironic at all and is simply a way to contribute to the cause.

This is not a call to stop attempting any sort of help, whether it is in our local neighborhood or in the global community, but a call to an enormous revision of how and why we help. There is certainly some good that is done by sending foreign aid as well as the development projects carried out by various organizations, but our results are often embarrassingly inadequate. Projects such as REVO are useful in raising awareness about

issues of injustice and providing some monetary help, but do they do much to help solve long-term problems? With the money we sent to Jacobson, she was able to buy a new truck for the orphanage, build more rooms, and begin work on a well. However, she faced opposition from the orphanage administrators, reluctance of fellow aid organizations (ADRA Rwanda being one of them) to collaborate, and lack of skilled Rwandan labor. Some of the difficulties she encountered doubtless reflect the fact that she was a young, white, American woman; but her successor confronts serious challenges as well.

The orphanage still struggles under the administration of the SDA Union, while other privately owned orphanages less than 10 miles away flourish and are well taken care of. Several of the girls at the orphanage do not want to work in the fields, but they also do not want to go to school because they don't yet understand the value of education. Many of the children seem to have an attitude of dependency on Jacobson, asking for increasing amounts of money even though she already pays for their school bills and even sent some laptops to the few attending university. This reliance on the help of foreigners, she says, is not uncommon among those who look to her as *mzungu* (sometimes literally translated as "white person" or "conqueror"), someone who is automatically more well off than any Rwandan simply because of race and nationality.

Though this example presents a rather bleak picture of the effectiveness of aid, opportunities still exist. For instance, Jacobsen experienced frustration as the hired Rwandan workers took a long time to complete a construction project, brought on more workers than necessary, claimed more building materials than the allotted budget, and often cut corners that resulted in an inferior structure. With the help of skilled, professional people (note: not young, inexperienced college students as is the norm for most mission trips), the projects would have been completed as intended, and locals would have perhaps been educated in how to do future projects as well.

Though this story isn't necessarily representative of all situations in need of aid, Gakoni Orphanage in Rwanda shows the need for a change in the infrastructure and mindset of the countries in need, as well as a change in mindset of those attempting to provide aid. Often

times as Christians, we are tempted to offer blanket solutions of prayer or offerings, but that does not solve the problem of poverty. There must be thoughtful, educated people, whether native or foreign, who understand a poor society's culture and history and who are dedicated to effecting political, economic, and societal change, rather than throwing money about haphazardly. Unless we carefully consider the motivation for helping, and ensure that we know where and how any monetary aid is being used, what is the point?

When helping others, whether that takes form of giving money, going on a mission trip, or coordinating a worship service, is a façade for self-aggrandizing and often harmful behavior, even if well-intentioned, we need to go back to the drawing board, rather than sully the gospel in the name of Christ. Christian action must be motivated by more than prayers and good intentions; it must be informed by research and thoughtful reflection.



Unless we carefully consider the motivation for helping, and ensure that we know where and how any monetary aid is being used, what is the point?

BUDDY OR BEAST?

An Adventist Dialogue on Catholicism

by SHANE AKERMAN and JOSEPH W. RICHARDS II



Shane:

I hope to make perfectly clear that I am a Seventh-day Adventist. But, as an Adventist, I have very deep concerns about how the Roman Catholic Church is portrayed in our churches and schools. Without the slightest shame, I am happy to say that the Catholic Church has become a spiritual home away from home for me. I have found inestimable value in many aspects of Catholic theology and life: a robust theological tradition, worship services that combine art, fellowship, and scripture in awe-inspiring ways, and beautiful prayers, rituals, and symbols that assist my Christian faith.

My hope--which I know is the nightmare of many, many Adventists--is that we might come to embrace our sisters and brothers in Rome as fellow Christians. There are many complaints leveled against the Catholic Church, but perhaps the most essential one is that we fear that the Church, headed by the Pope, has claimed too much authority for itself. This is a reasonable concern, and one which many devout Catholics would share. But I think that the legitimate concern regarding an overreach of power has become something worse: a paranoia towards authority as such. So, let us not forget that Ellen White made a rather bold and authoritarian claim herself when she wrote that: "when the judgment of the General Conference, which is the highest authority that God has upon the earth, is exercised, private independence and private judgment must not be maintained, but be surrendered." (Testimonies vol. 3, 492)

We should not see the Catholic Church's claim to supremacy as anything out of the ordinary. To claim the highest level of authority on earth is not so much a power-grab but a biblical mandate. "Do you not know," Paul writes, "that the saints will judge the world?" Adding to the Ephesians that, "God placed all things under [Christ's] feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the Church, which is his body." What authority could possibly be higher for a Christian than the Church? In my estimation, then, we should not see the Pope and the General Conference as making competing claims to authority but making a mediated claim with differences that ought to be negotiated. Catholics and Adventists ought to agree that Christ has given us his Church to be our home and the leaders of that Church are our leaders. Whatever theological disagreements we may have, we should not take the incredibly self-centered attitude that we will leave the historical community of Christians whenever we disagree. The Christian Church,

whether we like it or not, includes both Ted Wilson and Benedict XVI. And we fail to be Christians whenever we fail to see the need for reconciliation among Christians.

