

# CRITERION

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THE STUDENT NEWS MAGAZINE OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

OCT 2013

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**LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY** STUDENT MAGAZINE  
**OCTOBER**

**2013**

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

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As most animals on this planet, human beings are creatures of habit. In a social context, the human race is raised with certain social norms, influenced by the various factors of environment, such as parents, religion, peers, the media and entertainment. Within each community humans tend to ease into a flow, a place of normalcy in terms of each particular social construct. During some instances, humans will allow this norm to lead their decisions and guide their ideas. This norm creates comfort for its constituents.

Comfort is essential to human life, but as learners of our own race, we must consider the idea that absolute surrender to this social process may lead to inaction and complacency.

At the Criterion, we love to ask questions that evoke serious thought, consideration, and ultimately, discussion and dialogue. We present these questions not to simply shake moral foundations and to cause havoc around campus, rather we are only interested in pursuing the truth. Consequently, however, the truth may lead to unease, discomfort, and a certain degree of ache. I believe that to have such an adverse reaction is a part of being human, creatures of habit, animals of this planet, as mentioned above. It is healthful to present certain questions that test our usual way of thinking and societal norms. Nevertheless, we are bound to resist. These intrinsic reactions of negative disposition toward change, however, are no excuse or pass for our race to ignore progress and advancement. We believe that with solid journalism and constructive assertions, the Criterion can stand as not only a hub for social discussion and engagement, but ultimately an outlet of the student voice; your voice.

You, as the reader, are our main concern.

Peace,

**Jonah Valdez**

Editor-in-Chief

# NEWS



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...POOLE and JOHN FOWEL

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NEWSPAPER

**LEO MCKINSTON**

**'THE EU NOW FEELS IT CAN RAID ALL OUR BANK ACCOUNTS'**

**THE COLUMNIST WHO TALKS SENSE**

**GROCERY SHOPPING FOR A**

**WEEK**

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**FREE PULLOUT**

**Fabulous Sunday holidays for**

**Daily**

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013

**For centuries he freedom of expression and Miliband to**

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**THE**



Monday March 18

**Free pullout every day this week: 30 best villages**

# LA SIERRA AND OBAMACARE

by Jessica Hermosillo

As of January 1, 2014 you could be fined if you have not obtained healthcare as directed by the new Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This directive caused overloads on the state's new online health insurance market as thousands tried to get an idea of how much they were expected to pay for insurance.

"California took full advantage of the federal law and has created the market place to assist and guide individuals in finding the right plan at the right price according to their needs," said Sandra Perez, former director of the Patients Advocate Office for the state of California.

The Health Care Act came into affect Tuesday, October 1st, 2013. This act achieves the following goals: sets the minimum standards for what health insurances must provide; allow individuals to stay under their parents insurance till the age of twenty-six; helps lower-income Americans obtain insurance; prevent insurance companies from denying coverage to anyone with a preexisting condition, like asthma.

The act aims to guarantee everyone has valid health insurance as of the beginning of 2014. Those without insurance by the cut-off date may incur a penalty fee added to the federal taxes of that year. According to Covered California, the online health exchange for California, the fine for 2014 for those that are required to have insurance and don't comply is 1 percent of their yearly income or \$95 per person.

Adults that have children will also be fined \$47.50 if they do not provide their child with health care. After two years, in 2016, the penalty for uninsured adults increases to 2.5 percent or \$695 per person, depending on whichever is greater.

Like many other states, California has created an online insurance market where consumers, like La Sierra students, can compare different health plans according to price and benefits.

Although the Affordable Care Act was initially created with the work force in mind - not students seeking health insurance - there are many factors students need to be aware of.

Currently, La Sierra has the Student Health Plan (SHP) and Student Health Services, whose fees are covered under the comprehensive fee charged to all students at the start of each school year. This fee pays for many of other services that, we as students, presently have, for example the La Sierra gym. While other universities do offer the option to opt out of the health care plans that they provide, La Sierra does not have that option available to students because all students are required to pay the comprehensive fee at registration.

The SHP is a self-funded plan, meaning that the university allocates money from the comprehensive fee to also fund the SHP, which is designed to cover health services that students use outside of the Student Health Services. But, to clarify, Student Health Services is unlike the SHP in that students do not use the SHP if they go to Student

Health Services. The services that Student Health offers are free and according to Hurda Duran, Director of Student Health Services, are "different but together because students need to see health services before the student is able to go outside of the university." However, if a student, for some reason, needs services outside of La Sierra they must notify Student Health Services within seventy two hours.

As of September 14th the SHP implemented certain changes and is in accordance with the Affordable Care act for the 2013-14 year, but further changes need to be made in order to satisfy requirements put in place for the 2014-15 year.

