

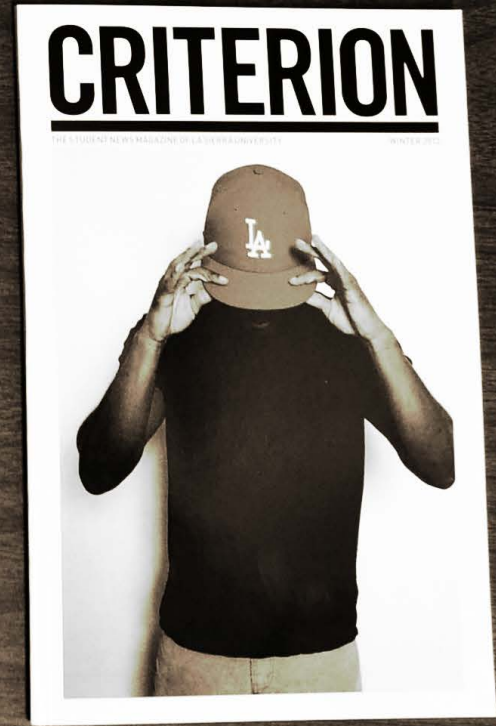
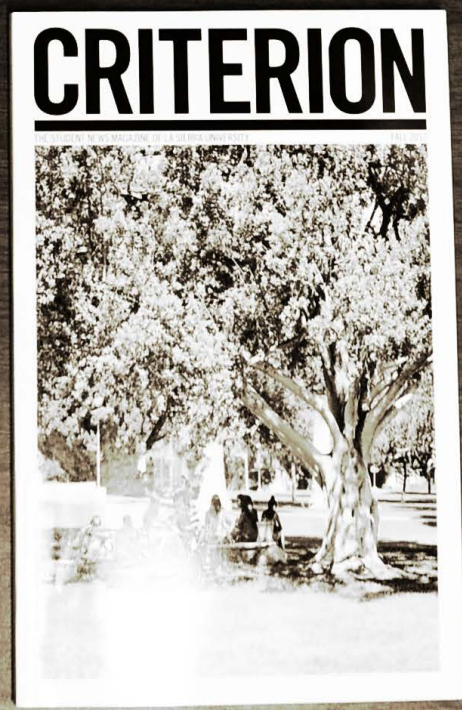
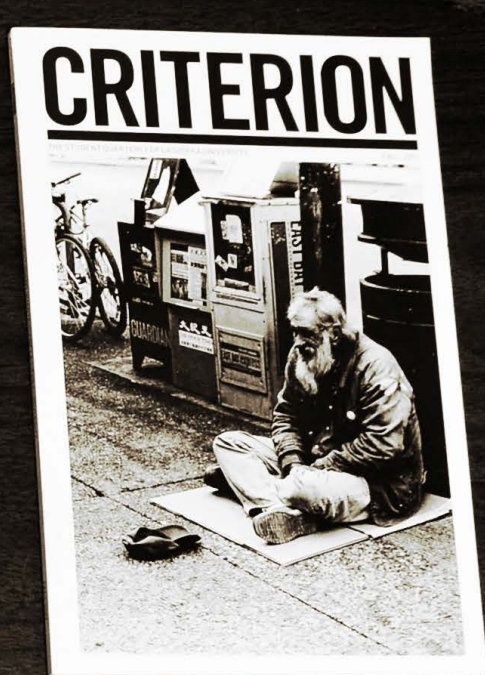
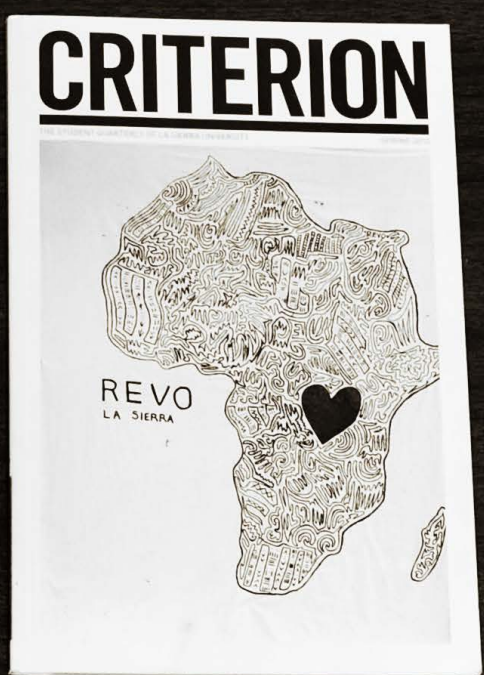
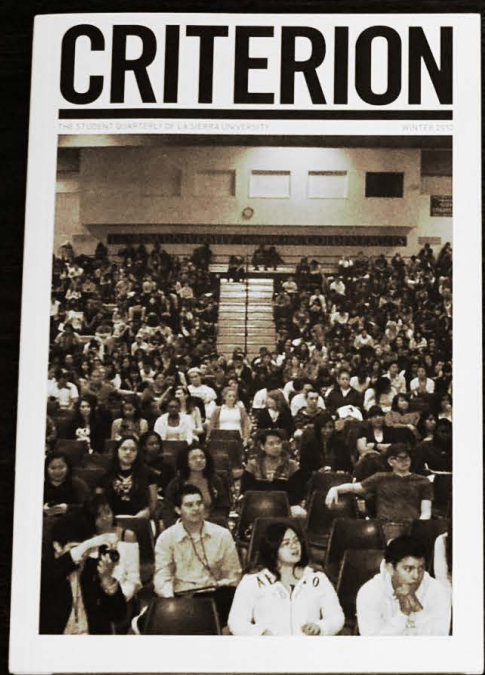
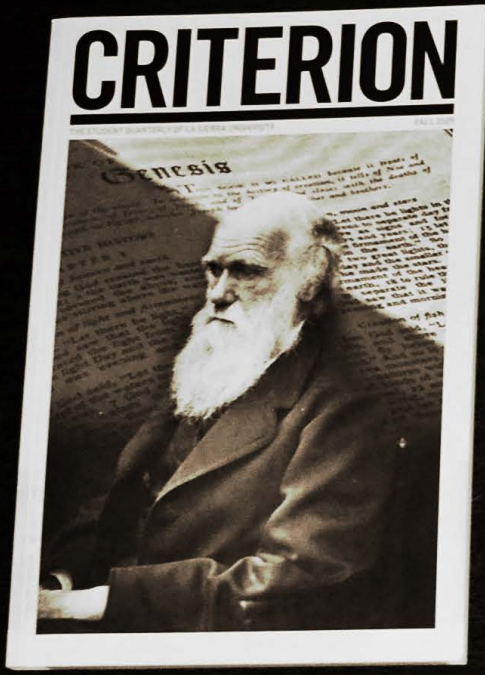
# CRITERION

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THE STUDENT QUARTERLY OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2013

*Fin.*



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# Editor's Note

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## Israel Carreon

The average person has the sustained attention span of 40 minutes. Within the scope of an entire day, 40 minutes is obviously nothing but a small fraction of time. What does that mean to us as your campus news source?

Everything.

The Criterion has 40 minutes, max, to present objective and relevant news. That isn't a lot of time to work with. Luckily for you, we aren't the type to cower from a challenge. We make it our mission to work with the allotted time we are granted. We can't ask for more. Nor will we. That's why it's so important to us which stories we decide to cover. In this issue we'll be discussing the effectiveness of Orgsync on campus and inspecting just how safe we are as university in terms of campus security. Essay editor, Isaac Carreón shares an in-depth study of the passing rate of students who take remedial and beginning college math courses. We'll also be introducing next year's Editor-in-Chief, Jonah Valdez.

We aren't here to create a "fun" or "pop" magazine. We're here to inform. Free from fluff news. And we have 40 minutes to do it. We won't let that time go to waste. This particular issue holds a very special meaning to me. I have been under employment with The Criterion as Editor-in-Chief for three memorable years. It has been my honor to serve as a herald of campus, local and national news to the students of La Sierra University. This will be my very last issue before handing over the burden to the incredibly talented and capable leadership of Jonah Valdez. When I set out to take this job back in 2009 I had one goal in mind: to raise the journalistic standard of our news publication. I can honestly say that we have reached that goal. While it will be difficult to let go of this monumental force in my life, I am truly thankful for the opportunity to contribute in the production of producing objective conversations during my tenure as editor. It has been a tremendous experience and honor that I will forever carry with me for the rest of my existence. Thank you.

I would like to recognize both of my amazing graphic designers Evan Aumack and Andrew Clazie with whom we wouldn't have had the amount of success without their experience in visual design. To all my very brilliant editors who helped oversee every section, your role is vital. You have lived up to the lofty standards I have placed. To my staff writers & photographers, you are the backbone in which shaped this quarterly into what it is today. From nothing, it was you who made this news outlet stand out, proud, from the rest of other Adventist university publications. I couldn't have asked for a more talented group of individuals who were dedicated in making a difference in our community.

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

There's a new chapter that is about to be written in The Criterion. I invite everyone to take a part of it.

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

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# Incoming Editor's Note

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## Jonah Valdez

Something new lies just along the horizon. It has arisen unexpectedly, willfully, and as sure as the movement of time.

An era of the Criterion is coming to a close.

We are experiencing a changing of the guard, or as the Biblical text-turned-cliché phrase is often taken out of context, "The old has gone, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17). The old, being the outgoing Editor-in-Chief, Israel Carreón, a colleague, mentor, and friend. Contrary to common notions of the word old, he has carried out this position with a fresh and unbridled vitality, leading to success and excellence, shaping the Criterion to what it is today; a product of quality journalism and appealing design, setting the standard to distinguished heights. In contrast, I, the new, is far more raw, untested, inexperienced, a novice to this entire business of communicating news stories to our campus. While I have enormous shoes to fill, I enter the position with a head full of brewing ideas and earnest goals for improvement.

Nevertheless, with every new beginning comes adjustment. This period of acclimation is a trying time. Translating the medley of abstract ideas that swirl within the mind into tangible results is not a task for the faint of heart. The given responsibilities of the Editor-in-Chief are vast, compiling and organizing stories, communicating with the exceptional team of writers, and bulldozing into the ungodly hours of the night with the graphic designers, laboring with the issue layout. Therefore, why would any right-minded individual undertake such a job?

The answer is simple: The news needs to be told!

In our recent history, the news has been accused of being many things. Some critics have blamed the media for employing scare tactics to sell their news to a rather paranoid and fearful majority. Others have been critical of apparent sensationalism and the overplaying of particular aspects and details, tending to lean toward the negative angle. Whether these accusations are an attempt at rationalizing the pursuit of media outlets for positive ratings, or the greedy interest for increased revenue, the common citizen will swallow whatever he or she is given.

This fact is dangerous.

Not only does it reveal a general unwillingness on the part of the main populous to actually search and think critically, it also highlights the steep responsibility of the news networks and newspapers. Throughout this convoluted mess of accusations and quelling financial appetites, the truth still exists. The truth deserves to be treasured and told, not abused and sold. We as the Criterion staff have been proud members of this movement of preserving the truth. As a reader and student of this campus, you deserve to enjoy the product of quality, genuine, factual, and thought-provoking journalism. We pride this to be our constant as we present important school and local news. I invite you to move with us as we enter a new phase of our news publication and enjoy the hard work of our writers and staff.

As uncertain as the future may be, you, the readers, will undoubtedly remain, and that is all I need to keep my ideals upright and my motivation enflamed with a convicted desire.

Before this newness has completely risen from beyond the horizon, I would like to make it known that you are what drives me forward, and for that, I thank you.

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# How Safe Are We?

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## Katie Huffman

In light of recent national tragedies such as the Boston Marathon Bombing, the Sandy Hook school shooting, and the Dorner Manhunt, security and safety procedures are at the forefront of society's conscious. But how do these events relate to La Sierra University? How are our security officers and protocols affected?

Chief Doug Nophsker, who has worked here for over twenty five years, says that the university is always looking into ways of making the school safer. The dream is to not have any crime on campus. While that may never be a reality, a number of safety improvements have already been put into place, including the updated ID card scanners at the dorms, security cameras in the student center, and the two million dollar perimeter fencing. Since the fencing was installed in 2010, there have not been any vehicles stolen from campus.

The fencing has also helped keep out kids from the community who used to push the buttons on the emergency call boxes as a prank. There are seven call boxes stationed around campus, equipped with either a radio or telephone line. Once the button is pushed, a signal is sent to the dispatcher in the security office as well as all of the officer's radios. The officers can then listen in to what's going on nearby or broadcast messages via the call box's PA system. By next year, security hopes to have the ability to broadcast emergency messages over the phone speakers on the new ShoreTel phone system.

The La Sierra University Safety Committee has been meeting frequently to discuss options for improving La Sierra's safety plan. They review and assess current emergency plans and consider recommendations for improvement.

"There are things students don't think about that we do to make the campus safer," said Chief Doug, referring to the staircase leading up to the Visual Arts Center, and the sidewalk that was poured this summer, which provides a safe pathway between South Hall and the library. Recommendations for the future include additional video surveillance to cover the perimeter gates, parking lots, chemical laboratories, building exteriors, and the entrance Kiosk. The committee is also considering hiring more staff, like contracted Riverside Police officers, student receptionists for the main entrance of each building, as well as three additional full time patrol officers.

Currently, the university only has six full-time patrol officers on campus to protect three thousand students and employees. Oakwood and Andrews Universities have the same amount of students, but have fifteen and nine full-time officers, respectively. Nine is considered standard. The security office employs roughly forty students and staff during the school year. There are various levels of work, from student kiosk greeters (7am to 7pm), dispatchers, campus assistant patrol (student officers), kiosk officers (7pm to 7am), and security officers. As the level of officer increases, so does the equipment, from batons to pepper spray and, at the highest level, Tasers. Student officers spend a quarter in training and, along with kiosk and security

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officers, must acquire California Guard Certification and CPR training. With the new criminal justice major, a lot of students are interested in working for the department. But before they can begin, student officers must memorize all departmental and security procedures and pass a two hour essay exam covering the baseline knowledge of what to do in emergency situations.

A lengthy Emergency Action Plan packet describes what should be done in various circumstances, from an active shooter on campus to a utilities malfunction. According to the packet, the purpose of the Action Plan is "to notify first responders to minimize the impact of the incident and secondary to notify the campus community (via e2campus alert text message) with instructions as to how to proceed."

Though La Sierra has been lucky not to experience many serious emergencies, our security officers have plenty of other responsibilities to keep them busy. They make sure all of the buildings are locked after hours, provide security escort, and enforce parking rules. The officers are aware of student complaints about parking citations, but know that in an emergency, security will be the first ones student's call.

"We try to get familiar with the students and not just be enforcers. We have tables at student orientation, an officer representative at midnight pancakes, and we patrol athletic games and the library to help ensure student safety," said Officer Felipe Viemann.

"Presence is prevention," echoed Chief Doug.

Despite the dreaded parking tickets, La Sierra's Safety Committee and security officers are always looking out for us. Thanks to fencing, surveillance cameras, emergency call boxes, and the e2campus alert system, our school is prepared to handle any emergency. Except maybe the zombie apocalypse.

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# Orgsync Networking Necessary?

## Amar Kiswani

Orgsync is a program designed to allow students a way to interact with their schools via a social network. There are many tools created within the social network that allow students easy access to school activities, announcements, and to other school related tasks. A few students had positive reactions when approached about the program. "Orgsync is a good way to stay connected to school events, with what's going on and how to get more involved with the university and community. I personally don't use it much but when I don't know what's going on in school Orgsync keeps me updated," Junior Erika Beltran responded when asked her opinion on the program. Upon being asked for more opinions, the majority of students had a positive attitude when it comes to the weekly announcements that are emailed to students.

However, while there were several positive aspects, most of the students had negative reactions when asked how they feel about the network. Taking into consideration the low number of users on the network, many students had much to say when asked their reasons as to why they prefer other social networks. A student stated, "The school has too many websites that they want their students, especially residents, to keep up with. They should condense it to one because it's just already ridiculous." Another student said, "Well, I can never find any forms when I need them for club stuff, they could make that easier to navigate. Really, I think they should just incorporate Orgsync stuff onto the school's website. One place to find everything you need." When it comes to the network navigation, there were several students who did not understand where to go to find what they are looking for in regards to their classes or finding school announcements.

There were several students who were upset with not only Orgsync and the difficulty to find forms announcements or class related business, but the schools websites as a whole. "The school needs to update their sites regularly, for example the cafeteria has a website that hasn't been updated in two years," a student said when asked for her opinions on Orgsync. Many of the students had said that the main reason they even have an account is because they were required to create an account as incoming freshmen.