Joseph:

I too am a Seventh-day Adventist -- one who believes that God sanctified the seventh day of creation and one who believes in the soon coming of Jesus Christ. Each of these convictions has colored Adventist ideas of end-time events, and the Catholic Church -- more specifically, the papal office -- being the principal object of our contempt.

We should start by establishing a firm historical foundation. In 1843, Charles Fitch urged followers of William Miller to "come out of Babylon." Millerites had not formally organized, which meant that the movement's partisans were dispersed in different denominations. Fitch changed this when he labeled both Catholics and Protestants as antichrists; these so-called Christian bodies did not accept Miller's teaching of Christ's imminent return and began to persecute the Millerites within their congregations. The late 1840s saw another Millerite and co-founder of the Adventist Church, Joseph Bates, tie Sabbath worship and the persecution of God's remnant in one harmonious web. The Catholic Church was soon singled out as the antichrist power, resurrecting themes from the Reformation. With Uriah Smith's Thoughts on Daniel and Revelation near the turn of the century, the view cemented within Adventism; any power claiming the authority to alter the divinely appointed Sabbath could not be among the saints of the last days, those who "keep the commandments of God" in their entirety.

Adventists have staked their ground in this landscape. However, the Church, in a statement in 1997, expressed its resoluteness in loving all, persecuting none, and recognizing Roman Catholics as brothers and sisters in Christ. They maintained their disapproval of the papacy's structural underpinnings, however, desiring to remain vigilant as watchwomen and watchmen on the walls of Zion.

Also, we shouldn't judge the claims of Roman Catholicism as equivalent to those of Adventism. The former has claimed the authority to forgive sins, to change God's times and laws, and to be -- through the office of the Bishop of Rome -- the Vicar of Christ. Variably depicted as "dragon" (Rev. 12), "beast" (Rev. 13), "Babylon" (Rev. 14), and "harlot" (Rev. 17), the Pope has been guilty of speaking "great words" of blasphemy "against the most High." Contrast the comment of Sister White that you mentioned, which was directed toward a specific issue and a specific individual. They served



as counsel to an erring brother in Christ and not as a comprehensive exposition of church structure.

The news is not all grim; some progress is evident. Vatican II's *Lumen Gentium* recognized that sanctification and truth could be found outside the Catholic Church. But we are faced with an unavoidable conundrum: shall we maintain our peculiar view of the end or consider our denomination as one among many, fully embracing - as we see fit - compelling Catholic liturgies and rituals? We can't have it both ways, wondering after the beast while at the same time boldly confronting its patterns of false worship. The Advent message to the world must be clear and unmitigated: "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Rev. 14:8).

Shane:

I am tempted to try and make the case against the traditional Adventist interpretation of the papal office as antichrist, beast, and so on. This, of course, would be less compelling to many, so I will leave it to the readers to do their own research regarding historical interpretations of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13. I will say, however, that these prophecies tend to function like Rorschach tests where one always sees what they want or expect to see.

What I will call for, as a minimum, is consistency. According to the prominent Adventist view the first beast of Revelation is the Papacy and the second beast is the United States. But why are these two centers of authority held to totally different standards? Having the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference Headquarters in Washington D.C. is as ironically absurd as having it in Vatican City. Yet, American Adventists are often without hesitation in their patriotism and national pride.

Fresh in our minds is the 2012 presidential election in which many Adventists participated. The logic would be that we ought to do what we can to preserve the 'greatness' of this nation for as long as we can. But why can Adventist Christians not hold the same standard to the Catholic Church? The dissonance is overwhelming to me, that we would be willing to give provisional loyalty to an organization which reaches as far back as slave-owning, power-hungry, deists that we call the Founding Fathers, but that there is not a sense of fidelity to a Christian community with historic ties to the Apostles and the earliest Church.

If we are willing to perform the idolatrous ritual known as the Pledge of Allegiance in deference to America's national sovereignty, then how much more should we be willing to participate in

forms of worship to the one, true God with fellow believers from Rome? I know that as one with an international background and citizenship outside of this country you will have a unique perspective on the relationship between America and Adventism, but I hope we can agree that at least here in the States the discrepancy between how Adventists view the so-called "first beast" over against the so-called "second beast" is vast.

My moderate call to the Adventist community is that we at least grant to the Catholic Church the kind of provisional comradery that we share with Americans. Or, better yet, that we remember something of God's patience and mercy with Israel. Let us always remember that just as our merciful Father extends the grace of forgiveness to the Church in Rome for its historical crimes, our little flock is often in need of that grace as well.

Joseph:

At last, some common ground! You rightly point out the tension between American nationalism and traditional Adventist end times thought and I agree wholeheartedly with your assessment in that regard. However if genuine consistency is our pursuit, we must guard against arguments which appeal to hypocrisy in order to justify our desired theology. Such reasoning drives us to cultivate a "sense of fidelity" to the Catholic Church not because of the intrinsic merits of the relationship, but our prior expressions of patriotic pride to the beast's image. But two wrongs don't make a right.