Through the changes implemented, students are able to receive a variety of benefits. One change to the SHP is that the plan now offers preventative health services that include physical exams, certain immunizations, and contraceptives. The plan did not originally include preventative care but now has to in order to comply with the requirements set forth by the Affordable Care Act. Another way in which the SHP has changed is that student insurance now covers all 12 months. That means that students are now covered all three quarters plus the summer session. As for the changes that are soon to come, Duran stated that meetings were in place to see how La Sierra will incorporate those changes from the Act.

Other services include inpatient and outpatient services like hospital visits, emergency health services, mental health serves, tests, and rehabilitative and physical therapy services.

What the plan does not cover are dental treatments, vision health services, or provide services for injuries resulting from interscholastic, intercollegiate, or professional sports, as well as competitions or contest. The latter are covered by a separate insurance plan through the athletics department of the university.

The new health care act also gives coverage for those with preexisting conditions. Before the act, many with such conditions would be denied. Now they have a chance to receive the same opportunities as those without preexisting conditions.

Now, does having the La Sierra Student health plan count as health insurance for the new act? Yes, it does. Students who are covered by the SHP will have nothing to worry about as far as penalties are concerned.

"That is the message that I want to pass- that La Sierra students are ok for now," said Duran.

The government shutdown, caused over this issue of the Affordable Care Act, only adds to the confusion and adds questions. But Duran wants to make sure students know that "Student life always looks for the best for the students," she said. "If you take care of your people well, you spend less, and serve them well."



# BUILDING WALLS: RENOVATING LA SIERRA

by Max Gutierrez

The La Sierra University website details its campus as “[A]n institution nationally acclaimed for its diverse campus [...]”. Recently a brand new building called the Zapara School of Business opened, marking a new era. In addition, over 70 renovations are planned for the 2013/2014 school year, most of which were completed over summer. This has caused rise in tuition, but is helping modify school structures.

Gladwyn Hall, the school’s new communication department, was completely renovated inside and out, but did not include any demolitions because it is historically protected by the city of Riverside. The school managed to complete the renovations at a thirty percent reduction in cost due to the non-removal of walls and supporting materials.

SALSU, La Sierra’s student association, contributed their services to remodel the external landscape, hardscape, and also upgrade to sound/lighting systems of the outdoor amphitheater next to the Hamilton Terrace. These renovations will greatly improve the performances and concerts held throughout the year.

The school’s TV and Film Department, which resides in Palmer Hall, now has a new lobby. Including a PlayStation 3 console with Netflix streaming capabilities. The improvements, done over the course of twelve months, also consist of a new soundstage, a production room and technologically better classrooms. With the introduction of a new film major, La Sierra is successfully adapting to the 21st century.

The Eagle’s Nest café is another space the school targeted to remodel. Including removing a wall to expand the once undersized eating area, and even added a colorful menu at the top of the register.

The girl’s dorms went through some essential renovations. A lot of the old carpeting was replaced. Only rooms with the greatest needs received the new carpeting for financial reasons. Angwin Hall completely upgraded, or rather updated their restrooms and kitchen. The restrooms were given new tile, granite countertops, and sinks. The kitchen was given a fresh theme and brand new appliances. The decaying, wooden fire escape stairs were also replaced with a \$400,000 metal staircase to guarantee safety.

The Sierra Towers were updated by giving the lobbies a new look and brand new furniture on all seven floors. \$2 Million is being put into updating and fixing the heat ventilation and air condition. The elevators, which has caused inconveniences and been out of service, will be replaced for \$325,000. These renovations are necessary for a more comfortable and safe living at our school. La Sierra is motivated to ease up the college experience for its students.

There are still a lot of upcoming projects planned for the rest of the school year. The prior School of

Business building, currently closed, is being renovated into a Humanities building. It will house English and an expanded writing center on the first floor, and Politics and Society on the second floor. This is expected to be ready for classes by winter quarter.

Perhaps the most surprising is the Starbucks and Jamba Juice that will be on the school’s premises. News on both projects is still yet to develop, although this shows the new heights La Sierra is striving to reach.

The student’s reactions to the school’s renovations are mostly positive. Most wish La Sierra had more modern buildings like in other schools such as UCR. There was a great deal of anticipation for the new Zapara building, simply because it was huge and modern. Student Vanessa Haro, who is spending her second year at La Sierra says, “It’s a great use of our tuition [...] it’s pretty nice to see a lot of visual improvements at our school.”

With the past year’s drop in students, money for these types of projects was scarce. Now, with the increasing amount of students and money saved, renovations are finally able to take place. It takes a lot of money just to keep a school like ours running daily. Tuition at La Sierra does costs more than most colleges, but it still remains relatively cheap compared to most private colleges. Regardless, tuition is rising to cover these renovations.

La Sierra exhibits abundant variety, from the students, to the buildings on campus; both of varying ages. The Zapara School of Business is the new student on campus. Gladwyn Hall is the returning alumnus, coming to bring new experience and perspective. The old buildings on campus are a testament to what the school was and still is. The new buildings and renovations are a look into the future of a school greatly expanding.