One of the patterns that stayed consistent when interviewing people was of every four students one did not know what Orgsync was, and of those four students, only one knew how to use and navigate it. When the students were asked how they would change Orgsync to make it an easier network to use, many of their replies were to combine the different sites that the school uses into one website.



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# I Have To Take Math Again

Isaac Carreon

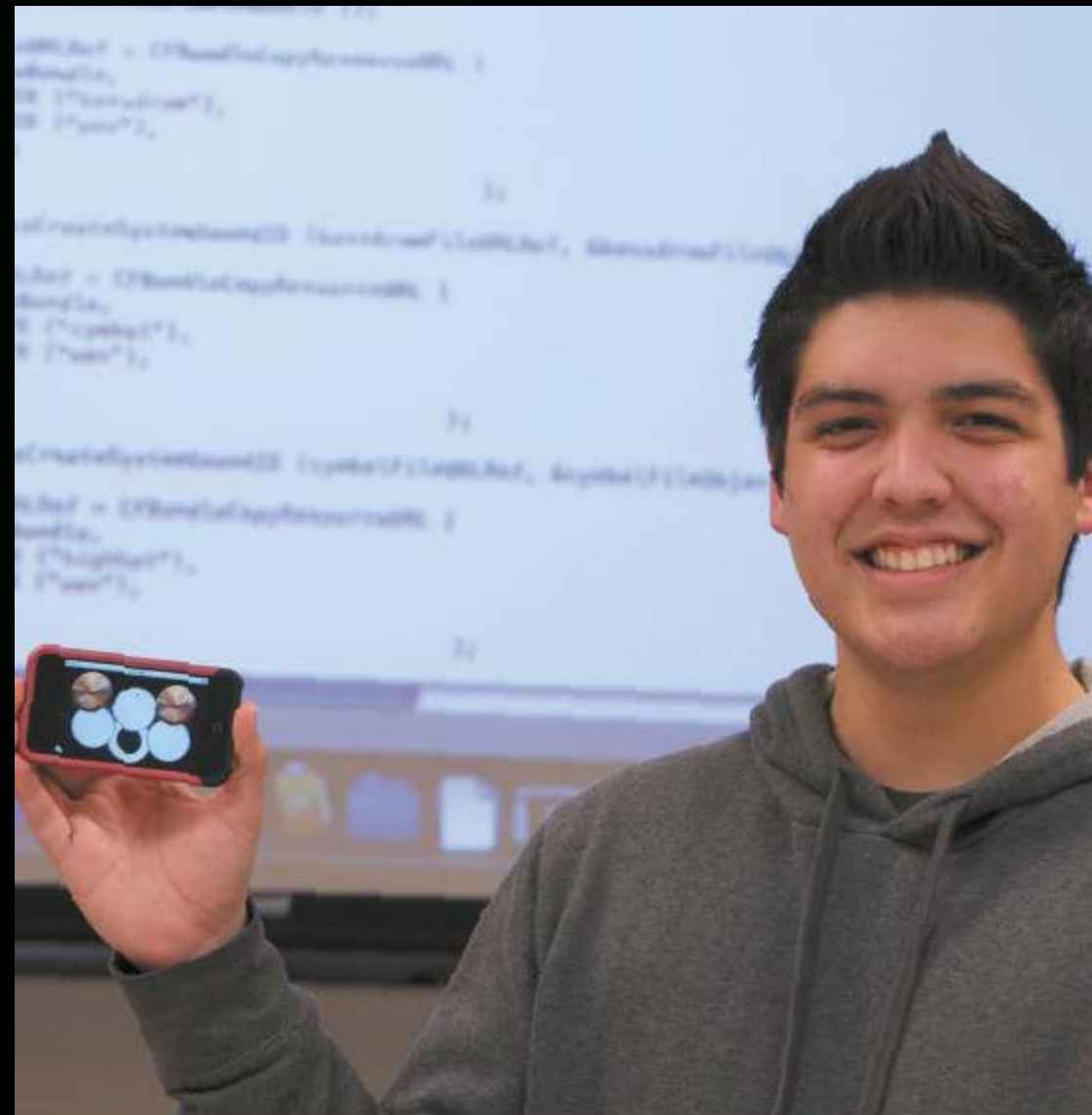
We all probably know, if not been in the same place ourselves, someone who has failed a general math course here at La Sierra University. It's a shameful feeling, and it can really sour a GPA. Worse yet, it can leave you with enormous apprehension the next time they enter a math classroom. You shouldn't be too hard on yourself though; everyone learns differently when it comes to math. There are the few blessed who understand a mathematical concept after only hearing it once during a lecture. There are then those who need a few more practices and a refresher every now and then to remember completely. Still more however are those who struggle immensely with mathematical concepts. It doesn't mean they are dim-witted but rather have a different method of learning math. There is of course, nothing wrong with struggling it does seem that more students are dropping math courses more than any other course. It is university policy that students are forced to leave if they do not pass two particular math courses. So let's take a closer look at our math department and compare them to our sister schools, Pacific Union College and Walla Wall University.

Here are some statistics I found on the subject of math and La Sierra University:

- Freshmen students are placed into a math course based on SAT score or a PlacementTest.
- If a student does not finish the Basic Skills courses (006 and 007) within a year, they must withdraw from the university and take math at another institution.
- Final is weighted so that it determines that passing to retaking of a Basic Skills class.
- Math Lab is open Mon-Thrus. 9am to 6pm
- Online homework has replaced textbooks

Pacific Union College

- Requires oncoming students to have taken a full year of Algebra II. If not, then they have to take 2 quarters of remedial math courses.
- If students do not pass these 2 quarters of remedial math courses by the end of their Sophomore year, then they are not able to return to PUC. There are however special exceptions; if a student already registers for their Junior year then they may be able to continue to go to PUC.
- Final for remedial classes is worth 25% of grade.
- PUC uses textbooks for homework with only one teacher piloting the



**DEPARTMENT OF  
MATHEMATICS &  
COMPUTER SCIENCE**

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online homework.

•Math Lab is Sunday-Thursday 6am-8/9pm

Walla Walla University

•Automatic placement based on GPA from high school. Must have had a "B" average in math courses during high school.

•Finals are usually weighted at 50% of total grade.

•A year is given to pass remedial courses with a "-C" or better.

•Online homework with online quizzes. The program used it Web Works.

•Math Lab is Monday-Thursday 3pm-5pm and 6pm-9pm

There are some subtle differences that don't seem like they could make a whole difference but lets take a closer look at testing. The common variables for 2 of the schools listed have their finals weighted heavily upon the grade. Finals are naturally weighted more heavily than most tests; the same is for other subjects as well. Also, students who do well on regular tests during the quarter do well on the final. So why do students still fail the final?

So what's the problem here? Let's try and solve for "x"

Much of the problem with students failing these finals can be directed from math anxiety test anxiety. What causes test anxiety? There are factors that are dependent on every student such as how much time is taken to study and overall preparation. There are things that are out of the students' control, which would include environment of a test. Students often get more nervous in larger rooms and reach a breaking point. This is reached when they start to panic when they students leaving before they are finished. This sometimes make the student leave early not taking the time check their work or even finish the test.

Test anxiety can't be the only thing that makes students struggle with math so that is why we sat down with Professor Barbara Kreaseck, the Department Chair for the Mathematics program here at La Sierra University and Sharilyn Horner, the Assistant professor of Mathematics and Director of Freshman Mathematics.

C: Why are there two different Basic Skills math courses?

SH: Sometimes there are three. We have been offering a class in the fall, I don't know if its going to continue, but we've been offering an arithmetic by popular demand. We haven't required students to take it but really we've been trying to look at the amount of material based on student's test scores and adjust what they need to get read for College Algebra. If we offered one, it'd be too fast. So the two have been pretty typical, in fact most places you'll find a Beginner and Intermediate Algebra. Most people split it into two. Whether a campus offers an arithmetic course varies, especially at the community colleges, you'll have 5 or 6 different courses. We've offered our arithmetic course to only those who choose to take it. Some students really struggle in 006 because they aren't even ready for that, so offering this class allows them to go into 006 prepared.

C: At PUC and Walla Walla, students are placed in a specific math course based

on [Walla Walla] GPA and B average in math classes in high school, and [PUC] taking up to Algebra II in high school. What does La Sierra University do to place students in their courses?

SH: Well we have 2 things. Students with a SAT score above a certain amount can go directly into College Algebra or Stats or Applications and Mathematics. But students who either might need placement below college level or above, like if a student wanted to go straight into trig, how are we gonna know? So that is why we have the placement test to allow students for the whole breathe from 006 up to Calculus.

C: I know it's a little hard to measure, because students drop out or students don't continue attending class, but have the Basic Skills classes significantly helped students progress further from graduating from one course to the next and onto college algebra?

SH: Well its hard to say compared to what, because if those same students went straight into college algebra, they probably would have failed [chuckles]. The last time I had a continuous enough time with the same classes and same policies to compare, it looked like students as they went on- so say they went to 006 to 007 in general, their grades would went down about half a letter grade and from 007 to College Algebra, so to me that said their pretty well prepared. But it also means that if you scrape by with the lowest possible "C" you don't have half a letter grade to go down [chuckles] and so that would mean you were on the verge on being underprepared. But if you passed one with a "B" and went on to the next class, odds are that you're gonna get a "B" or a "-B" or a "C+". The one thing that changes that though is if they take too much time off. They decide to wait a year to continue with the next course, they crash and burn. But in general because their grade only goes down half a grade that tells me that their preparation has been pretty decent. If they get out of 006 with a "B", their gonna pass 007.

BK: I think we also see that same- if they been out of it for a while, so if they took their mathematics in high school during their freshman and sophomore years and didn't take anything their junior and senior years before they came here and took our placement exams or even took their SAT or ACT, I think that that comes into play. So if any student, if their SAT or ACT scores did not allow them to go into college level mathematics, any student could start off in 006 without any testing.

C: I see, that certainly makes sense.

SH: And for some, testing is just stressful enough that if you're pretty sure that's what you need anyhow you might as well avoid one stress level on your math journey.

[all laugh]

C: I understand that we did a change from textbook to online-

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SH: [smiles] Oh yeah, everything is going online.

C: Yes it is. What online program do we use?

SH: We use MY MATH LAB.

BK: For the Basic Skills Courses.

SH: MY MATH LAB for 006 and 007.

BK: Who's the publisher for that?

SH: Pearson, we really like the textbook. And then for everything above that, at least for the College Algebra and Trig, we're using WebAssign. Which goes with the textbook we've been using in those classes.

BK: And in this quarter, in the Calc 1 and Calc 2 classes, they've been using an open source piece of software that is called WebWork.

C: WebWorks, I've heard about WebWorks.

BK: Yes Jonathan Duncan (Walla Walla Assistant Chair to the Mathematics Dept.) has spoken to us about it.

C: So how did this chance come about? To use online material like this for homework and things like that?

SH: Well, fewer students were buying textbooks to begin with. So many students were buying a PDF or getting their textbook online anyhow. So it just kinda made sense. It's becoming the norm, I mean I think fewer and fewer classrooms are gonna need textbooks.

BK: They could still have textbooks but its less expensive to have the ebook.

SH: And they would still need to do the homework online.

BK: That is correct.

SH: Which is really nice for a number of reasons. 1.) Nobody, loses their homework anymore.

C: That's true.

SH: I've even heard students sitting in the DMV doing their homework on their phone.

[all laugh]



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BK: We have had quite a big number of graded homework in the return box and they just sit there.

SH: And they take so long to get there. I mean, it usually takes a week between collecting homework, getting it to the grader, grading 35 students worth of papers and then getting back to the students. If you can't get it back to the students, what if you already had your test, what help was that to you? How do you learn from your mistakes if you don't even find out about what your mistakes were until a week, week and half later? It's just too late to help anybody. And because of that, since it's so late anyways, most students at that point don't even care. They moved on. They think, "Why am I going to spend time going through an old homework assignment?" They wouldn't pick them up, must less learn anything from them. So this has instant feedback, they know immediately if their answer is right or wrong and if its wrong they can try it again.

BK: They can view similar problems.

SH: It will take them right to the page in the textbook that talks about this. And they can see a video on it. Sometimes a student wont use a textbook effectively. Like they'll look at their textbook and go "oh! There's 15 examples in this chapter, which one should I be looking at to help me here?" They don't always know. Or if there's 15 pages of material, they're not gonna read all 15 pages to figure this out.

BK: Unfortunately.

[SH and BK both laugh]

SH: So this kinda helps direct them. Look here. Look at this page. Look at that example. The students have appreciated it even though I worry that it spoon-feeds them a little too much.

C: So, my next question is, as we talked about, we're not the only university that uses online homework. PUC is using a pilot, they're testing one teacher to try it and Walla Walla is already using it.

BK: So that's where we were last year.

SH: Yup, last Spring.

C: Yes, it's been fairly recent since we've done it. I've spoken with Professor Duncan and he is promoting WebWork. And the reason why he loves it so much is because it allows teachers to write most of the problems for homework. And its also free to the students. Why is it that we have landed on WebAssign? Do we as a department believe it is superior to certain other programs?

BK: I can't really say that we necessarily-

SH: We really love the textbooks. \*Textbooks that are attached to the WebAssign program.

BK: That true.

BK: It fits our quarter system.

SH: I mean, WebWorks still needs to have a textbook associated with it, so students are still purchasing something.

BK: It's definitely a shorter learning curve for both the teacher and the student. Some of the feedback we've been getting from students about WebWorks is they really don't care for the interface and how they have to write their solutions in there. But it doesn't mean it's insurmountable and that's just anecdotal.

SH: And something to think about too is the classes they are using WebWorks for primarily tend to be the higher levels. I mean he's talking about calculus for the most part. Walla Walla being mostly an engineering school, most of their students are in a higher level of math. And the price [WebAssign] is not significant either, it's less than a textbook and they have access to it for two years. And because we were able to use the same text for 006 and 007, if a student goes into 006, they can use the same access all way up to 007. So I think it's cheaper than the textbook model we were going with.

C: Does the math department really see online homework as a more superior way to teach math?

SH: Well, its not a method of teaching. It's only a method of homework. Because the homework shouldn't be teaching them the math. They should be learning that in class. This should only be replacing this homework with that homework. That should be the only change in this environment.

BK: I think also something that is possible with the online homework, and not with paper and pencil, is that every student can have their own problem and so even if students were working together, side by side, there is less opportunity for students to copy from each other. It does, however, make it a little more harder when you're going over questions in the classroom because everyone has different questions- but the form is the same. It's just not the exact same problem or the exact same answer.

SH: I think it makes for better tutoring, because the students aren't just saying, "What's the answer?" If they ask their friend what the answer is, their friend's answer doesn't really help them, and those weren't useful conversations to have anyhow. That's not helping them learn. Instead, they're saying, "How did you do that? So that I can do it here,"- and that's learning. So I think it's changing how they're doing homework and maybe even how they do tutoring.

C: There have been mixed feelings about the homework from WebAssign because students are only allotted about four to five attempts on a problem.

BK: Okay.

SH: My Trig class has ten.

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C: Ten? Okay. Should there be a limit on how many times students can attempt a problem?

SH: If you're comparing it to paper and pencil, they only had one attempt before because they didn't even find out if they were wrong until well after the time.

C: In textbooks, usually teachers often assign odd number problems intentionally so that they [students] can check their answers to see if they are correct. They can work on a problem again and again until they get it right.

SH: Well, different people have different opinions and I've played around with it. Certainly one of the things I've asked my Trig class last quarter, because last quarter was the first time I used computer assignments in Trig. And I asked them. I tried a couple different assignments. What happens if we only have 3 options, 5, or 10? And my trig students were very honest. They said, "If I know I have too many options, I start guessing. I'm not working the problem."

C: This is for which class?

SH: Trig. So for them, I thought, it's hurting them if I have problems that they can guess and get the right answer. It's not encouraging them to learn anything. So I felt for that that limiting it to ten meant that they had enough tries that if they were really struggling with it, they could probably figure it out but ten but hopefully not so unlimited so that they're just gonna start plugging numbers to see if they get it right without doing any work.

C: Have you found that consistent with most of the classes you teach?

SH: I haven't been teaching that many classes this year so it's hard to say. And we've had some discussions with professors. Mr. Duncan has engineering students who are definitely determined to learn material. We have a number of students who finish at College Algebra and may not feel like they are going to use it and so they aren't as motivated to learn and might be more tempted to use the "Let's guess until we get it right" option.

C: Math anxiety we hold seminars on it, don't we?

SH: Five times a year.

C: Do students take advantage of that?

SH: Yeah! We have a number of Math Anxiety seminars I think five times a year. We tended to have a number of ones that I do on either problem solving or most recent I did it on strategies on being effective on math. We tend to have those seminars five times a year.