Yes, in these last days, our allegiance must be singular, directed at the person of Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God. The time will come "when they will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires (2 Tim. 4:3 NASB)." For this very reason, we foster our ultimate loyalties not towards a particular denomination - Catholicism or Seventh-day Adventism for that matter - but to the Good News. Period.

Through this prism, consider again the question of loving one's country, America. I draw inspiration from God's counsel to the children of Israel while they were bound in Babylonian exile: "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will have welfare (Jer. 29: 7 NASB)." The identical principle is found in the New Testament parable of the talents (Luke 19: 11-27); while we tarry on this earth, in a home that is not our own, we commit to carrying on the ministry of Jesus Christ. Admittedly the line that divides these biblical injunctions from blind national devotion is fuzzy,

but they should nevertheless inform our analysis of American - as well as any another - culture.

As I see it, the overarching cause of your concern springs from the process of institutionalization. Since its founding in the 1860s, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has grown from about 3,500 members to 18 million. A people who shaped its identity as a remnant have become so numerous, organized, and diverse that it looks more like the mainstream Christian fabric than "left overs." Hospitals, schools, universities, and humanitarian organizations have brought the Advent message to the four corners of the globe.

Adventism has many faces, it is true, some of which conflict, but crucial to our identity is the idea of a prophetic movement, witnessing to God's soon coming. For this purpose, God has always provided His people with faithful, though imperfect, leaders to speak His Word: from Jacob to Moses, from Ezekiel to Jesus Christ, from Amos to Sister Ellen White (2 Pet. 1:19, 21 and Amos 3:7). That said, I have no issue giving my Catholic brothers and sisters "provisional camaraderie" as long as we're clear on the meaning of "camaraderie". Practically speaking, what would camaraderie look like, as we take on the Gospel Commission, upholding the banner of Christ? If it means abandoning the sure word of prophecy - the Great Controversy theme along with its suspicion of the Bishop of Rome - then Adventists might as well pack their bags and book a permanent reservation to Sunday Mass.

Shane:

To return to my original point, I suspect that Catholicism is so greatly feared among Adventists because of the theological authority that the Roman Church has claimed for itself. But the authority of the Church is something which is unavoidable. Whatever we may say regarding the authority of Scripture—the Bible does not actually interpret itself. We, the Church, Adventists and Catholics, must interpret it. And whenever we may decry the wrongs of the Catholic Church we do so as the living, thinking, and spirit-driven people of God. When we protest Rome we still protest as the Church. My appeal, therefore, is that we come to see Catholics as fully and equally Christians. We should be free to condemn the "spirit of antichrist" wherever we find it inside or outside the Church, for there are "many antichrists" (1 John 4:3; 2:18). But to blindly insist, regardless of what reforms may come, that the office of the Bishop of Rome is the seat of Satan's power is not only absurd but itself antichristian because it makes unity in the Body of Christ an impossibility.

Joseph:

From church polity to views of the end, our discussion has been wide-ranging. The core concerns raised are theological in nature, that is, they deal with how a particular community expresses its understanding of God. With Seventh-day Adventism, we're presented with a tradition, richly steeped in peculiar beliefs. These beliefs cross hairs with the Roman Catholic Church because we traditionally identify it, through the papacy, as the preeminent antichrist figure.

This weighty claim is not as explicit as it once was. The World Church, at least publicly, tends to be ambiguous when pinpointing the end-time, persecutory powers, with Catholics and non-Adventist Protestants often lumped together to that end. The stigma towards Catholics is slowly lifting, though our doctrine has not caught up; we hold on to the Great Controversy theme - with all of its unavoidable consequences - while at the same time desire to recognize Catholics as brothers and sisters in Christ.

How do we resolve this uncomfortable tension? I'm not sure, but for consistency's sake, we certainly do need to reevaluate the underpinnings of our advent message in light of the actual practice of the denomination and its members. We start this journey through honest, sincere dialogue as a community - one church, one conference, one union at a time. This article represents, then, a humble first step.





DANCING

Amar Kiswani

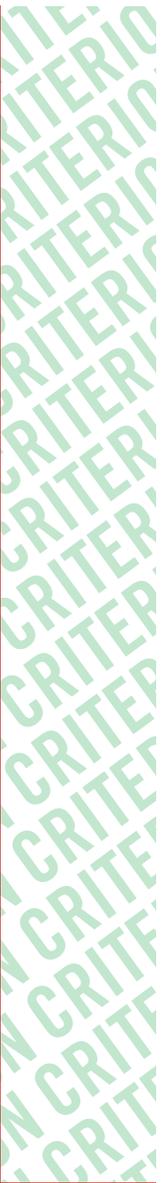


Once upon a time
there was a girl
who dreamed
of dancing. She
swayed side to side
everyday until one
day a man took her
hand and danced.



C





WINTER