# FEATURES



# BRIDGING THE GAP: DORMERS AND COMMUTERS

*By: Nicole Samila*

The desire to belong is etched within us all. Whether we realize it or not, each one of us has seen or experienced separation from others—eating alone in the cafeteria, sitting alone at University Worship, or going through a day of school without ever truly talking to anyone. These are all scenarios where a deep, prodding sensation of loneliness can settle like snow. Do you feel disconnected from La Sierra University? Is this a place you can call home...a place where you can honestly say you belong?

Pinpointing the direct cause of peer separation within our school is like waking up for an 8:00 AM class... difficult and arguably impossible. Despite this hurdle, I have found one glaring and defined division of the student body. What is it may you ask? Dormers and commuters.

Over the past few days, I have had the opportunity to speak to students on each side of the spectrum: dormers, commuters, dormers that used to commute, and commuters that used to dorm (I think I landed every possible option!). Chatting with these students pelted me with a kaleidoscope of opinions and perspectives. My hope is that, we, as a student body can blend and digest all this information to create a solution for this needless separation within community.

When asked about their commuter counterparts, dormers admitted that they spent less time with their commuter friends compared to their dorming friends. The obvious reason behind this statement is due to the fact that commuters are on campus less. After classes have concluded for the day, commuters, more often than not, head back home whereas dormers have the opportunity to socialize into the wee hours of the night.

Many school social activities such as The Back to School Bash, Rendezvous, The Talent Show, Open Mic, and so on all occur in the late evening. When questioned, commuters admitted that they rarely, if ever, attended these events and not because they didn't want to, but because of how late into the night they were. Think about it. After classes are over, there's really no point in waiting around for hours. We can all kill sometime at the library, but one can only stay there for so long, right?

Another idea that was touched on multiple times in my interviews was the role of convenience in dorm life. Commuters confessed that commuting to LSU everyday can, at times, be inconvenient and very stressful. We all know that gas is expensive and that traffic can get hectic in the Inland Empire. Cringing after you realize that you just spent \$50 bucks on gas, or being late to class on the day you have a test are things commuters have to deal with or live in the fear of. In addition to this, when a commuter leaves something at home it's not as simple as running back up to your dorm and picking up whatever it is you forgot. Sometimes it involves a long and tedious commute back home. How can we fix these problems?

Furthermore, commuters confessed that they felt less connected to La Sierra University (LSU), expressing that they felt very ill-informed about all the events and

organization our school has to offer. Many didn't know of the school Newsletter called the Criterion and others were surprised to learn that we actually have intramurals and vespers every Friday night called First Service. Commuters also admitted that they felt like their college experience was more academically oriented and highly imbalanced. Go to school, go home, do homework, and repeat. It is such a shame to think that this is the reality of our school. College is beyond classes, grades, and homework (although these are all highly important in themselves!); college is also about making connections and meeting people who will remain a part of your life forever. How unfortunate to think that some commuters are missing out on all these amazing experiences and memories just because they never knew they existed. Begging the question, "Is ignorance really bliss?"

When asked if they felt like commuters were less involved in school activities, dormers agreed but also pointed out that life is what you make it. Nothing is stopping commuters from getting involved in everything our school has to offer, it is honestly just a matter of finding something you are passionate about and then jumping on the bandwagon. While this is true, there is still the lack of communication and the pesky commute to and from LSU. On the bright side, these are minor problems that could easily be mended with some planning or revising. By revisiting topics such as these, our student voice could provide direction for student association leaders to rework some of these matters. One such way would be for SALSU to change the times they hold events to better suit everyone. Encouraging different LSU organizations to make posters or hand out flyers to ensure everyone on campus knows what's going on could also be a potential solution to the problem. Moreover, many students are oblivious to the existence of OrgSync, which is a great system that circulates all the latest happenings at LSU. Ultimately, the answer lies in each one of us; through conversation and debate we can create a more cohesive community within our school.

So now it's your turn, students of La Sierra University. Whether you are a commuter or a dormer, get involved, but don't stop there—make it a point to get others involved as well! If there's a concert, worship service, social night, or whatever it may be, tell someone! Invite commuters to your dorm so you can make their free time here more enjoyable. Or find other ways to make the commuters feel at home! Commuters, don't be afraid to get involved; take every opportunity you have to get to know the people on campus! Don't let your priceless college days slip away just because you don't live on campus. The fact that you don't live here doesn't make you any less apart of this school as the next person! As a student body, we can work together to tear down the wall that separates commuters from dormers and make ourselves a true community as our LSU motto claims. Like with everything else in life, all we have to do is take it one step at a time. It should be our goal to turn La Sierra University into a place that feels like home for everyone because that's what college should be to us. A place we can call home.