C: Do you have them during summer as well?

SH: No, we don't.

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BK: I know that Dr. Clarke has done some research into online homework versus paper and pencil and he said that the literature out there is pretty much breaking even. Those students are equally successful if they are doing paper and pencil as opposed if they're using the online system. I don't think it's a cure-all, we're not putting that out there as saying it's better. I think students have the perception that it's better because they have more immediate feedback and somewhere to get help when they're at home.

SH: When it's 2 am in the morning and they can't call anybody.

BK: I really think it comes down to how the student is going to use it. That's really what it comes down to.

SH: I think it's interesting too, the 006 and 007 classes' math problems don't require as many steps and so I think that way they're getting their feedback after they haven't done as many steps. Certainly for Trig, I've started giving a once a week paper homework because I want to see their steps and I'm afraid that they're in the habit of not writing steps if they're just gonna plug in an answer in the computer because that's what they're gonna do on the test.

C: Do you also have tests online?

SH: No. Still paper and pencil tests. There's issues of confidentiality, making sure the right person is taking the right test. We don't have that kind of lab where all the students come in and take the tests.





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SH: I think that with paper/pencil test, we can give partial credit. And that's something you just can't do on a computer. We think it benefits students enough to do that.

C: We thank you guys for all of your time. It's been really helpful to talk to you. I start to get up when Professor Horner chooses to ask me a question.

SH: Can I ask you a question?

C: Yes, please.

SH: Do you wish that you had online homework or are you glad you had it with paper and pencil?

C: I, personally, am glad I had it with paper and pencil. I struggle with math and I'll try again and again until I get a problem right.

BK: You don't think that would have been the case with online?

C: On online, the experiences I've had, I was only allotted about four-five attempts on problem. Never ten, but I never was in Trig.

SH: So you did have some online homework?

C: I did. I found it kind of blocking. It was a little frustrating to me and several other peers. I think it's because we were here before the change to online homework and weren't pleased that we couldn't show our work or try again. I know it depends on the student to see if they will keep trying and trying to get a problem right, because of that some students will just stop and leave the problem blank. Knowing however that the answer is in the back and having the option to try again is helpful. If it takes twenty times, it takes twenty times.

Professor Horner then emphasized how vital it was for students to go to class. She, as well as Professor Kreaseck, stressed that going to class is a direct key factor to passing any math class and that the online homework wasn't a way for students to skip class and only complete the homework hoping they will pass.

The conversation moved to an emphasis on the online homework and if it was superior to pencil and paper. While both professors made it strictly clear that it wasn't a cure-all solution, they felt it was the best option, for now. Professor Horner did stress however that there isn't really a correlation between students learning during homework and actual class time. Homework is just that, homework. Right?

No.

One could argue that the point of homework, especially math homework, is to be able to work the problem out and see your steps. When students are hindered by online math problems that only allow five attempt- ten at the most, to get a problem right and don't allow students to show their work, it's not really helping students practice and perfect a mathematical concept. In fact, it's detrimental to the student's learning of a new concept. With written homework, students are

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able to see the grader or teacher marked where a problem went sour. Knowing exactly where you made a mistake and being able to see that is vital to learning math. Online homework also cuts off partial credit that was once given to students for attempting a problem. During the textbook epoch of paper and pencil homework, teachers gave homework problems that were for the majority odd numbered problems. This was intentional. Students were able to look in back of the textbook and see if their solution to a problem was correct. If their solution didn't match then it was up to the student to go back and see where they went wrong. If it takes more than five or ten times, then it takes more than five or ten times. Being blocked off after too many attempts on a problem is discouraging and almost says to the student "you can't get anymore points anymore so don't bother trying anymore." Written homework doesn't have that problem. There is no locking out of a problem. Students can still struggle with a problem, solve it, understand it, and get credit for it. There is nothing better than the feeling of understanding math and getting a good grade. In fact, it promotes a more positive attitude for learning the next chapter.

So we know what "x" stands for but what about "y"?

There are many tools that the university offers that try very hard to help student pass any math course. On the online homework there are options under each problem that give a READ IT option. This allows students to go to online text where a problem's chapter is and read the instructions on how to solve it. There is also a WATCH IT video that shows a similar problem and how to solve it. Math labs are also available with dedicated students who work hard to help anyone with questions. The Math Anxiety seminars are equally as helpful. These programs offer a positive attitude from those who are a part of it and they always display a feeling of solidarity on struggling with math. It's so refreshing to see and it goes to show how much La Sierra University is willing to do to help its students. But can a few helpful tools fix an ultimately broken system? Do the READ IT and WATCH IT options really help on a test that is still on paper and pencil with problems not from the homework but problems that the teacher made? Can math lab help you and your study group after 9 pm? In such a case you'll have to hope that someone in your group is proficient in math.

So with all of these clashing variables of tests, procedures, classroom homework, and three different general math courses, is La Sierra University really helping its students pass math or is it repelling them to different schools? If numbers don't lie and students are still struggling severely, maybe it's time to use a different formula because the one we're using for this problem isn't working.





PASSING  
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Criterion Editor-in-Chief: the first one in, the last out. Days are filled with conducting weekly meetings with a 30 plus staff, including writers, section editors, photographers, and graphic designers, assigning news stories to be covered. They're in constant combat with deadlines coupled with sleepless nights consumed with editing mountains of articles. It's a heavy burden for anyone to take, however, presenting the news is more than just a privilege, it's an honorable necessity.

In this exit interview with the current Editor-in-Chief, Israel Carreón, we'll delve into what the past three years under his leadership has produced. In addition, we'll also be formally introducing next year's processor, Jonah Valdez, ready to be immerse into the life know as "Chief."

**How long have you been Editor-in-Chief for The Criterion and what are the responsibilities that come along with the job?**

I have been Editor-in-Chief for three years, 2009-2010, 2011-2012, and finally 2012-2013. Responsibilities as head editor are overseeing every article that is published, making sure they are objective in nature, factual, and pertinent to the students on this campus.

**What were some of the changes you made when you first took the job during your first year?**

When I first took this job in 2009, I was determined to raise the quality of reporting. Before I was editor, The Criterion was printed out at least once every two months; however, it was riddled with punctuation errors and filled with fluff news stories. With a very limited budget for the year, I had decided on releasing a quarterly magazine that promised deep investigative news stories and a higher page count in every issue. Along with resetting the journalistic standard, reformatting The Criterion into a more contemporary design was also a priority. My train of thought was that if our magazine wasn't appealing at first glance, chances were that no one would care to pick up an issue.

**What were some of the advantages and disadvantages in releasing one issue per quarter?**

Some of the advantages of releasing one issue per quarter are the amount of close research and depth that is taken for every single article that is published. Reporters naturally have more time to make sure that what is being covered will only be of the greatest caliber of journalistic writing The Criterion has to offer. The disadvantages of only releasing every quarter are the time sensitive, yet equally important news stories that are not covered. Recently, we've been trying to release mini online issues that cover important campus stories every week in order to make sure our coverage is more whole.

**There have been a few opposing views of what kind of stories are covered in The Criterion claiming that stories are too "pop" or "fluff stories." Do you believe that the stories you and your reporters have covered fall under these pretenses?**

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I would have to strongly disagree with any of those statements. One of our main goals here at The Criterion is to make sure we cover important and sometimes taboo topics that students inquire about. Throughout the past three years we've covered the evolution debate, homosexuality in the Bible, the effectiveness of Student Financial Services, women's ordination, the success of REVO, and honest analyses of campus sports – all of which I would hardly consider pop or fluff journalism.

Look back over the past three years. What are some things you wish you had worked on during your time as editor more effectively?

There are two things that I wish I could have paid more attention during my years as editor. The first is establishing a marketing team that would solely focus on bringing in advertising revenue. The second would be hiring a PR staff that would help raise awareness of our magazine.

As of the 2012-2013 school year, the Editor-in-Chief position has merged into a SALSU officer position rather than it being an appointed office. What are your thoughts on the recent change?

In all honestly, it's a dangerous concept. As a journalist, it's important to stay objective and completely detached as humanly possible from any government establishment, or in this case, student organizations. It is my personal opinion that future editors are at risk of being influenced by their student government on what could be reported in The Criterion. This could result in subjective or bias reporting. This defeats the entire purpose of a true journalistic publication.

Jonah Valdez will be your successor starting next year. How has he begun to step into the role of the new Editor-in-Chief?

Since his election as the incoming Editor-in-Chief, Jonah and I have been working very closely together going over expectations of an honest journalistic magazine and objective reporting theory. He's also had some hands-on experience taking charge of a few online issues and playing a more active role in the creation of this last issue.

What kind of insight can you give to Jonah from your three years of experience?

Objectivity is of the highest importance when producing a news production. It is imperative that the Editor-in-Chief sets him/herself as the paragon of journalistic integrity. Anything less is unacceptable.

What is one last message you would like to leave with the students of La Sierra as your tenure comes to a close?

Thank you for reading. Thank you for your patience. And most of all stay hungry for the truth. I couldn't be more proud to have served such a wonderful and inquisitive student body here at La Sierra University.

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What are some of the most important lessons you have learned from your year working for The Criterion?

Deadlines are extremely important! To meet a deadline is a very satisfying feeling. Missing one, however, is all the more frustrating and disappointing. It is a concept and responsibility that I feel I will certainly have to refine in the months to come. Also, allowing others to help and aide in your goals and pursuits is vital. There is nothing like having the support of another while working in the midst of The Criterion's demands, compounded with school and other significant factors.

What changes, if any, do you plan to bring to the table next year as Editor-in-Chief?

For this situation, I would like to abide by the expression, "If it [isn't] broken, don't fix it." Israel has set a standard of excellence. However, that doesn't mean there is not room for both improvement and an added personal touch. As with any creation of personal work, the results will always be unique in their own distinct manner. The format will certainly be similar, but not identical, to Israel's previous work. One of the main changes that we as a staff have been considering is formatting the print issues into a regular magazine size, making the feel of the product a bit different from its predecessors. Also, while many of our writers and editors are moving on to life beyond college, I will need to seek a new wave of fine writers that exist among us. Getting the product into the hands of the students is another challenge worth considering. Distribution could certainly be innovated and improved upon. It would be a pity for the hard work of our staff to be in vain with issues lying passively on the shelves and in boxes.

Will the content of the news stories change?

For the most part, The Criterion will have very similar content to previous years. However, something I definitely look to maintain throughout the whole year is the standard of staying relevant and thought provoking. The most important aspect about The Criterion is the formulation and communication of a voice. As my faculty advisor, Dr. Lisa Kohlmeier, often reminds her classes, "Writing is activism." The Criterion must uphold this aspect of writing, giving a voice to those who would otherwise be drowned out by the everyday rush of life. I certainly believe that our stories must be both relevant and should incite the mind, moving readers in a ways—both tangible and cerebral—that only writing can accomplish. The Criterion should continue to be a hub for communicating ideas and perspectives that work to inform, offer intrigue, and cause serious analysis and consideration. Our society and local community are overflowing with such stories that deserve to be conveyed. The job is now up to us to seek and tell.

Can students expect to see any online content regularly in the years to come?

As we are in the midst of the Digital Age, the task of reaching people through the means of technology is paramount! In the past quarter, we as a staff have

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been creating online issues that maintain a similar style to our print editions. While they are currently stuck in a seemingly ambiguous limbo of inefficient communication, the principles of churning out these online issues are no longer foreign. I will continually communicate with our incoming Public Relations officer, Candace Schneider, and our administration's public relations department to create a smooth and convenient way for the La Sierra University community to access the more rapid stories that are relevant to our campus. These online issues would be posted either weekly or biweekly.

*In the past, The Criterion has struggled to release more issues throughout the year. How do you plan on remedying this problem?*

We as a staff have been tinkering with the idea of printing two issues a month or on a monthly basis. Our writers are more than qualified to meet the necessary deadlines; however, implementing this plan is contingent upon budget. Our finances are limited, but our printing truly does rely on this factor. After we lay out our budget plan for next year, we will have a clearer picture as to how we will move forward with the frequency of printing. Nevertheless, an important thing to always consider is maintaining quality over quantity.

*Do you feel prepared to take over the reins as the Editor-in-Chief next year? Any apprehensions?*

Throughout this past year, Israel has done his best in preparing me for the demands of this position. Still, as with any novice, I certainly have sentiments of unease caused mainly by the dark unknown figure that is the future. Uncertainty, no matter how horrific, can also be a great motivator, doing my best to translate ideas into tangible and effective results.

*How important is objectivity when covering news stories?*

Objectivity is one of the prime aspects of quality and real journalism. Through objective writing, much effective communication can exist between the writer and reader. However, in good taste and in moderation, providing an outlet for a writer to voice their perspective and opinion is still important.

*What is one promise you can make to La Sierra University students on the eve of your tenure as the new head editor?*

I will give voice to those that are ignored, maintain relevancy, and to borrow the words of the fictional Charles Foster Kane, "I will provide the people of this city with a daily paper that will tell all the news honestly. I will also provide them with a fighting and tireless champion of their rights as citizens and as human beings."

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arts



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# Senior BFA Exhibit

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## Brenda Delfino

The current exhibit at the Brandstater Gallery invites the audience to explore the world inside the mind of four seniors.

The Annual Senior Art Exhibit, open June 3 thru June 16, 2013, will display these works by Graphic Design students: Valdenis Iancu's Optical Delusion, Kimberly Mah's Rebel Scum, Abi Ilie's Abi Alley, and Iris Escudero's Shark Bait. This collaboration unites four artists with completely different styles and challenges them to create an inviting and cohesive show.

The greatest challenge was to bring all the works into one exhibit: from Iancu's digital illustration to Mah's fashion and Escudero's clay sculptures. In Iancu's opinion, this challenge was the best part of the exhibit. "I like working in collaborations because when there are people depending on me, I get stuff done." When asked how the team had managed to merge their work into one, Iancu said, "We pushed our ideas to the extreme, took our differences into advantage, and played with it." Iancu explained that, to create a flow in the exhibit, each artist built a specific environment; each corner of the gallery is a different setting. "We picked environments where our pieces would most likely be seen. For example, I created an office space for my digital art, while Abi's propaganda posters are in an alleyway."

Creating an alternate reality is an idea that Valdenis Iancu is very comfortable expressing. Iancu will graduate this year with a BFA in Graphic Design and wishes to express how she views the world through her digital illustrations. Iancu's main focus is recognizing design in every ordinary aspect of life: from the chair at an office desk to billboards along the side of the freeway. What captures Iancu's attention is the mind's ability to create a personal reality. "Despite society's illusion of the norm, we each live in our own world created by how we choose to interpret our surroundings," she says. Optical Delusion is her interpretation of reality: a combination of popular culture with fantasy and Japanese animation. The works on display will include a set of life-size character illustrations, a CD cover, charcoal drawings, prints, and hand sketches.

Graphic design student Kimberly Mah will also be presenting work inspired by Japanese culture but also related to the Lolita fashion subculture. Mah will be presenting a series of five dresses, each based on a Star Wars character. The characters used as inspiration were Darth Vader, Boba Fett, Luke Skywalker, R2-D2, and C-3PO. "I've always been drawn to the mysterious and rebellious

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appeal of the helmeted and robotic characters of the Star Wars universe," says Mah. She explains that it has become a trend online to create clothing designs based on characters from famous movies, comics, and TV series. "I wanted to try my hand at this and take it a step further by actually creating them in a three-dimensional, wearable form." While she adds a feminine twist to her dresses (a characteristic of Lolita Fashion subculture), she remains loyal to the original Star Wars characters. Mah's dresses are made from scratch. She began with sketches and continued by choosing the right fabric. She explains, "I have to think how the dresses will behave both in person and on camera." In addition to the different fabrics, other materials include buckles, belts, and thread. Additional props were made with everyday materials such as cardboard, craft foam, glue, and spray paint. Mah says she has made her Star Wars fan girl dreams into a reality. Her message to the audience is clear and concise: "To all the Star Wars fans out there, both new and old, this one's for you. I want to unleash the inner nerd that so many of us hide deep down." Mah wants viewers to have a subconscious reaction to her work, more specifically, "the smile that comes with fond recognition, the elevated heart rate that comes with the excitement of seeing a re-envisioned form of their beloved characters."

After exploring alternate realities and the fashion universe of Star Wars, the senior exhibit dives into the ocean setting created by Iris Escudero. Escudero, a double major of Fine Arts and Graphic Design, has an honest concern for overfishing and its negative impact on the environment. Her philosophy supports the wise words of Dr. Seuss, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not." With this in mind, Escudero created six pieces including a batik piece, two ceramic sculptures, a book entitled "Will You Help Me," a print on wood named "A Moment of Silence," and an acrylic on board called "The Overfishing Problem." One of the reasons why Escudero works with clay is to emphasize the frailty of the material. "[It is] something that I think reflects the frailty of nature and also our responsibility to handle it with care," says Escudero. Her favorite part of this experience was taking an emotion and transforming it into physical form. Escudero hopes her work inspires people to take action with injustice. She leaves the audience with these three questions that call for action: What injustice wrenches your heart? What fuels your responsibility for change? What are you waiting for?

Optical Delusion, Shark Bait, Rebel Scum, and Abi Alley successfully merge into one exhibit to satisfy a broad audience. This exhibit is a rollercoaster that drives viewers into an alternate universe of fantasy, takes them to an outer space fashion world, and dips them down into the ocean for a fresh call to action.

Brandstater Gallery Hours:  
Mon-Thurs 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Friday 10 a.m. – noon  
Sunday 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

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sports

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# Softball Season

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## Adrian Wilson

Strike Three! You're out! That is how most of this softball season went for the Lady Eagles. The season had its trials and triumphs but, for the most part, the ladies did not give up and exhibited an attitude of endurance. Even though the individual players were very skilled, it was not enough to win more games this season. The team finished with a record of six wins and thirty-three losses. On paper, the record may appear to be bad but it does not show how great the Lady Eagles can actually be. Considering the fact that both the players and the coach are fairly new, there is hope to believe that this team can improve with time. The Lady Eagles started off the season strong by winning their first game against Hope International University, 6-2. After that, the season took a rocky road with many ups and downs. The team's captain, Sabrina Cerda, said that the team did not like losing but that they gave their all every time they stepped on the field. She also stated that the team battled with inconsistency, which was one reason they struggled to win games.

When looking at how the season went, it appears that every player learned a lot. First baseman, Jennifer Duenas, felt like she gained a lot of experience from this season and stated that she can build on it for the next season. She also said that the team struggled to find balance but that they never gave up. First-year players at a college level are expected to learn something new from the game. Shortstop, Diamond Turner said that she had to adjust to the speed of the college-level game. Turner also stated that she could now improve after experiencing her first year of softball. This year may not have been as great as the team expected; however, there were some highlights during the season. Third basemen, Vanessa McGowan, felt that the season was successful for her due to the fact that she was returning from a knee injury. Even though the team did not have the best chemistry, she felt that they gave her a reason not to give up after she dislocated her patella. McGowan expressed that the team became a family and now share a special bond between them. She also stated that even though they had some losses, she was just glad to have the opportunity to compete with other schools like Vanguard and San Marcos. "The team started to show progress toward the end of the season and they felt that the team did not have enough time to show their full potential," stated McGowan.

Overall, this year was somewhat of a trial season while the team developed a level of comfort with each other. With a softball team that is more prepared and experienced, it is safe to say that La Sierra University can expect to see improvement next year.

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# Sexism in Sports

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## Jonah Valdez

We are over fifty years removed from the African-American Civil Rights Movement, which paved the way toward a path to help rid our nation from racism, a path that is still left unfinished. Within this same span of civil struggle, society has also dealt with other varieties of impartiality, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights and the issue of sexism. Both are main subjects of concern as we struggle and work toward a society of social equality. Contrary to the rather blatant hate crimes and speech that opponents commit on the grounds of race and sexual orientation, the societal dilemma of gender inequality and gender roles, and its direct byproduct, sexism, persists in a more subtle manner, hanging in the corner of our minds and way of thinking. In a 2001 publication titled, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, it is stated that sexism starts in the household while parents condition their children to distinguish certain colors, toys, movie characters, in-house parental functions, as well as jobs, that are commonly distinct to each gender. This leads to an eventual biased perspective toward each gender in everyday life. Sexism also festers within our schools. Author Nancy Frazier emphasizes in her book, *Sexism in School and Society*, a "sexual bias in contemporary education" and calls for "reform and possible alternatives to be initiated by the educator." In the workplace, there are the more outright discriminatory practices, such as the investment and banking firm Goldman Sachs barring women from an exclusive administrative board titled "the boys club" (NY Post). Other instances, however, are more ambiguous. For example, women are often received with "benevolent sexism," described as men coworkers helping women "too much" at work, thus, "reinforce[ing] the assumption that men possess greater competence than women, whom benevolent sexists view as wonderful, but weak and fragile"

Sexist actions based on certain thoughts and perceptions toward women are not exclusive to the workplace, school, and home. The world of sports is also subject to this stubborn plague.

Even with the implementation of Title IX in 1978 that "prohibits sex discrimination" in collegiate sports, sexism is still rampant in all levels of sports, particularly amongst the professional ranks. As Hudson Taylor of the Huffington post asserts, "Athletics is a gendered space." If a woman athlete starts to find success and prominence in a sport that is typically male dominated, does this make a woman less feminine, consequently, more masculine? Femininity can be defined as a women's choice to embrace being a woman. Traditional and conservative views suggest that being feminine is fulfilling certain womanly traits, such as tenderness, vulnerability, or having less physical prowess than men.

Hold on to that logic and picture this situation:

I am an experienced member of a boxing gym. While everyone is swinging away at their respective punching bags, working on technique, releasing aggression, feeling their testosterone and confidence grow with every sharp jab, I notice at the end of the gym a young, susceptible first-timer. Being a male, the novice is thriving off whatever form of masculinity he has (or thinks he has). Nevertheless, I walk straight up to him and scream into his ear, "You punch like a girl!" The common reaction will most likely be one of negativity and a damaged self-esteem, as the new fighter would take offense to the phrase's implications of being like a girl, thus feminine, and consequently, weak. Who is to blame for the sexist connotations? The young beginner, or the society that taught him to think this certain way?

Women athletes do not totally reject the idea of femininity, but actually embrace their own version of it, which is of physical strength, commitment, and in certain realms, such as combat sports, aggression. These are traits that are stereotypically bound to masculinity, thus, giving us the perception that only men can represent them. Therefore, when a woman embraces this powerful type of femininity in sports, they are often criticized for not being feminine enough, or at least the type of femininity that men expect from them. A woman athlete may display her broad shoulders, defined deltoids, firm biceps, and toned thighs, appearances that have been bound to those of a man. In regard to societal standards, these women athlete's then lose their femininity, and the "affectionate, warm eye" from men, as freelance writer Amber Pawlik puts it. Rather than appreciating these distinct characteristics of strength and power, men are usually repulsed. This notion gives way to objectifying women athletes, judging them not by their skill in their particular sport, but rather their appearance, how sexy or how hot they can be.

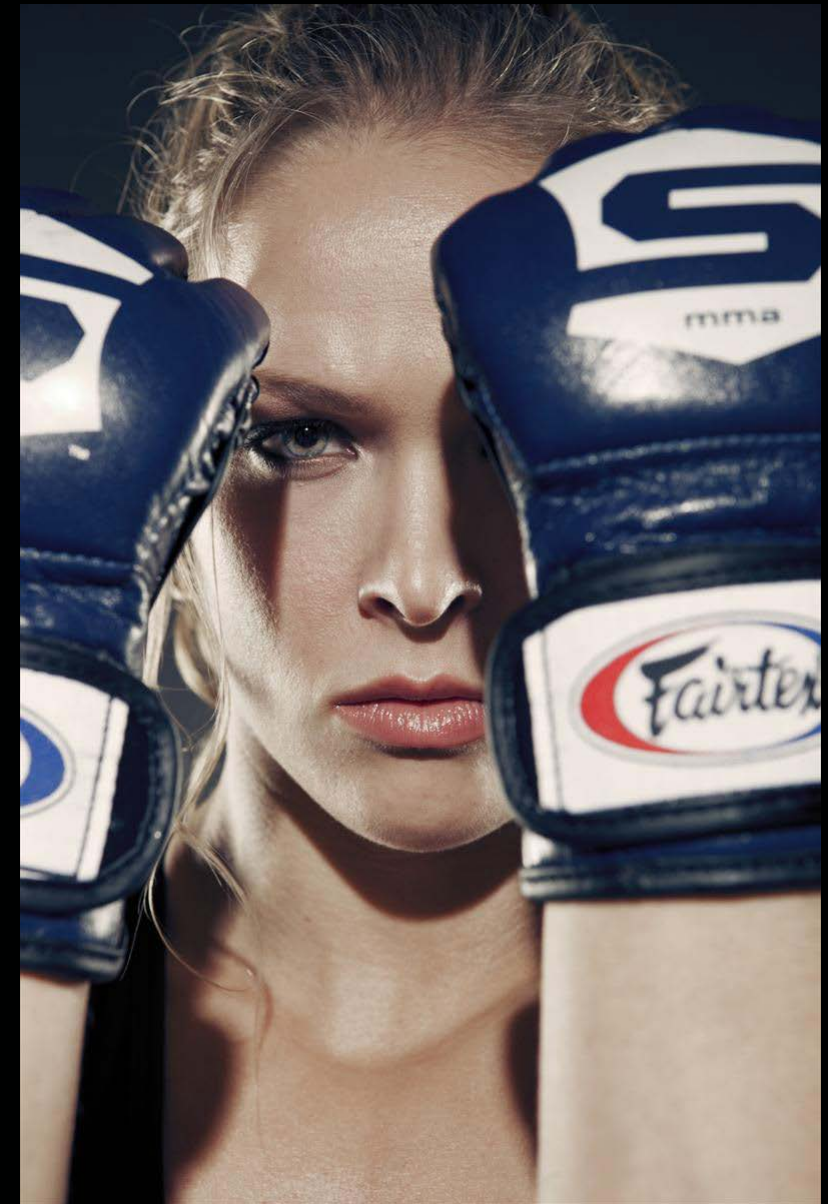
Is it just coincidence that most of the larger female names in sports eventually become sex symbols? The media, as well as the organizations that represent them have worked to sell women's sports and women athletes as these mere sex objects. Take auto-racing driver Danica Patrick for instance. Experiencing relative success in both the Indy and NASCAR circuits, Patrick has broken down some significant gender barriers, becoming the first woman to win an Indy car race and the first woman to win the NASCAR top pole position for a Cup series. Although prosperous, her looks in front of the camera became of more attention, rather than her skill behind the wheel. Her provocative ads for "GoDaddy.com," and revealing spreads in men's magazines, "Sports Illustrated," "Maxim," and "FHM," have led to the formation of a sexual image, which overpowers her prominence as a female athlete. Furthermore, the media continues to sensationalize the sexual appeal of other successful woman athletes, such as tennis player Maria Sharapova, Olympic skier Lindsey Vonn, and American soccer players, Hope Solo and Alex Morgan. While viewers and loyal patrons for women's sports are already scarce, much of the faithful few are monopolized by these sexually driven expectations. It no longer becomes the sport and their ability that intrigue fans, but more so the fact that they might have smooth legs, alluring eyes, and desirable bodies. This shallow marketability of a woman's sexuality is sexism in sports at its finest and most grand display.

Past the appearance of the athletes lies the perception that women cannot kick as hard, jump as high, run as fast, or punch as hard as men. This leads to the assumption that since women's sports is less intense, rather boring, and is taken less seriously, they then warrant fewer viewers, lower TV ratings, and less money. Kenny Bodanis of "The Good Men Project" points out how the structure of certain sports attest to this idea. For major tennis tournaments, men play a six-set match; while women compete in three set ones. In track and field, women are limited to a heptathlon (seven events), while men are a part of the decathlon (ten events). Men's Olympic diving include six dives, while woman are limited to five. All of these prejudiced limitations that give male athletes

more airtime are based on the desire for money, what truly sells better, and ultimately sexist perceptions. Therefore, being a women athlete is commonly less lucrative than the greater benefits that their male counterparts enjoy, a gender-based financial aspect that also extends to the office space.

In the realm of combat sports, a groundbreaking phenomenon has been taking place; the rise of women's mixed martial arts (MMA). A male dominated sport, the impartial perception of masculinity in athletics is perhaps defined most clearly in combat sports. Nevertheless, as a result of certain female pioneers of the sport, Gina Carano, Cris Santos, and Jennifer Howe, the landscape of MMA is changing. A more recent figure and the new face of women's MMA, Bantam Weight Champion Ronda Rousey, has taken the sport by storm. Using her extensive background in Judo, which includes a bronze medal finish in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the first American woman to do so, Rousey has punished her opponents with relentless submissions, breaking bones and dislocating arms in the process, maintaining a perfect professional record of seven wins and zero losses. While Rousey's mixture of appearance, unrelenting trash talk, and dominance in the cage have played a factor in her widespread notoriety, thus far, she is effectively driving forward her sport into rampant popularity and lucrative success, something that most professional women athletes have not been able to do. Time Magazine, the Los Angeles Times, and ESPN the Magazine are among the many news and media sources that have lined up to do extensive pieces on this intriguing athletic specimen. Last December, Rousey became the first woman to sign with the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), the world's largest MMA promotion. UFC President Dana White has expressed extreme confidence in Rousey calling the transition the "Ronda Rousey Show," stating that she is the only reason as to why women in the UFC is happening (Bleacher Report). This says much about Rousey and her ability, considering that only a year ago, White stated that women would never be a part of the UFC. Rather than tossing her first bout to a preliminary undercard, Ronda Rousey and her opponent Liz Carmouche headlined as the main event of UFC 157 in February, over established male MMA fighters, such as Dan Henderson, Lyoto Machida, Urijah Faber, and Josh Koscheck. After a lackluster performance by Machida and Henderson, the history making females brought the sold out Honda Center down with an exciting fight that resulted in a seventh-straight arm bar submission victory for Ronda Rousey. The continual success of women's MMA lies in the gloved hands of Ronda Rousey. While the popular assumption would be to discount all of the hype, saying that it will all fade within the year, this phenomenon has already been a significant triumph for the female sporting world as a whole.

The fact that Rousey can garner success, both athletic and financial, in a sport that has a mainly male participation and fan base, oozing with the given traits of masculinity, presents a positive outlook for the state of women's sports. Rousey is not only the poster child for women's MMA, but also for a possible brighter future for the sporting world, one of equality for both male and female. Since Rousey, along with her female fighting cohorts, display power and physical strength, traits commonly attributed to men, this may be a part of the gradual transformation of our society's perception and thought toward masculinity and femininity. If femininity is a woman's choice to embrace being a woman, and masculinity is a man's choice to embrace being a man, then how do certain women, who claim to embrace their femininity, portray certain characteristics that are seen as masculine? This paradox in our societal thinking certainly applies in the case of Ronda Rousey, as well as other female athletes. As mentioned earlier, female athletes embrace their own kind of femininity. Not the kind that society has pre-set for them, but one that includes the common masculine qualities. However, if complete social equality is what we should be working toward as a society, how can these pre-set traits even exist? Women should not have to create their own mismatch form of femininity and masculinity in order to find a balance and peace of mind while competing. They should no longer be bound by any of such societal perceptions



and expectations. As activists and government officials have done away with laws in our nation that discriminate by race, and as certain voices have led to a furtherance of gay rights, sexism and all of its byproducts should also burn in the flames of social justice. Therefore, as society progresses, as will sports, ridding the ties between physical strength and masculinity, as well as vulnerability and femininity. Amidst all of this idyllic, hopeful, and imminent change, man and woman will still be different, as God has intended them to be. However, these differences will no longer discriminate in schools, the household, the workplace, and the beloved domain of sports. Thus, if I were to say to your face with sexist intent and malicious regard, "You punch like a girl!" calmly reply, "I'll take that as a compliment," as you give a little grin, for the future of sports and society as a whole.