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*WHETHER YOU ARE A COMMUTER OR A DORMER,  
GET INVOLVED... THE ANSWER LIES IN EACH ONE OF  
US.*

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# REVEALING THE BEST-KEPT SECRET

By: Chandler Jordana



As many former students can tell you, the Adventist Colleges Abroad program is nothing short of extraordinary. Few other programs can offer starry-eyed La Sierra University undergraduates an opportunity to see the world and study a foreign language while embracing a new culture. ACA is enlightening, enriching, and edifying. What's more, ACA actually originated at La Sierra. Therefore, you as a La Sierra student can take partial credit for the creation of the aforementioned utopia.

However, if you're a student who has never studied outside of the country, I can understand your potential frustration. You have likely grown very tired of hearing about your friends' "amazing experiences in France" or "incredible trips around South America". I can also empathize with you if lunchtime conversations that previously consisted of a Del Taco vs. In-N-Out debate have turned into pseudo-intellectual banter about medieval architecture. We get it; returned students are now more "cultured" than the rest of us. But, as the 1940s political adage goes, "if you can't lick 'em, jine 'em". That's exactly what I, a former ACA student in both Spain and France, decided to do.

I cannot deny the monumental impact that ACA has had on my life. As outlandish as it might sound,

hacky-sacking on top of medieval castles and Paris runs at midnight played a crucial role in my personal development. Such experiences force someone to leave their comfort zone, which is kind of like the friend zone; you're used to it but you'd really like a more profound experience. Let me present to you a considerably "more profound experience".

To my knowledge, all of the ACA programs are both laud worthy and life-changing. However, one school stands out as perhaps the program's best-kept secret, Middle East University, located in Beirut, Lebanon. If you have any preconceived Western notions about the Middle East, oblige me and pretend like you don't for a few minutes. Allow me to hypothetically take you on a journey to the beautiful Mediterranean coastal city of Beirut. In this east-meets-west metropolis, Muslim and Christian, conservative and liberal, French and Arabic, all converge to inhabit the "Paris of the Middle East". I have been to six continents on God's green earth and have yet to encounter a city more cosmopolitan than Beirut.

Atop a quiet hill, encircled by this noisy metropolis, sits Middle East University. Overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and Beirut's urban sprawl is a small, close-knit university with a big heart. Founded in 1939, the cornerstone for Middle East College was laid in 1946

by Bechara El-Khoury, then president of Lebanon. In June of 2001, the name was officially changed from Middle East College to Middle East University, an institution that is currently ranked in the top 20 of all Lebanese facilities of higher education. Nearly all of the programs offered here are also available at La Sierra. Therefore, two primary reasons exist to consider MEU, the ACA Arabic program, and the Master's in Islamic Studies program. No other Adventist institution currently offers either one.

Why study Arabic? According to the Department of Modern Languages at Georgia Tech University, Arabic is the official language in 22 countries. It is the fifth most spoken language in the world, possessing more than 200 million native speakers, in addition to countless speakers of Arabic as a second language. It is also one of six official languages of the United Nations.

Arabic is a language vital in both commerce and politics. Fluent speakers are in high demand within many sectors of the U.S. government. Students studying business, economics, international relations, modern languages, communication, history, poetry, mathematics, and any of the sciences could benefit from a year of Arabic studies.

Dr. Larry Lichtenwalter is the new dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology and the Director of the Center for Islamic Studies. He holds a PhD in divinity from Andrews University. Students studying either religion or theology could benefit immensely from a semester (or two) abroad in Lebanon to better understand the monotheistic religion of Islam. Courses cover a variety of topics, including the foundations of Islam, the Quran, the Arabic language, and the roles that Islam plays in society today. For those of you receiving a degree in something other than religion, theology, or philosophy, Islamic Studies courses could serve as a welcomed break to an otherwise monotonous or rigorous academic schedule. However, if the Islamic Studies Center doesn't appeal to you, perhaps you should consider studying Arabic.

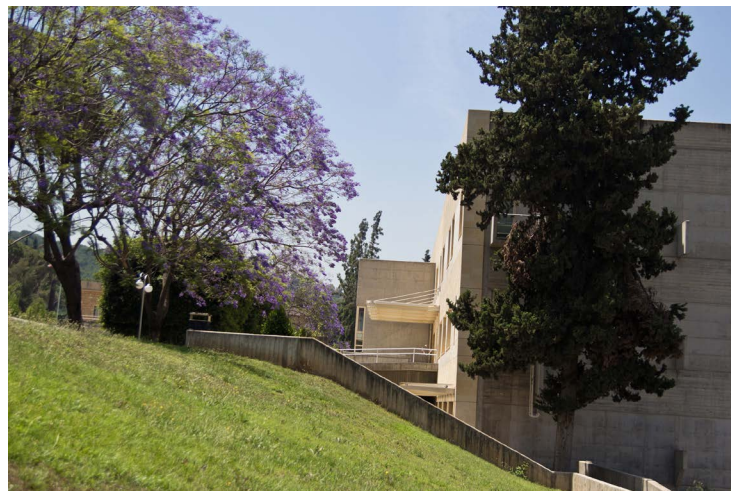
The ACA program in Lebanon possesses many similarities to that of its sister schools worldwide, giving students the opportunity to travel to fascinating and historically-significant places. MEU's program takes students to the United Arab Emirates (Dubai, Abu Dhabi), Jordan (Amman, Petra and the Dead Sea), and of course all throughout Lebanon (Baalbek, Byblos, Sidon, Tyre, etc). The program also fosters an environment for learning, while allowing students to remain connected to their home universities. Yet, aside from all of the previously