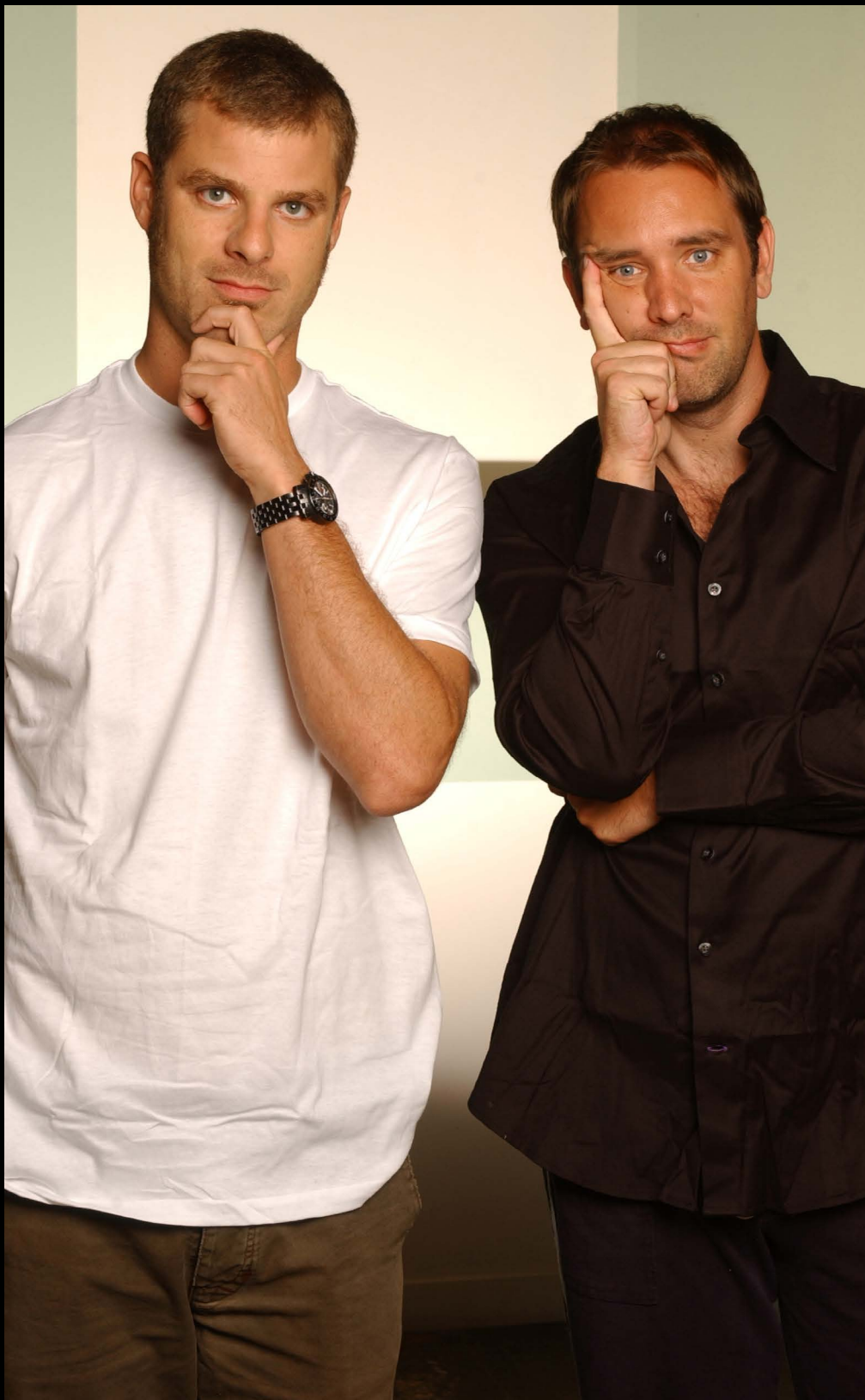


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religion

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# The Gospel According to Cartman

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## Shane Akerman

Don't let the toilet humor fool you. *South Park* is one of the most sophisticated shows on television. Take away the excessive violence, anthropomorphized feces, and profanity-spewing children and you would be left with nothing more than boring lectures of cultural criticism. The toilet humor is meant to fool you. It keeps *South Park* on the air, and keeps its critics worried about vulgarity as a distraction from its full-scale attack on capitalism and liberal democracy.

"Those who have ears, let them hear."

With that being said, when we ask the question, "What does *South Park* have to say about Christianity?" we have to know, right at the outset, that the answer to that question cannot be a simple one.

First, their sacrilege is no secret. In fact, the very first cartoon made by Matt Stone and Trey Parker with the *South Park* characters was a four-minute bit called "The Spirit of Christmas" in which baby Jesus (with an adult face, including beard) faces off against Frosty the Snowman in a battle to the death. A few years later another version of "The Spirit of Christmas" was made, this time with Jesus in a fist-fight with Santa Clause. But beyond the obvious barbs thrown at Jesus and some of the biblical miracles, the series also mocks the so-called "new atheism" and its rather banal critique of Christianity.

In the two-part episode, "Go God Go" and "Go God Go XII," Richard Dawkins is brought in to teach evolution to the fourth-grade class. After the lecture the local fourth-grade teacher, Ms. Garrison, says plainly: "That's right, kids. And so you see, there is no God." When Stan objects, postulating that perhaps, "Evolution could be the answer to 'how' and not to 'why,'" Garrison, in an attempt to impress Dawkins, starts shouting: "Retard alert! Retard alert!" She then makes Stan wear a dunce cap which reads: "I HAVE FAITH." In part two we discover that in the distant future, thanks to the militant atheism of Dawkins and Garrison, all religion has been eliminated from the world. We are told to, "Imagine a world with no religion. No Muslims killing Jews, no Christians bombing abortion clinics. The world would be a wonderful place without God." But as we get a glimpse of this future world we see that it is as violent as ever as different factions of atheists war against each other "in the name of Science."

Unlike *Family Guy*, *South Park's* critique of Christianity is not grounded in some kind of "obvious" unbelievability. Instead, *South Park* ridicules even those who think that dismissing religion is so easy. When Stone and Parker have tak-

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en on the problems of Christianity it often has to do with the commodification of faith. Twice Cartman makes millions off of naïve Christians. First, in another two-parter, "Do the Handicapped go to Hell?" followed by, "...Probably," the children suddenly become concerned about their eternal salvation. They frequent the local Catholic priest to confess their sins, but after catching him having sex in the confessional, Cartman sees an opportunity to condemn Father Maxie and start a church of his own. He puts on a thick southern accent and begins preaching charismatically about the dangers of hell. At the end of his sermon he says, "And now, I'm receiving a message directly from God! God is telling me that. . . each and every one of you is to walk up to the stage and give me one dollar. So I want everyone to feel the love of God by coming up here and putting a dollar in the box!"

Later in, "Christian Rock Hard," Cartman starts a Christian rock band, explaining that, "Christians have a built-in audience of over one hundred and eighty million Americans. If each one of them buys just one of our albums at twelve dollars and ninety-five cents that would be. . . two-billion, three-hundred, and thirty-one million dollars." Cartman goes on to explain how easy it is to write Christian rock music as well, since you just take regular love songs and remove words like "baby" and "darling," and replace them with, "Jesus." In both cases, Cartman's Christian enterprise is wildly successful. And in the end it becomes clear that the Christian religion is a mere tool, used to increase personal wealth and power.

South Park's commentary on Christian faith is not always on this sociological level, however. Sometimes it is explicitly (and quite brilliantly) theological. For instance, in "Jewpacabra," (an episode which plays off of Carman's notorious anti-semitism) Cartman dreams that he is the son of Pharaoh, living in ancient Egypt during the biblical plagues. Cartman is nervous because he heard that God is going to kill little Egyptian boys. "Hah, I don't think God would do such a thing, little one," says Pharaoh, "We believe in a just Lord who would never murder innocent children." Of course, Pharaoh was wrong and all across Egypt little boys begin to scream in pain as their heads literally explode. Meanwhile, the houses that are spared are those who mercilessly slit the throats of baby lambs and smear the blood on their doorposts.

This kind of re-reading of biblical narratives from 'the other side' is an important theological task, and one which South Park often masters wonderfully. Perhaps it is for this reason, when God himself is actually depicted on the series it is not as a white-bearded, Caucasian man on a throne. Instead, in "Are you there God? It's me, Jesus," God decides to show himself to the South Park community and the whole town is confused. What comes down out of heaven stands only a few feet tall and is some grotesque, mutant, hippo-canine hybrid. The lesson is obvious: when God speaks it is always a challenge: "a stumbling-block," and "foolishness," to all. God's self-revelation is so bizarre and disturbing because when God comes to us it is always as the outcast.

The same point is made when Butters is shipped off to a pray-away-the-gay camp because his parents suspect him of being "bicurious." Butters, finally fed up with the children in the camp being driven to suicide by the situation, makes this protest:

"I am sick and tired of everyone telling me I'm confused! I wasn't confused until other people started tellin' me I was! You know what I think? I think maybe you are the ones who are confused. I'm not gonna be confused anymore just because you say I should be. My name is Butters, I'm eight years old, I'm blood type O, and I'm bicurious! And even that's okay, because if I'm bicurious and I'm somehow made from God, then I think your God must be a little bicurious himself!"



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# Effectiveness of a Mission: Service

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## Sterling Spence

I've written before about my disillusionment at traditional models of mission service and I've been wondering lately if there is still any hope for the church. If we can't make a real difference in ending the oppression of people in our communities and around the world, what's the point of the Christian message? I believe that when facets within our faith fail to take responsible service seriously, they gut the church of its relevancy and skin it of the gospel hope.

It's been a long time since I've seen creativity within the church that really excited me. I have been looking for thinking that has the potential to revitalize our service and bring the church back to the forefront of world change. This spring break, La Sierra sent out a mission trip to San Francisco that did just that.

If any of you know Steve Hemenway, one of the chaplains at the university, you already know he loves a few things: his wife, coffee, NASCAR, and the idea that Christ has called us into community. He's been dreaming of ways to reimagine mission service and this is what he came up with. He said, "I wanted there to be a 'mission' option where students could meet needs of people right here instead of flying over the top of them to go thousands of miles away. As a society we are growing individualistically to the point where you can buy groceries online. We don't know our neighbors' stories. We don't know the guy under the bridge is Joe and if we did, we would make the world smaller."

Six students drove up to the bay and spent the week with an organization called, San Francisco Organizing Project. SFOP works in the city to give a voice to people who, for whatever reason, have been marginalized. It is part of the larger PICO National Network, one of the biggest community organizing projects in the nation. According to their website,

"Since 1972 PICO has successfully worked to increase access to health care, improve public schools, make neighborhoods safer, build affordable housing, redevelop communities and revitalize democracy. Nonpartisan and multicultural, PICO provides an opportunity for people and congregations to translate their faith into action. More than forty different religious denominations and faith traditions are part of PICO. Together we are lifting up a new vision for America that unites people across region, race, class, and religion." The mission team didn't go to hold a vacation Bible school or build a church. Instead they went to learn from SFOP and Geoff Nelson-Blake, an alumni of La Sierra who is an organizer at SFOP overseeing their connection to the faith-based organizations in the area. He led the students through a crash course in

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community organizing and helped to open their eyes to the problems millions of people face right here in our backyards. Panpanat, one of the students on the trip said, "They helped us see that there are so many needs right where we're from. There are people we overlooked, who we didn't see because we never heard their stories before."

While there, they met daily with leaders of various faiths in the area and asked how their religious beliefs were being lived out in the community. They talked to members of the Jewish and Muslim congregations and spent time with a Catholic and an Episcopal priest. The group attended a PICO Campaign for Citizenship meeting at a local Oakland high school where monks, politicians, aspiring citizens, and friends of individuals who had been deported united together to call for justice and solutions to the problems faced daily by individuals in the country seeking citizenship. Throughout the trip, the students asked to hear peoples' stories. They learned that when you get to know the stories of the community, many of the things that prevent people from caring for others are dissolved. Barriers come down and we see people as individuals in need, people we have the ability to help.

Ruben Solis, a senior on the trip, said, "We often believe that everything is run by money and politics, but we forget that each individual has a voice." When asked what she thought of the trip, Shawna McBride said, "This was the most practical and knowledgeable event in my education experience here at La Sierra." When she returned, she immediately got in contact with an organizing project here in Riverside called, Inland Congregations United for Change. Now many of the students who went up north are beginning to use the lessons they learned there to make change here in our community.

This trip certainly isn't the only way to do mission service, but to me it represents hope. There is still a passion within the church, a spark of creativity and responsibility that will allow us to get out of the ruts of the old models that have hindered our power to change to world. Christianity isn't about ourselves or simply about a future heaven. Instead it is the story of Christ coming to humanity and spending his time with the poor, with the people others called sinners. It is a story of Jesus learning the stories of the people around him and giving us an example to do the same. It is a call to join together and put the needs of others first.

SFOP has a model for how they create community change. Their five points are: 1. Listening to and building one-to-one relationships with those in their community, 2. Becoming experts on issues through training, research and policy analysis, 3. Collaborating with other community organizations, 4. Holding decision-makers accountable through large, public actions, and 5. Joining with other PICO organizations across the state and country to make state and national policy change.

Rodrigo Hernandez said about learning these points, "I have been through poverty and I know what it is to suffer, so I connect with the homeless and the needy, but this trip has given me the tools to change their lifestyles." SFOP and PICO have thoughtfully come up with this model of how to go about creating social change and unsurprisingly, it parallels the message and lessons of Christ. Steve is planning to lead another group up to San Francisco next Thanksgiving break, so if you are interested, contact the Spiritual Life office and ask for Steve Hemenway. You can get your service learning credits and begin to develop the skills that will allow you to be a powerful voice of liberation for the people in our communities whose voices have been ignored. It's an incredible opportunity. Plus, you'll get to drink San Francisco coffee so there's really no reason not to go.



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# A New Hope

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## James Murdock

In recent Sci-Fi news, communities of angry fanatics have begun lamenting the reality that Walt Disney Co. has announced its decision to do away with the widely popular LucasArts label after decades of successful distributions. This all coming in the wake of wailing from Wookiee-sympathizers who believe that the future of the Star Wars Empire is doomed in a whole new way now that Disney has acquired the entire Lucasfilm franchise as of 2012. While LucasArts only deals with the video game division, the greater public tends to show a belief that this shift is not unlike the oversight of the contractor of the Death Star; too many ventilation shafts for one vessel. The upcoming Star Wars film release seems especially cursed, what with a highly trained and dedicated fleet of New Republic allies looking to exploit the errors and target them with their well placed critical shots. Until the movie's release, the world awaits what JJ Abrams and the team at Disney will craft in 2015 with bated breath. But the early fanatic predictions show that Episode VII is destined to have an asterisk planted behind it.

While it is difficult for me to blame the opposition to the pending launch with the deep rooted collective psyche that Star Wars fanatics seem to possess, it also leaves me wondering, why all the hatred for something yet unseen and untested?

A colleague of mine recently wrote an article entitled, "Positively Teaching", in which the author wonders whether or not it is possible to teach "in the positive" to correct and solidify the mission of the church. Rather than find the faults in the foundation and judging others by their actions, is it plausible to look at the intentions and support the identity behind the activity? The piece goes on to question, "Instead of illustrating and trying to teach how the church can better show love to the LGBT community by listing what individuals or even the church has done wrong, why don't we explain what some are doing that is right (?)"

To this, I believe there is some merit to the argument of positive reinforcement over negative chastisement in light of mistaken steps of potential progress. But I would look to further the conversation by adding a third option into the mix. Instead of attempting to uphold the church for its staple concerns, or even rebuking the institution for its tactlessness, what would it take to create the willingness to reorder our priorities so that the goal is to revert to collective achievement? Instead of looking through the lens of good versus bad and choosing one path to follow, I believe it is high time to blaze a new trail of thought.



# A NEW HOPE

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Pope Benedict XVI gave a message on January 1, 2012 celebrated as the World Day of Peace that spoke heavily against homosexuals as their lifestyle poses a threat to justice and peace. Within the message, there was a constant battle between the entities “we” and “they”. And as long as “they” were attacking the traditions of Christianity, there would be no peace. This presents in itself a dilemma of presenting the gospel. Because nowhere in the good news does it speak of a dichotomy in blessings, as much as it encompasses all people. If a day of peace can only be achieved at the expense of another’s goodwill, it is not peace. If the gospel message you speak is not good news for everyone, it is not the Gospel.

The documentary *Bully*, released in 2012, follows (in part) the lives of four victimized teenagers living across the Midwest. There came a point in the film where one of the younger participants named Alex, age 12, living in Sioux City, Iowa, is shooting hoops in his driveway and flipping through his yearbook after surviving another year of torment at school. Before waxing philosophically about girls, he poignantly says, “I don’t believe in luck. But I believe in hope.” A child living a life of patronization, abuse, and loneliness can still muster the audacity to make a claim that he or she believes in hope. Which begs the questions, “Hope for what exactly?” and “Where is he getting this hope from anyways?” This kid has little chance to escape the path he is on and will likely continue to be bullied throughout his childhood into his late-teens. If the documentary is any sign of his potential, he may succumb to the pressure and commit suicide as others in the film have done. Still, against the odds, Alex has hope. Not a hope that makes any sense, or even stands against a burden of proof if he were to be pressed to explain further. This hope is beyond reason, as we know it.

A new hope.

Maybe it’s time to relocate our sense of direction and future planning to the vantage point like that of Alex’s. If he can find a reason to remain optimistic despite having little to look forward to, then maybe it is time to change the definition of hope. The current hope of humanity seems to show that peace may only be obtained by the heterosexual, popular, unencumbered, and rich. We have been willing to admit that we have mistreated the malnourished, ostracized, outcasted, and otherwise forgotten members of society by withholding love through social detachment. If this much is true, then we must take another look at our definition of hope we weave into our messages to the world. This current message is far too compartmentalized and fractured to be considered the Gospel.