stated similarities, two key differences separate MEU from all of the rest. MEU offers fast Wi-Fi that is comparable to American standards. As everyone from our generation knows, you simply cannot underestimate the value of fast Internet. The second dissimilarity is one that simply cannot be ignored, the price. A full school year at MEU costs under \$15,000. This includes food, lodging, classes, and the cost of all of the trips. This makes MEU arguably the most exciting destination, as well as the most affordable.

Brett Hayes, a 21-year-old ACA student in Bogenhofen, Germany, is originally from California. He is also a former student at both the Adventist school in Collonges and MEU. He had this to say about his experience in Lebanon: "The culture is the greatest I've ever experienced. Very few people speak just one language [in Beirut]. Ideals are different here, the lifestyle is different here, and I never would have expected what I received when I came here. Whatever your image is of Lebanon or Beirut, it's just totally different than how you think it would be. I've enjoyed awesome snowboarding, beaches, making great friends, becoming more independent. I've also enjoyed telling family and friends in the US about how relaxed it is here."

Brett also emphasized the warmth and friendliness of both the region and the University: "I feel like the world becomes smaller and more accessible once you're here. Being a foreigner here, everyone wants to be your friend; people want to show you the best [side of Beirut]. People are really supportive of [you] living here or trying to learn the language, especially the latter. "Sabtieh Hill is very safe. There are tons of foreigners on campus. I'm highly confident that right away, you could meet a lot of people who are comfortable to be around."

Next year, 2014, marks MEU's 75th anniversary, a distinctive milestone for any academic institution. Maybe you're currently thinking that Beirut, Lebanon and Middle East University aren't for you. Maybe you also don't like pristine Mediterranean beaches within an hour's drive of snow-covered peaks, or warm hospitable cultures with bi-lingual citizens from diverse backgrounds. Seriously, if you decide that MEU is not for you I will try my best to understand. Although, as I write to the LSU student body from my office in sunny Beirut and as we prepare for our 75th anniversary, I can't help but think how much we would love to have you join us for the celebration.



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As outlandish as it might sound,  
hacky-sacking on top of medieval castles  
and Paris runs at midnight played a crucial  
role in my personal development.

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# RELIGION: A CAMPUS PERSPECTIVE

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BY Janell Haylock

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**Amidst the masses the individual person fades encircled by rising voices that ebb and flow throughout the crowd. Like cattle guided by the rancher's hand the crowd surrenders to the looming voices of authority. The atmosphere takes on a world of its own with Christ-colored glasses provided by the orator, singer or dancer, desperate to resonate with the audience. The academics hold their breath as they forget all but The Holy One. The stolen seconds bleed into fifty minutes leaving no regard for tests, quizzes, work schedules or the approaching lunch hour.**





As the students fixate upon the center stage the urge to quickly glance over an Instagram post, Facebook update or e-mail overwhelms their thoughts. The chorus of singers blending their hearts yearning into praise toward Heaven are lost upon an abrupt disconnect from the network of society. Vigilant stares of appointed stewards results in a second thought and concealed effort that seeks to avoid capture. Whispers rise and float throughout the gathering during the final minutes that represent a return to normalcy. The inevitable sway of the clock past the allotted time ever swells in importance throughout the final statements and prayer, bringing with it flashes of anger and irritation en masse.

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Is your spiritual life enhanced by a campus-wide conversation? Do you feel that mandatory religion classes limit or challenge your worldviews? Is there segregation on campus that considers Adventist faith more vital than general Christian community?

There are a few of the questions that this article seeks to explore and struggle with. How we relate as a community, how we influence each other, is the blood and vital force of our campus. Questioning how our morality affects us holistically is a path that leads to growth. College is a stepping-stone into the "real world." We find ourselves in the "in-between" abyss that is somehow supposed to cure our immaturity and lend a helping hand towards adulthood. Every University provides a unique experience and is commonly renowned for one particular virtue. Harvard is burdened with the stereotype as the intellectual king of colleges, home and abroad. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is revered

as supplying our nation with the technological geniuses of our era. What is La Sierra University known for? Is it our faith, community, diversity, business school, or correlation with Loma Linda University? To start, let us begin with the assumption that it is our religion, as Seventh-day Adventists, that distinguishes us.

Our campus is the fruit of a radical movement that began in the Nineteenth Century with the writings of a man named William Miller. A Baptist in name, Miller sought to understand Biblical teachings. For two years he sat, reading the Bible from cover to cover with only the Bible itself and a concordance in hand. Miller desired to find for himself Bible teachings and apply them to his life. Through his study, he began to question organized church doctrine and preach radical apocalyptic messages. Miller provoked a movement that blazed throughout the nation. Through The Disappointment of 1844, however, many believers left feeling apathy towards apocalyptic teachings of Christ's soon return. One teenager, Ellen G. Harmon, brought hope to the scattered Millerites and provided a strong voice that directly opposed common thought of the era. Throughout her life Ellen G. White, later marrying James White, exemplified a leader that sought divine counsel as a guiding hand in all aspects of her life. Her religious faith was not satiated by the status quo of opinions for "acceptable morality." Her voice fundamentally changed Seventh-day Adventist thought and opinions that continue to mold our perspective today.

Given a glimpse of two radical giants in the history of Adventism, why is it that many of us find insignificance in religion on campus?



Harrison, a physics student commented, “I generally don’t find SDA faith resonating throughout the campus. People here are just concerned for your overall well-being.”

A junior biochemistry/biophysics major Ben replied, “I see Jesus’ character displayed in persons like the Chaplain Martin Corona and religion professor Dr. Siegfried Roeske, but not in the campus at-large. As a pastor’s kid you see the same types of people and you learn to recognize negative character trends, especially in people in power. For example, many religion majors flex their knowledge and assume authority over the rest of us.”

Rita, a senior, answered, “I definitely get a sense of morality at this campus. Simple things clearly demonstrate this fact: when you’re stressed out and people use religious phrases like, ‘I’ll pray for you!’ to help reduce the stress and stay positive. In general our faith is what separates us from other schools and we begin to grow through our influence upon each other.”

Obviously we find that students perceive religion on campus in a spectrum of intensity, which can depend on cultural bias, religious faith, academic load or simply apathy towards the subject.

When questioned whether La Sierra University as a Seventh-day Adventist school induces a closer personal relationship with God, Harrison answered, “I don’t think so, because of the fact that there are people who don’t believe in God. However, I can see how LSU is seeking to enrich their student community’s experience with God. Realistically, those who have a problem with it simply don’t attend and accept the disciplinary consequences (probation).”

Ben replied to the question of the overall experience at a religious university, “Again, as a pastor’s son, it can have a tendency to be more negative than positive. When an

atmosphere of faith is forced upon a person, it tends to push one away from God. An example of this on campus can be dorm worship and chapel, but then again it was my choice to attend an Adventist University.”

In direct contrast, Rita commented, “Being at an SDA school does bring me closer to God, because I find myself surrounded by an entire community of faith that is shown through conversation and chapel. The reason chapel is an obligation is because it is one hour of the week that forces you to connect with God and pray.”

Amidst classes, senior contracts and social life events fitting in religion can be the last thing on your mind. Perhaps this is on the minds of LSU administrators that struggle with intertwining academia and religion in an everyday college experience. Religion professors like Dr. Wonil Kim, however, challenge our worldviews with difficult questions. Is God gender specific? Is the Trinity (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) truly monotheism? How do we explain conflicting biblical passages?