As a church body, we seem to be doing some good and some bad but to choose one over the other to highlight would do a disservice to the validity of the report of the General Conference. We are too fundamentally dissonant to say we have enough good to lift up in support and have far too many counts of disturbing the peace to be acquitted. I claim we relinquish the reigns away from the powerful and secure society and give it over to the persecuted so that they may lead the world into a new realm of understanding. A hope guided by those in desperate need of it. A hope like that may actually encompass the world rather than obscure the view for many with its regulations and societal stipulations. In essence, let us move

away from the hope that calls out to everyone but the abandoned and build a new vision from the perspective of the marooned.

Changing the definition of hope by naming the bullied, blacklisted, and battered, as the genesis will make people uncomfortable at first. Most may believe that they are not to be trusted with such a task of establishing the Gospel with all of their faults and flaws. We’ve gotten so used to hearing prosperity messages of the Word where God wants us to succeed and add to our collection of lifestyle enhancers, that it will be tough to accept that someone with so little could teach us anything. Everyone was doing just fine without knowing whether or not our soldiers or NBA superstars were gay or not. There are plenty of men qualified to preach, so we don’t really need any women stepping to the pulpit. Peace solely observed by Adventists whom are already well fed and joyous may be redundant, but we accept that and have no desire to switch. Why adjust when we are ‘close enough’ just because a few billion people don’t concur? To some, hope like that is little more than a Disney fairytale.

While I do not consider myself to be a fan of science fiction or even of Star Wars (I had to look up every one of the introductory references for accuracy sake), I think we may be able to take a page from works of fantasy to direct our future reality. Abrams and his team are working on a new installment to the Star Wars series that is deeply rooted in history, fanfare, and even hope. The first movie in fact was originally titled, *Star Wars: A New Hope*. Lucas and his team began with an idea of what the world looked like “a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.” The film follows a group of freedom fighters known as the Rebel Alliance, as they plot to destroy the powerful Death Star space station, a devastating weapon created by the evil Galactic Empire .

It is through the efforts of the minority that the uprising against the seemingly unstoppable conformed and entitled are silenced. The entire popularity of the film comes from the understanding that the protagonist heroes, such as Luke, Leia, Chewy, and Han are alive in each of us if we would only be open to seeing life through their eyes. That frame of mind is impossible for those operating on the Death Star after their conversion. Yet, it is the only way that the movie finds itself realizing the new hope. A changing of the guard, as it was, away from the forces of evil and into the pure use of the Force. And with it, a change in direction.

Obi-Wan Kenobi describes the Force as that which “surrounds us and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together,” I think that Alex may have been on to something when he reminded the audience of his belief in hope despite the reality of his persecution. I personally would like to see what would happen when everyone attempts to hope the way he hopes as we look through life in his eyes. Not as someone who is forgotten or doomed, but as someone who has something important to teach those who may have forgotten what the good news is for all people. It is my hope that we may find it within ourselves to adjust accordingly in whatever way that is possible so that the Gospel that is found thriving in the lives of those who identify with the communities of the desperate, down-and-out, impoverished, homosexual, unpopular, and un-Christian becomes a force we can all be bound to.

A hope like that, this new hope, I believe, could stand the test of time. A hope like that would be worth fighting for. A hope like that might be worth spreading across the world. A hope like that is found without an asterisk. Despite the new management and its wishes to bring fairy tale fantasies into reality, it may be just what we all need.

May the Force like *that*, be with you all.

# addic ion



## Sterling Spence

Despite the fact that I have found meaning in the church, I tend to have days every year or so when I wake up after a short night and there's no coffee, maybe there's a paper on Church Dogmatics due, or a booth at the local church fair to run. I wake up shaking my head and asking why does any of this matter to me? I certainly don't regret asking. I think it's one of those indispensable rituals of faith. It must be why God invented bad pastors. When we have to sit listening to them, we stop and ask ourselves why in the world we wanted to come in the first place. That must be the reason there's a Joel Osteen.

Asking reminds me that it does matter to me. It's a loaded question. That's not to say that there aren't times that I want to just get up and yell "it doesn't matter!" Go thumb my nose at the local pastor and rip the Jesus fish off the next guy's car that cuts me off. Sometimes I just have days when I sit in church and look over at the lady who can't sing on key and the feisty old man who keeps looking down the young girls' blouses and say to myself, "Why in the world do I still come here?"

Part of it is that the religious traditions we grow up in never completely leave us. I find that when it comes to Christianity I have two options: Either I can militantly try to cut it out of who I am, or I can accept it. I had a teacher in grade school who, though he had once been a hard talking, mean, fighting Navy man, had never touched a drop of alcohol. It wasn't that he hadn't wanted to; it was that his family had a long line of alcoholics in it. He felt it was in his blood. He was sure that after one drink he would fall into addiction. Sometimes I feel that's how Christianity is for me. It's in my blood. I have an addiction. Ultimately, I know it's so much a part of me, I can't help being a Christian.

I can't be a non-thinker either. In some ways I suppose I'm always on the verge of throwing away my religion. Even if I had to fight it, I would do so if all I could find in religion was a bunch of bigots. If religion didn't make sense in anyway, had nothing to say to the world, had no grand vision, protected the oppressors, and trod on the weak, I would have to try everyday not to be like that. The problem is that what most people around me have called Christianity doesn't make any sense to me.

I went to a Christian summer camp when I was ten years old and I remember my counselor telling us campers that we all had a God shaped hole in our souls. Nothing was going to fill it except Jesus; not money, not girls, not anything else

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in the whole world. Since then, I've heard that statement restated so many times. I always want to yell, "Come on guys! Really?" Even as a kid I didn't believe my counselor. I was ten and at an expensive summer camp with horses, go-karts, and a giant zip line. What more could a ten year old kid want? In fact, until he told me I was missing something, I thought I was in paradise. It's just not the case that we're all living our lives miserably waiting for Christianity to come along. There are a whole lot of people who did fine without our religion, a vast array of religious people of different faiths, or the growing number of successful, philanthropic, simply nice people who happen to be atheists. But I understand why we say it. Honestly, if I had to really think it through, I feel like I'm missing something. I'm searching for God. Some of us grew up with the religious quest deeply ingrained in our consciousness, and we're not going to be content without searching for some sort of answer.

Nick, my visionary friend, says he's afraid that it's better to be a stupid Christian. He only says this when he's discouraged from being a visionary. He thinks we might be happier if we stopped thinking and stopped spending our nights talking about how to do it better. Wouldn't it be nice to just believe everything they said from up at the pulpit? I hate him for saying it, because, well, we all know that some part of it is right.

What if the church was made up of new Christians who all felt that great spark of ignition like a thunderbolt from God at baptism? What if we were all on fire like those self-help books try to make us? New Christians trusting what we had been taught and ready to spread the word. It's exciting. I think, to some extent, it's what Nick means. But I'm still wary of it.

I imagine a church handing out torches of the flame of the gospel to its new Christians. Then I see them wildly running out of the doors into the forest to spread the news with the pastor, who is benevolently watching with a big smile and a gentle wave. To me, this is what it means to have a church of people on fire for God who haven't thought through what they're doing. It won't take long for the forest to catch on fire, burn up everyone, and leave nothing but ash. We see it all the time. It's the Christian outside of the concert hall screaming through a megaphone about how God hates sinners. It's the church that kicks out the pregnant teenager though she needs them more than ever. It is the church that baptizes but does not work to end the plight of the hurting. This is the fruit of a burning forest, and it will, and is leading to our destruction. I heard on the radio today that 90% of Americans believe in God, but only 44% still have faith in the church. This is the reason why. The church has been burning the land. Better to have thoughtful people taking a small flame and placing it in the lanterns around the town, knowing where to effectively plant it, so that everyone can see the light, and no one is burned.

I want to think Christianity through. There's always going to be something that brings faith into question. I met a man in Israel who told me that if you're not a communist before you're 20 you don't have a heart. I liked that. Then he said that if you're still a communist after 20 you don't have a brain. You can take that however you want, but in my circles, the phrase goes more like, if you haven't spent time as an atheist by the time you finish college, you don't have a brain. The crisis of faith might as well be a rite of passage, and if you haven't run into any problems yet, well, you're just keeping your eyes closed.

Some of us get the questioning bug, we are looking for a faith that makes sense and so even though we have questioned God, we come back. It's a treacherous road we decide to walk as thinking Christians. We're creeping along knowing full well that the next scientific discovery or war could throw all our thoughts into a swirl, plunge us into doubt, and tear at our souls, but still there is a belief that what we're searching for is really out there. The storm will come and we will rebuild the city of our faith after it has passed. The pieces will be rearranged; a shattered town strewn across the field can be rebuilt into a cathedral.

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essay



# The End

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Goodbye

My time has finally come.

If I could leave you all with one more thought,

And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make.

Israel Carreón

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special  
thanks





# CRITERION

# STAFF



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# CRITERION

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THE STUDENT NEWS MAGAZINE OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2013







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# EDITORS NOTE

We have finally caught on and have fully immersed ourselves into the digital age. Recognizing the fact that the majority of the world is glued to the digital screen of some sort of device, we have decided to cater to the common technological need through the evolving medium of the Internet. Welcome to first exclusively online Criterion issue!

Under the tutelage of current Editor-in-Chief, Israel Carreón, I have been continuing to learn and grow into this position of telling the news.

In our recent history, the news has been accused of being many things. Some critics have blamed the media for employing scare tactics to sell their news to a rather paranoid and fearful majority. Others have been critical of apparent sensationalism and the overplaying of particular aspects and details, tending to lean toward

the negative angle. Whether these accusations are an attempt at rationalizing the pursuit of media outlets for positive ratings, or the greedy interest for increased revenue, the common citizen will swallow whatever he or she is given.

This is dangerous.

Not only does it reveal a general unwillingness on the part of the main populous to actually search and think critically, it also consequently highlights the steep responsibility of the news networks and newspapers. Throughout this convoluted mess of accusations and quelling financial appetites, the truth still exists. The truth deserves to be treasured and told, not abused and sold. We as the Criterion staff have been a proud member of this movement of preserving the truth. As a reader and student of this campus, you deserve to enjoy the product of quality, genuine, and factual journalism. We pride this

to be our constant as we present important school news, such as our university's acceptance of a prestigious national award for community service, the LUNA blood drive and health fair, and our main feature, REVO: Peru.

I invite you to move with us as we enter a new phase of our news publication and enjoy the hard work of our writers and staff. As Chief Carreón likes to say, "The news never sleeps; neither should we."

Peace and love,




Jonah Valdez  
Incoming Editor-in-Chief



# NEWS

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Blood  
Drive  
Here  
Today

 LifeStream  
GIVE HOPE | GIVE LIFE | GIVE BLOOD



**BizLine**

Dental Health & Wellness

Endodontics Root Canal Treatment



OF THE TEETH AND JAW

**ARE YOU MY TYPE**





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# SERVICE-LEARNING UPHOLDS CAMPUS MISSION AND RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

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by *Rebby Kern*

On March 4 2013 La Sierra University was awarded the Presidential Award for the 2013 Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. This award recognizes La Sierra University's commitment to service and places La Sierra University in the highest ranks across the nation. La Sierra University is one of five colleges and universities to be awarded with this honor. The Presidential Award is the highest award a college or university may receive to recognize its volunteer work, service-learning, and community involvement.

"To Seek, To Know, To Serve:" La Sierra campus motto urges to break boundaries and do more than simply giving back to the community. La Sierra University provides opportunity for this community engagement through Service-Learning. During 2011-12 academic Service-Learning classes tallied 899 students performed 14,106 hours of service to community partners. When including the projects from Enactus, student missions, and Promise Neighborhoods 1,888 La Sierra University students completed 84,771 hours of service.

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[La Sierra University] students assist, encourage and promote learning, sharing or giving to the younger students in the nearby community.

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La Sierra University President Randall Wisbey accepted the 2013 Presidential Award from the Corporation for National and Community Service during the annual meeting of the America Council of Education. "Service to others is a key part of La Sierra's mission and indicative of the Christian ethos that drives our work as a learning community," said Wisbey. "I am humbled by the way in

which students, faculty, and staff daily live out this value through formal and informal outreach efforts to help people in local and global communities. It is wonderful to be recognized for this work, even as we are encouraged to continue to give our very best."

This is not the first time La Sierra has been recognized for its outstanding commitment to outreach; La Sierra University has been awarded with the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll from 2007-2013 and has received "With Distinction" awards the 2007-08 and 2010-13 years. Additionally the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classification in the area of Curricular Engagement was awarded to La Sierra University Service-Learning in 2008.

"We wait on pins and needles for months each year after we submit the application to see if we are included among the honored institutions," said Director of Service-Learning Susan Patt, an art professor at the university. "To now be included in this top tier is the fantastic testimony to how deeply committed our campus community is to service on all levels, from volunteerism to long-term student mission experiences."

The Office of Service-Learning hosted its annual Service-Learning luncheon on April 24, 2013. This year the luncheon was an opportunity for La Sierra University students, staff, faculty and administration to gather with Service-Learning community partners to celebrate another successful year of service now nationally recognized.

Awards were given during the luncheon to faculty members, community partners, and Service-Learning students who all showed exemplary commitment and dedication to their programs. Service-Learning Faculty Member of the year was awarded to Mary Wilson, Communications Department, for her ability "to always roll with the punches" and passion for Service-Learning. Service-Learning community Partner of the Year was awarded to Carmen Phillips, Alvord After School Programs Coordinator, for providing La Sierra with a wide vein of options for students to serve the school district. Service-Learning Student of the Year Award was given to Kyle Thompson and Brenda Schaffner as recommended by their faculty members: both students upheld respect and dignity at their Service-Learning sites while providing needed service.

Service-Learning would not be made possible without the involvement of the community partners who facilitate and reveal their specific

needs. Representatives from the various community partners around the Inland Empire attended the annual luncheon to celebrate the Presidential Award. As expected, the Alvord After School Programs were present in high attendance. La Sierra University has recognized the incredible needs for dedicated students at schools in the Alvord School District.

Phillips states that, “[La Sierra University] students assist, encourage and promote learning, sharing or giving to the younger students in the nearby community. The younger students look up to and enjoy their time with the college students. They feel important because someone, unrelated to them, is learning about them, willing to assist them, and cares that they succeed.”

Since its establishment, twenty-five years ago, La Sierra University and the Service-learning program continually grow as more faculty and staff attend seminars in order to offer Service-Learning with their current curriculum. Each course outcome allow for a diverse selection of possibilities for service-learning partnerships. Service-Learning courses range from Organizational Communica-

tions where La Sierra students work with political structures in Riverside, Ward 7, and Growing up in America, in which students are placed at schools in the Alvord School District’s After School Programs and assist with tutoring or activities.

“It is amazing to see the tangible results of our students' service at community sites. When senior citizens at Mount Rubidoux Manor and a senior biology student come together and make a connection,” says Renee Hess, Assistant Director of Service-Learning, “or a psychology student who wants to work with kids learns about his chosen field while working with the preschoolers at Lovett's Children, it is then that the Service-Learning program truly manifests the mission of La Sierra University in our local community.”



# LUNA BLOOD DRIVE AND HEALTH FAIR

by Jessica Maynez

Here at La Sierra, we are able to experience and participate in blood drives at least once a quarter. Whether they're taking place in the bloodmobile across from Cossentine, or set up in the student center, LifeStream is a name that La Sierra students are familiar with. So why was the blood drive this past Tuesday, April 30, different? This drive was part of the National Cesar Chavez Blood Drive Challenge, which also hosted a health fair for students, faculty, and even the community to take part in.

La Sierra's Hispanic club, LUNA, which stands for Latinos United from Nations Abroad, hosted this event, which was organized by LUNA Secretary, Wendy Castro. "It was a collaborative effort by LUNA with men's Dean Obed Olivarría, Health Services, the Counseling Center, and Dr. Acosta [a chiropractor whose office is next to health services]," she explained.

Besides wanting to support a national Hispanic event, Castro just wanted to help others in need, which motivated her to make this as big as possible. "We did this last year, but I wanted it to be bigger this year," she said, "I love the health field and I want to promote health everywhere." This was plain to see in all of the work that she and her team put into this event. She didn't want this event to be just for the school, but for the community as well. Unfortunately, since advertising outside of school was difficult, there was not as big of a community turnout as she had hoped. However, La Sierra students and faculty stepped up to the plate and delivered the biggest blood drive this year, surpassing the number of pints collected at a single blood drive held here on campus, according to LUNA Religious VP officer, Patricia Carrillo.