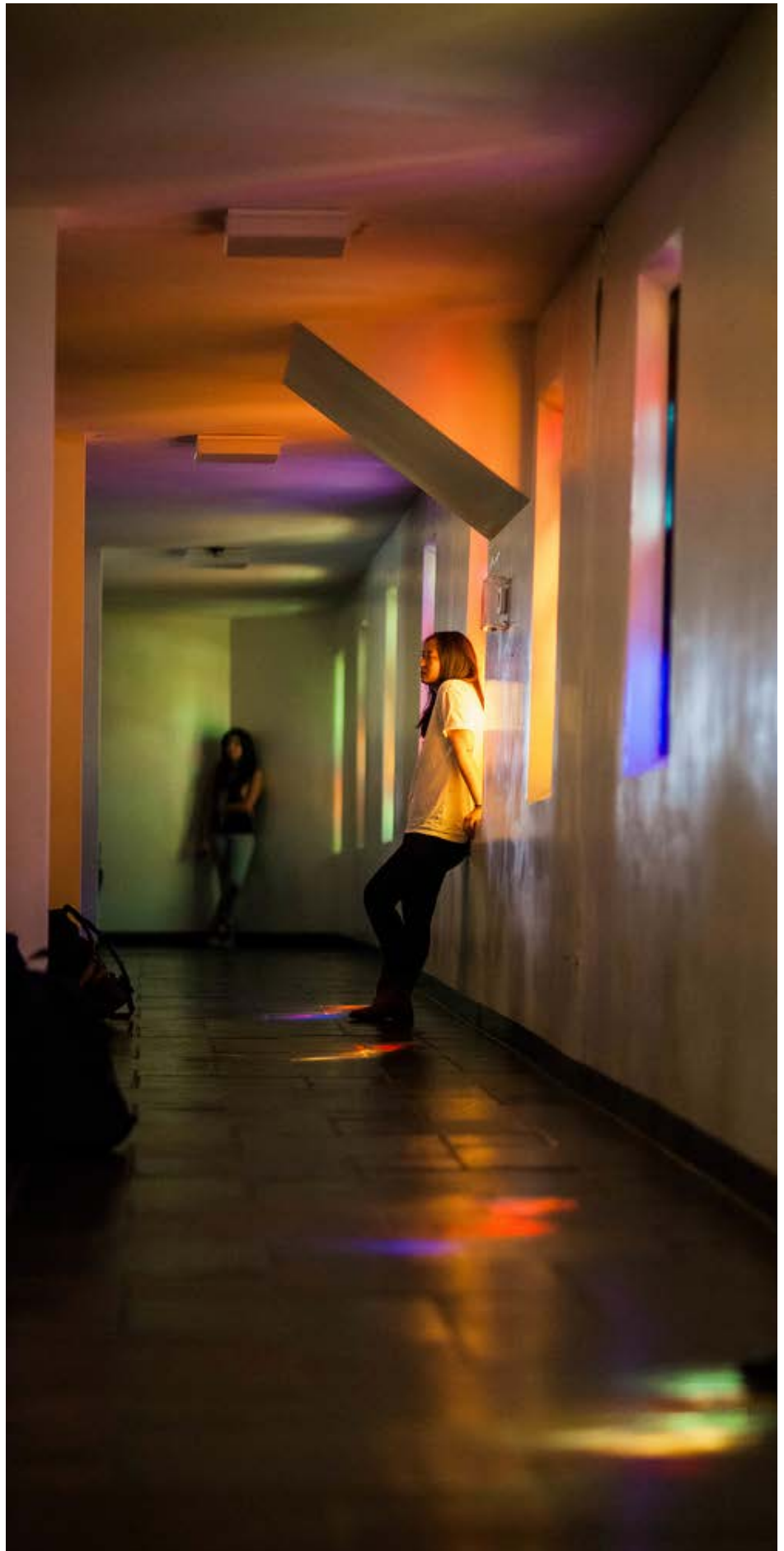
Adventist communities taint the religion department at LSU with a perception of extreme liberalism. As a minority of believers scattered throughout, Adventists have the opportunity to provide constructive criticisms of societal standards and controversial issues that are in direct contrast with worldwide perspectives. Questioning through conversation engenders formation of opinion and this is realized in many religion classes at LSU.

As we begin a new scholastic year here at La Sierra University let us seek to explore beyond our comfortable perceptions of the world. Further, to embrace change within our own community as a faith-based campus. To be equally unafraid to highlight injustice within ourselves and strive to expand ourselves to become the ideal we expect from the society-at large.

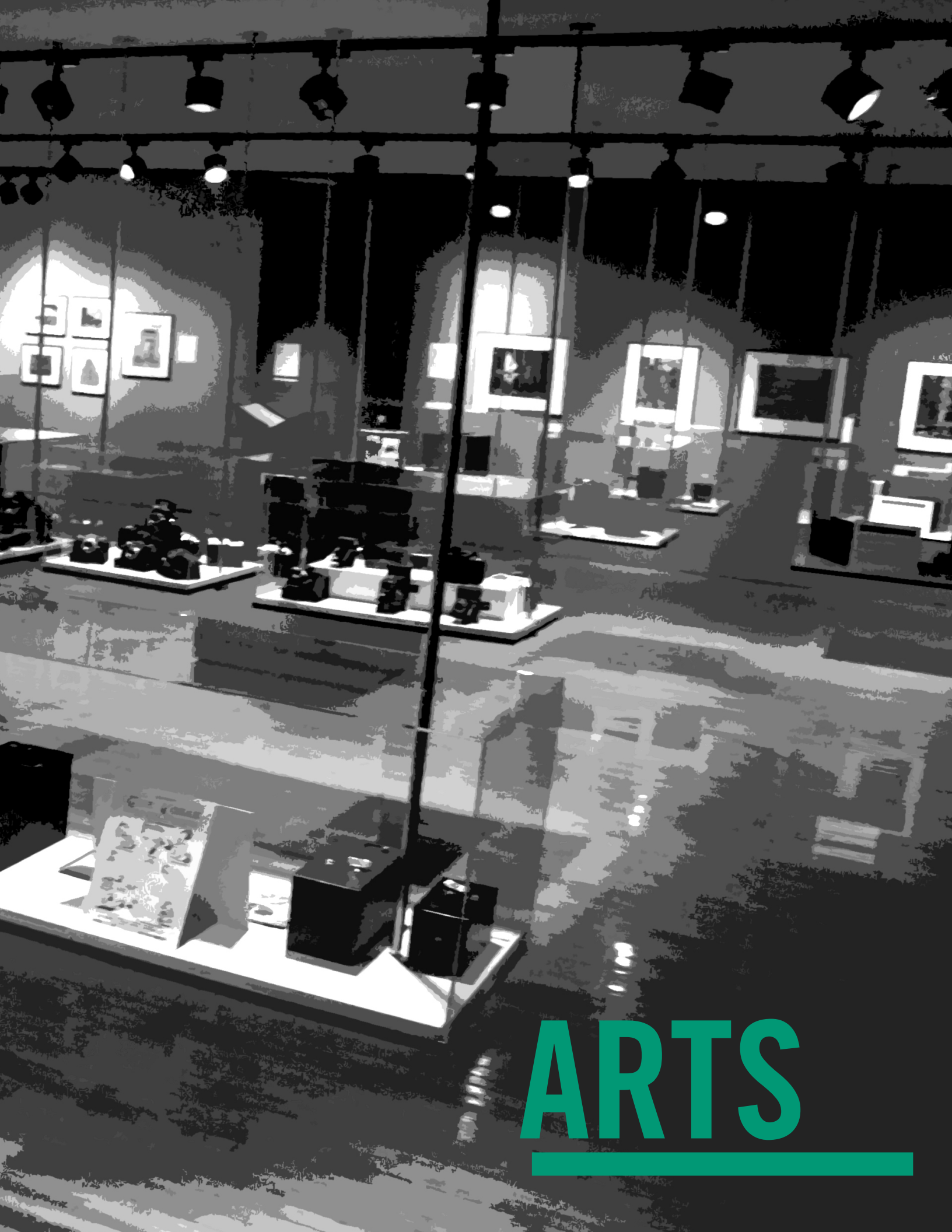
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Why is it that  
many of us find  
insignificance in  
religion on campus?