"I like to be involved, especially in service to others," said LUNA Treasurer, Cynthia Galvan, who donated blood and helped out during the event.



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We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.

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Students who were unable to donate for whatever reason still found ways to help support the cause. One such student who wasn't able to participate donating blood, sophomore Hazel Lopez, helped out by working the snack booth, passing out cookies and juice to those who did. When asked why she wanted to help out she said, "I went through an experience where I needed blood transfusions and since I can't donate, I just wanted to do what I could to help."

This, my fellow students, is why blood drives and health fairs such as this are so important, because in a small way, you can make a big difference in someone's life. Castro ended our conversation by quoting Cesar Chavez, which inspired her not just to participate in the national challenge, but also in her daily life as well, "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."



# FEATURES

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# REVO

by Sarah Salaga

Students of La Sierra, unless you have been hiding under a rock these past few weeks, you must have heard about REVO La Sierra. There have been promotional posters in the dorms and on random walls around campus, numerous announcements before university workshops, tweets, and Facebook posts mentioning the event. However, despite all of those things, maybe you were one of those who brushed it off their shoulders, not paying much regard to the announcements. Perhaps, despite the aforementioned ways of getting the details of the event out there, the actual entity of REVO was and is still unclear.

So what is REVO? Simply put, REVO is a movement of love. It has the premise of being the change you wish to see, a revolution. In La Sierra University's instance, REVO is put on to set this want for change in action. This year, REVO La Sierra was held to raise money to help the people of Pucallpa, Peru by partnering with AMOR Projects. AMOR Projects is short for Ambassadors Medical Outreach and Relief. Past student missionaries who spent their time doing work in Peru gave testimonies during university worship, explaining the conditions in which the people of Pucallpa live in. These students recounted the fact that many men, women, and children who seek medical attention have to be turned away each day due to the lack of medicine and medical supplies. There is also a need for adequate transportation to get medical help out to more rural areas. The people's need for these things far exceeds their current supply. Long story short, REVO was put on to raise awareness and take action on the situation of the people of Pucallpa, Peru.

This is where we come in. In America, we are well off in terms of having medical supplies and medication readily available. There are pharmacies in most if not every city, with even drive-thru pharmacies such as Rite Aid. By simply attending REVO, we are directly being part of the change. You know the ten dollars you spent to get into REVO? Those ten dollars per person go to AMOR Projects to fund the medical supplies. The horchata, the cupcakes baked by Janay Castillo, as well as the REVO t-shirts that were sold, all provided funding toward the cause.

Most of you may have seen the giant white tent in front of the Prodigal Son sculpture during the weekend of April 19th. From the outside, it did not seem like a venue big enough to host much of anything. However, the REVO coordinators really knew what they were doing because it ended up fitting the bill just fine. Walking through the tent flaps, people could be seen waiting in line for

pupusas, or sitting down in anticipation for the concert. There was an elevated stage in front, and a floor-level, white carpet runway lined with flowers toward the back. All around the interior walls of the tent were pictures of some Peruvian children, a way of keeping the cause in mind. Suspended from the ceiling over the runway area were many upside down umbrellas of various spring colors.

Taking place on April 21st, the event consisted of a concert, dance performances from Intricate Movement as well as from Pastor Sam and some of the deans, the fashion show, a photo booth, and food. Later in the evening, the fashion show began. The fashion show was put on entirely by our very own students; student designers and student models. There were five collections and six designers: Jacqueline Flores, Shane Wood, Brenda Delfino, Daniella Hernandez, Jonathan Finau, and Alexis Sadakane. All of the designers had been working on their collections for months, and their hard work was visible when the models went down runway. Before each collection debuted, a video played at the beginning stating what each designer's inspiration for their collection was.

The first collection down the runway was a collaboration effort between Jacqueline Flores and Shane wood. Shane stated inspiration from Peruvian architecture, flora, and fauna. He incorporated traditional Peruvian dress with contemporary flair. Shane started designing at school for plays and productions, and heard about REVO last year from Kendall. One thing he pointed out that he liked about this year's REVO was that "everything was beautiful, and the girls who modeled were very diverse; of all shapes and sizes."

Brenda's theme was Peruvian garden. Her collection was inspired by Peruvian colors and picnic style dresses. It consisted of traditional Peruvian wear with the femininity of the garden dresses, a lot of floral prints and some traditional Peruvian-style dresses. As a whole, it had a very feminine and springtime feel.

The theme for Daniella's collection was Peruvian starry nights. She was inspired to design this year because of past REVO fashion shows. Daniella drew inspiration from Peruvian landscape and architecture. Her collection was very high fashion, and contained a lot of metallic, black, gold, and white fabrics, reflecting her inspiration. It was a stark contrast from the collection that was shown







before it, in that it had a dramatic, nighttime essence.

Jonathan's collection was dedicated to his mom. He drew inspiration from earth-tone colors, the tribal patterns and prints of the Peruvian culture, and the look of many Peruvian women's skirts. The first dress out was very floral. There were several almost Grecian-type, long chiffon vest coverings on some of the dresses, and many of the dresses were very structured. I was able to catch Jonathan after the show, and asked him more about his collection. When asked more in-depth about what his inspiration was he said, "I wanted to introduce a modern way of women dressing up during spring and summer in an edgy way." He especially wanted to portray organic colors and the importance of tribal markings. Each print used represented a tribe, in effort to celebrate Peru. Jonathan was self-taught in sewing and patterns; he learned how to make skirts from his grandma. Everything in his collection was made from scratch. An important aspect of his collection was that many of his dresses showcased the back because "it's the only thing women don't complain about."

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I know a lot of people who went to Peru, and heard about how their experiences [doing missionary work] there touched them. Hearing it from my friends brought the cause closer to home for me. I feel that the cause is so relevant to our school.

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Alexis' collection drew inspiration from Peruvian textiles. When asked more about it, she said, "There was a lot of cotton. It was breezy, really feminine, and had really fun colors, but at the

same time the silhouettes were simple." A lot of her collection was repurposed. For example, she made big earrings, clutches, and the base of a skirt out of woven raffia-like table mats. In addition to textiles, Alexis drew inspiration from Peruvian floral head crowns and traditional clothes. She transitioned traditional skirts into wearable shorts, shirts, and short skirts and made wooden flowers out of balsa wood. "It was very spring, much like what Peru is." When asked how she got into designing she said, "I manage a boutique and do the buying for it so I've had my foot in the door with fashion but I had never designed clothing. It was very hard to do, but I fell in love with the sewing machine and definitely want to continue [designing]. The purpose of her collection was ultimately the cause. "I realized that the more wearable I make the pieces, the better it is for the cause. Students could wear these things if they wanted to, and they could also afford them." As a whole, her collection was understated yet conveyed her "interpretation of contemporary Peruvian culture, playing off their traditional values and looks in their garments." When asked why she chose to design for REVO this year, she said, "I know a lot of people who went to Peru, and heard about how their experiences [doing missionary work] there touched them. Hearing it from my friends brought the cause closer to home for me. I feel that the cause is so relevant to our school."

The clothes and accessories from the fashion show were sold through a silent auction. As of this moment, \$14,001 has been raised from this year's REVO, but a few things are still available for sale so the figure could change. With the money that was raised, and the help of AMOR Projects, La Sierra University is able to help out the people of Pucallpa, Peru with the medical supplies and medicine that they very much need. REVO La Sierra was a success this year, thanks to the coordinators, each person who contributed to the events within the event, each and every person who came out to support, and last but not at all least, the donors. This goes to show that anyone can truly make a difference, if they start with themselves, and if they start with love.

Behind the entire event stood Angela Payaban, Jacqueline Flores, and Kendall Trood, a group that tirelessly and selflessly labored to make REVO happen. We had the opportunity to gain some insight from them in regard to the obstacles and challenges that they faced along the way.

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Ultimately we pick a cause that we believe God is directing us towards and this year that cause was AMOR.

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*Criterion:* What leadership role did you play during the production of REVO and what duties did it consist of?

*Angela:* REVO Director. Overseeing everything REVO related. Designing, planning, managing, picking artists to getting food, making sure everyone was ready and working on their jobs. I worked with AMOR Projects, the president, Mr. Hawkins, and Martin Corona, on site Director in Peru. Etc.

*Criterion:* Walk us through the process in choosing a cause to raise funds for.

*Angela:* We pray about it. We also like to choose causes that are related to la Sierra. Ultimately we pick a cause that we believe God is



directing us towards and this year that cause was AMOR. We look for needs and try to meet them.

*Criterion:* Where there any noticeable changes from this year's REVO as compared to previous years?

*Angela:* We had the event on Alumni weekend. The main change was that we lacked outside donors. We really pushed the motto of La Sierra, one University changing the world. We asked students, faculty and staff to all pitch in and dedicate themselves to the cause. That way we were joined together. A community, our community assisting another community in need. I think this bonded us more as a campus. The students appreciated seeing their professors at the event, showing that they believed in a cause dear to the hearts of students as well.

*Criterion:* How much was raised over all for this year's REVO event?

*Angela:* Right now we have \$14,000.

*Criterion:* What leadership role did you play during the production of REVO and what duties did it consist of?

*Jacqueline:* I was the co-leader for the fashion show with Kendall Trood. My duties consisted of finding a venue for the fashion show, planning the layout of the show(choosing color schemes, decor, seating etc.) I went to designer check in's (basically, making sure the designers are on track with their designs). I sent out donation letters, and any other miscellaneous tasks that needed to be done.

*Criterion:* What were some of the challenges that you faced before and during the REVO event?

*Jacqueline:* Challenges Before: finding a venue! Thankfully the alumni weekend coordinators allowed us to use their tent since both events were on the same weekend. Second challenge was making sure the designers were on track. Though

they have about 3 months to get their collections ready, check ins are crucial. During: encouraging people to buy the auction items. People unfortunately were not buying many things. Honestly, things ran super smoothly this year, it was a blessing.

*Criterion:* What leadership role did you play during the production of REVO and what duties did it consist of?

*Kendall:* I was the general coordination with Angela Payaban, but my most specific role was being in charge of the fashion show and venue décor.

*Criterion:* What were some of the challenges that you faced before and during the REVO event?

*Kendall:* The biggest challenge is trying to make sure students as well as the coordinating team keep the event in perspective. Yes, we want to put on an amazing event that will raise a ton of money, but at the end of the day, REVO is not about the event in and of itself; the event is a means to an end, and that end is giving aid to the "other"—those living in some way on the fringe of society. Also, getting a hold of and spray painting fifty umbrellas, and then hoping you will somehow be able to figure out how to hang them from a tent the evening before the event can be a bit of a challenge. Thanks to Steven Hemenway, Andrew Pedersen, and the four hours they spent patiently hanging umbrellas while Angela and I continuously chimed in "Maybe a little to the left?", we were able to pull it off.

**MUSICAL GUEST:**

*US*



**KORG**



The musical talent for the concert was provided by Us. After their set, they were having a meet and greet, taking pictures with patrons and signing things such as their self-titled debut album which was also available for sale. After the line of people waiting to meet them had diminished, I had the opportunity to interview them:

*Criterion:* Hi guys, thanks for taking the time to be interviewed. I know you guys are, but the people who read this article may not know you two are. Could you explain who or what Us is exactly?

Michael: Sure. So we are a married duo [Michael Alvarado and Carissa Rae] who has a passion for writing music and performing it, and we just love promoting positive pop-type music that can inspire people to stay in relationships they're in or just stick to good values. There's just so much happening in the world right now, especially in music, and we want to try and weed out the stuff that people do not need to be listening to -

Carissa: Right.

Michael: - Or the messages that don't need to be spoken to the kids, so that's kind of our goal, to be a positive influence for anybody who listens.

*Criterion:* That is really cool, I did not know that. So how did you guys hear about REVO La Sierra?

Carissa: Actually, a friend of a friend of ours, Jon Macarewa -

Michael: - Introduced us to it.

Carissa: Yeah, Jon called us up to play -

Michael: - He asked if we could be involved in it.

*Criterion:* That's great; did he inform you guys of the basis of the event?

Carissa: Yeah, I love what they're doing, helping out Peru. It's really great, so we supported it and we were really happy to be here for them.

*Criterion:* Awesome. How did you guys get started individually as musicians?

Carissa: I grew up in a musical family and I was in the church choir for a while and I tried out different things - I realized I loved singing so I tried out girl groups, and they never worked out so I went solo but I was still never sure about what kind of genre I wanted to do until I met him [Mi-

chael] and it all clicked. He was the same way too; he was a solo artist as well.

*Criterion:* It's like you two were meant to find each other musically too.

Michael: Exactly.

Carissa: It's crazy. It's just all in God's plan.

*Criterion:* How did you guys form Us? How did you decide to make music together?

Carissa: We both love music and we thought, "We're together and music is fun to us, let's try making a cover video." We posted it and people responded really well to it and they really loved it. People told us, "I love you on your own, Michael, I love you own your own, Carissa, but together you're just somethin' else." [In response to that] we thought, "Alright, we should keep doing this." It just felt right.

*Criterion:* So earlier you said that you want to make positive music, but what are your influences?

Michael: We love a group called The Civil Wars, we love this new folk-pop genre that's coming in - Mumford & Sons, The Lumineers - we love that stuff. Previously, she [Carissa] was really inspired by Lauryn Hill and Esperanza Spalding. For me, it was John Mayer and John Legend. We have kind of like a r&b, gospel background, but when we came together we found this folk-pop which is kind of interesting.

*Criterion:* Wow, that is a really interesting mix. Do you guys have anything else you would like to add, or have anyone know about your music?

Carissa: We're coming out with some new music this summer. We're hoping to put out an EP. We've been writing a lot and we're really excited - we're growing into more of the Mumford & Sons route this time since we love them and it's just fun for us. We're really looking forward to that.

*Criterion:* Awesome. Thank you guys so much for taking the time to do an interview.

Carissa: No problem!

Michael: Thanks for talking to us.

During Carissa and Michael's set, many were snapping photos and taking videos on their cell phones. Their pop-acoustic sound was very easy to get into, and their voices blended together perfectly. The people in the crowd seemed to really enjoy the music.







**ARTS**

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# EVENING AT THE OPERA

by Kayla Santos

La Sierra University Department of Music's An Evening at the Opera Gala, what a delight! At 8pm on Saturday April 27th the rafters of Hole Memorial Auditorium reverberated with the melodic arias of composers such as Mozart, Handel, Offenbach, Rossini, and more. With Lauren Johnson at the lighting board and Sergio Leiva and Elvin S. Rodriquez at the piano, the students, faculty, and guest singers awed the audience, performance after performance. The gowns and costumes were both beautiful and whimsical. The quality and skill of the adept performers moved the audience with waves of joy, sadness, laughter, and quiet wonder. It was the concert to attend this quarter.

According to Melissa Totten and Jon Payne, two of the evening's performers, an average of 7 to 7 ½ hours went into rehearsal per song per week. The dedication of the singers certainly paid off. Miss Pat Williams, an audience member who has attended many full scale operas, commented "it is well rehearsed and presented," and "What a treat." When asked if she would come again she said "[Yes] ...you come because it's good." She heard about this event while attending LaSU's previous Department of Music event. Miss Velma Wellborn, another member of the audience, read of the event in her local news paper and was excited to come. She has attended many Department of Music events and keeps coming back for more. The Department of Music certainly brought the campus, and community, a culture rich night of beautiful operatic entertainment.

Dr. Lee, who gave two performances, was the lady in charge of the night. The gala gave credit to her abilities as a vocal coach and performer. She chose the songs and the performers, and what an excellent job she did. It is obvious that she knows her students' abilities well and gave them songs that would highlight their talents to the fullest.

If you were unfortunate enough to miss the Saturday night concert, fear not, the department of music has a concert at least once every quarter and an operatic performance at least once a year. You will have your chance to partake in the delight of La Sierra voices. So what if you have the night free but no way to get to campus? The free performances are streamed live here. If you would like to be notified of upcoming events, send your request to be added to the email list via [music@lasierra.edu](mailto:music@lasierra.edu).

Are you a student interested in voice lessons? The music department offers a variety of course options. Prefer private lessons? You can contact Dr. Lee or Professor Barsamian for more information.

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The Department of Music certainly brought the campus, and community, a culture rich night of beautiful operatic entertainment.

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# MOVIE REVIEW:42

by Alyssa Hunt



Image: [theschoolphilly.com](http://theschoolphilly.com)

In the midst of a wild crowd booing and yelling racial slurs, Pee Wee Reese, a Caucasian baseball player for the Brooklyn Dodgers hung his arm around the first ever African American baseball player and said, “Maybe tomorrow we’ll all wear forty two, that way they won’t tell us apart.”

Sixty-seven years later, every year on April 15, all major league baseball players wear the number “42” on their uniforms in memory of the baseball legend, Jackie Robinson.

The movie 42 begins in the year 1947 when segregation was still in full swing. The beloved sport of baseball had a total 400 players, all of whom were white. Everyone was content with the way things were run until Brooklyn Dodger owner Branch Ricky (Harrison Ford) decided to take a stand and end racism in the sport he loved most. After much research, Ricky handpicked Jackie Robinson (Chadwick Boseman) to be the first African American player to ever join major league baseball.

Robinson’s road was not easy. Once the Dodgers broke the news that an African American was on the team, Robinson’s life went under the microscope. Everywhere he went, racism followed. He faced racial slurs and derogatory jokes from the crowd, he was constantly being hit by pitch, and his

own teammates petitioned to have him kicked off the team. Not only did he have to silently endure being called various versions of the “N” word, his family and his life were in constant threat. But Jackie had baseball and he knew that in order to be the hero that the black community was calling him, he could not quit.

The Jackie Robinson story is important to history because he single handily changed the course of racism in American baseball. While the movie was rather accurate, director Brian Helgeland spent very little time focusing on the negatives of Robinson as a person. It’s mentioned at the beginning of the film that Robinson was short tempered, but we hardly see it. Also, the movie contained a handful of scenes that lasted less than a minute, which added nothing to the plot of the story.

Although bothersome, the two main flaws of the film can be easily forgiven just by watching the amazing acting. Harrison Ford portrayed Branch Ricky in possibly the best performance of his career. His chemistry with newcomer Chadwick Bosewell successfully showed that not all Whites were bad and not all Blacks gave up hope. Actors Nicole Beharie and Andre Holland also did remarkable jobs portraying the role of Robinson’s wife and the first African American sports reporter.

The movie 42 tells an incredibly hurtful yet motivational story of a time where America was still harboring racism and inequality toward the African American community. This movie is more than a film about baseball. It is an emotional story of one man’s courage to break the color barrier for the sport he loved and for the people who called him a hero.

Hunt scale 8/10

# SPORTS

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# A SEARCH FOR CONSISTENCY

by *Jonah Valdez*

A few weeks ago, I took the liberty to sit down with both basketball coaches of La Sierra University. With the men's basketball coach Derek Robins, our goal was to rationalize one of their worst losing seasons in the program's recent past, as well as discuss the near future. Women's coach Robert Castillo and I discussed how his team continues to progress, and what he hopes to accomplish as a new addition to our campus.

## Gradual Success

Although wins aren't everything, they are usually an accurate measuring stick when evaluating a sports program. With that said, the La Sierra University women's basketball program had undergone obvious difficulties last season, culminating with a record of 5-24. The Golden Eagles community was craving for a fresh start. Enter former Pacific Union College coach Robert Castillo. Coaching is all he has known since his early years as a part-time college athlete and high school coach. Subsequently, he has collected multiple seasons of coaching experience, eleven of which have been spent in the collegiate level. Since switching loyalties to the blue and gold, coach Castillo has been getting along just fine during his first year as the head coach of the La Sierra University women's basketball team, and has worked toward a solid record of 14-16.

The wins, however, didn't come easy. Starting the season with only four wins and twelve losses, eight of which came uninterrupted, success appeared to be further than expected. "In any type of transition situation, players getting used to a new coach, the coach getting used to new players, and then ultimately, I think even the bigger part of that is players getting used to their new teammates," coach Castillo said while also bringing up the fact that out of the fourteen players on the roster, only four were returning athletes, none of which were seniors.

Nevertheless, the women's basketball team has compiled nine wins and five losses during the last two months of play to close the season on a rather positive note. Just coming up short of a

playoff bid, the team has come to know what it feels like to win. Still, coach Castillo maintains a very grounded approach to the entire ordeal. For him, improvements and what the team can fix is the main focus. "An ongoing process," coach calls it. "I can't sit down and tell you we are where we want to be. We haven't been very consistent. It's an ongoing process of becoming more consistent, trusting each other, and doing all the things necessary to becoming team, and I think that's the ultimate goal . . . becoming a team."

Coach Castillo further emphasized that winning isn't everything. His intent was to foster a "culture of character [that] comes before anything else, and the team comes before anything else." Rather than simply striving for tallies in the win column, the coaching staff has also subscribed to the old John Wooden philosophy of a "peace of mind attained only through self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to do the best of which you're capable." Certain players that have consistently illustrated such a mindset are juniors Natalia Hawthorne and Victoria Lowe. "They come in day in and day out, and you know they're going to give their best effort, and that's key for some of the young players to kind of feed off that example," coach Castillo said of the standout guards. While leading through sheer play, displaying their stellar skills, being more vocal, however, is something that he and his leaders are continuing to work on.

As the season has come to a close, the coaching staff is set to hit the scouting trail, searching for players that fit the mold of belonging to an athletic department that coach Castillo calls "a young one with a lot of room to grow," hoping that with each season, further improvements will come.

"We've shown glimpses of what we're capable of. It's just a matter of being consistent." Therefore, once these athletes find and establish this treasured trait of consistency, the campus will behold the grand, full picture of the team's capabilities, in all of its entirety and splendor. With the absence of any seniors on this year's team, all of the players will have a chance to return and build off of what they have already established. Trying to learn from

this eventful adjustment phase, Coach Castillo and the entire team appear poised to soon show the extent of what they can truly become.

## A Conclusion Ushers in New Beginnings

“It’s been a tough one. It’s been a tough one.” Those were among the first words that left men’s basketball coach Derek Robbins as we took our seats for our brief interview. The grim and realistic phrase is an accurate embodiment of both coach Robbins’ and the team’s sentiments, as they have fought their way to an earnest record of 5-24. The past several years have been decorated with a perfect conference record, a conference championship bid, Coach of the Year honors, and a conference MVP award. Thus, the plethora of losses has been an obvious source of frustration and perplexity for a program that has recently grown accustomed to winning. Last month, the punishing 2012-2013 season finally came to a close.

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However, for Coach Robbins and the La Sierra University men’s basketball program, the end is only the beginning.

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For seniors Joshua Zonker and Bennett Shaw their basketball careers may be over, but life past the court looks bright as both are finishing up their graduate and postgraduate courses. Zonker and coach Robbins shared their first year together here at La Sierra in 2008. Since then, the basketball program has come a long way. “My first year was horrible,” coach Robbins plainly stated. At that time, there were limited amount of uniforms, one less away uniform than home a one, forcing coach Robbins to cut a player. “The uniforms were dingy, they had stains on them. Shooting shirts were t-shirts that had been washed so much they had faded in color.” Pitiful equipment, near-empty bleachers, and a meager showing in the win column highlighted that 2008-2009 season. In the midst of the deplorable conditions, Zonker expressed his distaste for losing. His coach’s response? A bold promise. “If you stick with me, this thing is going to change.” Since then, coach Robbins

has delivered, sparking a winning home record for much of his time with the program, as well as watching Zonker transform into what he calls, “The epitome of a student athlete,” a team captain, 4.0 student, and a summa cum laude graduate.

“That’s what this university should be about. Number one, follow God, number two, graduating, and being the example on the campus.” Through outreach, a common team mindset, personal conversations in the office, not about “that round thing,” but about family, encouragement through hardship, and prayer, the team continues to develop as not only great players on the court, but also “men of character,” something that will last, even after the gym lights shut down, once and for all.

Even so, through the encouragement and unity, this Eagles team struggled to find continuity on the court. The obvious problem with this past season was finding the inability to establish consistency. “There’s been spurts. If you see the spirit in our guys, we can play,” coach commented while recalling back to the amazing twenty-five-point comeback against a solid New Hope team and a solid showing against the highly regarded Cal-Baptist. But still, the team had stomached painful twelve and six game losing streaks. And a reason for the inconsistency? “The maturity is not there,” coach Robbins explained. Hampered by ineligibility issues with certain key players, and the departure of six seniors from last year’s squad, several of them being former All-Americans and MVPs, the challenges were significant. “You have to take a little lumps, but we’ll come back next year.” Certain positives that have been achieved are getting playing time for most players, building court awareness, learning, and growth.

While the issues have been plenty, coach Robbins assures a brighter future that is looming on the smoggy Riverside horizon. Coach Robbins has already titled next season’s team as, “probably the best ever created.” These are bold words for the passionate coach whose team finished with twenty-four losses. Nevertheless, Coach Robbins has a reason to his rather assertive rhyme. Instead of just sheer optimism and irrational hopes, coach Robbins’ positivity is placed on tangible sources of confidence:

### Talented and skilled recruits and transfers.

With the return of La Sierra guard and former conference MVP, Daveon Woods, and the transfer



of certain veteran collegiate players such as former Cal-Poly Pomona guard, Robert Summers, the second leading scorer on their 2009 NCAA Division II National Championship team, as well as “other players that are very competitive from Div. I programs,” dramatic improvement is inevitable. “Our seasoning [will be] better. When you have a good competitive team, you have a good mix,” coach Robbins said while pointing to a list of next year’s probable roster. “We’ll compete against some UC schools and probably beat them. That’s the kind of talent coming in. So we’re very blessed.”

So the big question is, why La Sierra? Why are these talented players flocking in to a small private Christian University, tucked away in the hills of Riverside? Here is coach Robbins’ rationale:

“Players tell me, ‘Why not? You’re going to give us an opportunity to play. We like what you do, we like your system, and we like the idea that guys are coming in, and we want to follow them.’ Sometimes one draw can bring in players. One player can bring two players, and three players, so it becomes a domino effect. That right there will get you to build all your programs. That will bring in athletes and it will bring in revenue.”

As we conclude a season that has been a struggle for coach, athlete, and student supporter alike, the future can only get brighter. With a mixture of this season’s players that have endured a grueling test of will and heart this past season and the top talent coming in, Coach Robbins doesn’t just want to hint at success. His goal is to bring a national title to a campus that is still warming up to the idea of winning. If accomplished, it would definitely be a long way from the dingy, stained jerseys, discolored warm-up t-shirts, and the depressing sight of near-empty bleachers. For the La Sierra University basketball program, the end simply marks a brighter beginning.







# RELIGION

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LA SIERRA HALL



# DR. GINGER HARWOOD: A FAREWELL

by Jaylene Chung

To the many students who have had the privilege of taking a class from Dr. Ginger Hanks-Harwood: you know what we are losing in having to say farewell as she moves back home to Northern California. To those who have not had the privilege: you missed out, dearly, and not just because you missed an opportunity to say you took a class from Tom Hank's cousin (I hope this isn't a secret, because it isn't anymore).

Dr. Harwood received her PhD in social ethics from the Iliff School of Theology at the University of Denver in 1991. She then came to La Sierra University officially in 1997 as an Associate Professor of Religious and Theological Studies, teaching courses in social ethics, theology, and Adventist history. She is prolific in both writing and lecturing, as well as a special side project that some of you might not know about – Ellen White cosplay. I have seen her impersonate our dear resident prophet of Adventism once, and regardless of your opinion on Ellen White, Dr. Harwood's ability to recite whole passages of her writing from memory—while of course, wearing a period appropriate outfit—is a simultaneously bizarre, fascinating, and impressive experience.

In addition to being extremely well versed in Adventist history, Dr. Harwood has a great interest in social ethics. She was influential in founding the Women's Resource Center (WRC) at La Sierra University, which was the first WRC established within the Adventist church. The WRC provides various programs and services that work to provide information and education on women's issues, such as gender equality in the workplace, sexual abuse, equal pay, domestic violence, etc., in order to spread awareness and facilitate change. It also focuses on collecting and organizing information on the history of women in Adventism, so that we may better understand women's roles in the modern church. Dr. Harwood also co-founded Adventist Women for Peace, a growing movement that advocates peacemaking in all aspects of life, whether personal, social, political, or economic. This group emphasizes the need to learn from the good and bad in history to ensure respect, compassion, awareness, reconciliation, justice, and peace for all people.

Dr. Harwood's passion for social justice and appreciation of people and their stories can be seen firsthand in her classes. Though I only had the opportunity to take two of her classes during my studies here, the time I spent with her has made a profound impact in my own life. Her knowledge in a surprising variety of fields is admirable, but has

always impressed me, on countless occasions, is her patience and ability to connect with students, despite our tendency to think naively and speak rashly. Even though she has cutting wit and a bit of sass that makes you wonder whether she's making fun with you, or making fun of you (from what I can tell, it's both), it can be seen that she deeply cares for her students and wants them to learn. She seems to know intuitively what it is we need to hear, whether it is encouragement or a lecture (and not always the kind you get in class), and I have always benefited from it.

Dr. Harwood, though your move out of Southern California is certainly understandable, I know you will be greatly missed by your students, colleagues, and friends here at La Sierra. Thank you for your care, hard work, and passion. May you continue to champion peace, learning, and justice wherever you go.

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Handwritten text in Cyrillic script is visible throughout the image, including on the background paper, the yellow container lid, and the watch face. Legible words include "спасибо", "письмо", "часы", "рубли", "платон", "государственный", "мемориал", "платон", "государственный", "мемориал", "платон", "государственный", "мемориал".





# ESSAY



# IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

*Isaac Carreón*

History is actually pretty hard subject to learn; not dissuade anyone from perusing a degree in history or not acknowledging how difficult the sciences are, but history has its own way of rocking foundations thought to be true by many. For instance, did you know that Hebrew slaves might not have built the Egyptian Pyramids? There is no historical record of slaves building the pyramids or even Hebrews held captive in Egypt. This is strange as ancient Egyptians took meticulous records of their history as best they could. Another interesting historical inaccuracy is that the word “ye” used in the Middle Ages, was not the grammatical article that was later replaced by the article we now use as “the”. “Ye” was “the”, as in people of the middle ages still said “the” the way we say it now but just spelled it differently. Here’s one last historical factoid, most of the ancient Greek sculptures were not left that white colored marble we see today, they were in fact painted. Although the statues have lasted the centuries, their coated paints have not.

So what the purpose in mentioning this stuff? The point is that history is extremely vast. Historians need epochs as midpoints to be able to remember and record all events. Even minor details can unveil important aspects about a culture that were not previously known. Take for example the paint on the Greek statues mentioned above, was the paint they used created in Greece, if so, what techniques were used to make it? Or was the paint imported from another country? What other trading relations did Greece have as a result? This is all besides the point of the reason why they would have painted their statues in the first place. There is so much into learning history that it can be overwhelming. Now imagine putting every event, every culture’s progress, everything, into a cohesive timeline. Without a way to sort it all out, it would be a mess.

This problem was something that all historians faced as each had different epoch as a reference point. The seemingly solved in 525 A.D. by an abbot named Dionysius Exiguus. Dionysius believed that a new epoch of time should be implemented honoring the growing expansion of Christianity, which at the time was already rivaling all other beliefs. Another reason why Dionysius believed it was time to change the known epoch was that current time divider was the Diocletian Era, known then as Anno Diocletiani. Its namesake was in honor of a ruthless emperor, so believing history deserved something more positive as a

midpoint marker in the timeline of history, Dionysius constructed the term Anno Domini, meaning “in the year of the Lord” or “in the year of our Lord” and Before Christ in reference to Christianity. We know this today as B.C. and A.D. These dividers of historical reference grew in use and eventually introduced into the Gregorian calendar we use today. While the B.C. and A.D. isn’t perfect, (i.e. not accounting for a year zero) its still widely used.

Still, the terms B.C. and A.D. have been the reason for much debate for historians. Many historians feel that these terms are too insensitive to people who do not believe in Christianity, and so they prefer the terms B.C.E and C.E, “before common era and common era”. As a history major I can understand where these historians are coming from, there must always be a sense of objectivity when studying the subject to get a balanced view of history. That being said, the case can still be argued that the epoch of time still be referred to B.C. and A.D.

Epochs are epochs because they mark a significant turning point in history. It cannot be denied that Christianity has played a titanic role in history. It has been the start of religious sects, wars, and avocations of peace for over 2000 years spanning to just about every corner of the earth. History, whether people like to admit it or not, owes a lot to Christianity. It deserves its own epoch.

It should remain B.C. and A.D. until the next big turning point of our history. When that time comes, the next epoch will take over, whether Christians like it or not. What the next namesake will be is anyone’s guess. Hopefully it’ll have something to do with interstellar space travel.

The study of history is still and will forever be relevant, despite seeming tedious when you took that world history class in high school. History should always be constantly studied because history is ever moving, it chronicles the crowning achievements of humanity and for better or worse, and our footprints will continue and forever will be recorded into the tapestry of time.







**SPRING**