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**ARTS**

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# RIVERSIDE

## A SMART, PROUD CITY

**The streets of Downtown Riverside stayed up until midnight to showcase its second consecutive year of Long Night of Arts and Innovation.** This event which took place October 10, 2013 spread all across Main St. and Mission Inn Ave. The night was filled with engaging activities and beautiful exhibits that highlighted the local talent in the areas of art, science and technology. The major schools of the city were present, including: University of California Riverside, Cal Baptist University, Riverside Community College and our very own La Sierra University. In the opening letter of the program, Rusty Bailey, the Mayor of Riverside, wrote, “You will experience exhibits in which the science is so beautiful that it feels like art, and others in which the art is so technical it feels like science...” Each venue built by volunteers, students and professors presented a spirit of creativity and innovation that can proudly represent the city. Riverside has not stayed under the shadows after being recognized in 2011 and 2012 by The Intelligent Community Forum as “World’s Intelligent Community of the Year” a title only five other cities received in the United States. New technology keeps arising, art keeps spreading and the city’s identity keeps growing.

With this in mind, make the journey along with Criterion through an important night in the life of the Riverside community. From soothing orchestra tunes to impressive new technology and mesmerizing art prepare for a private tour through the Long Night of Arts and Innovation.

# AUTHORS

B r e n d a D e l f i n o

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A b e l M e d e l

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M a x A . G u t i e r r e z

# MUSIC

Sounds of Our Community

La Sierra University made a presence in downtown Riverside with their performances scattered throughout the avenues. Music by La Sierra Chamber Singers, Orchestra, and Quartet all delivered great performances that certainly brought in the crowds. Among the cheering crowd was our very own President Wisbey, accompanied by his wife. In an exclusive conversation with Criterion, President Wisbey stated, "I'm very proud to see La Sierra students performing in downtown Riverside." His presence amongst the audience was an honest support to all performers for their hard work and commitment to music.

The orchestra dazzled the audience with music pieces such as Don Giovanni Overture by Mozart Symphony No. 35 and Mozart Flute and Harp Concerto, each piece bringing claps and cheers. They had the audience in a trance from beginning to the final forte. The combination of the violins and cellos delivered strong sounds and blended well with the soft melody of the flute. Joining the spotlight were the chamber singers who performed one of their favorite songs on stage named Esto Les Digo. Along with I Will Call Upon The Lord and finishing off with The Battle of Jericho, which was filmed for a television news clip. Down the street the string quartet performed a famous Mozart piece titled Serenade in G major that brought spectators to a premature clap and awe. The space around the performers shrunk as the number of people increased. The people on the streets would gather around once the sounds of instruments and angelical voices of the choir began resonating. Amid the music were the sounds of the audience commenting on the performances with their cameras and phones recording the entire show.

What was interesting to discover after the show was the reaction of students who performed. They had many comments in regards to the crowds, who intently listened and observed. A chamber singer, Stephanie Perez, commented on how their, "voices blended very well together and their performance created a crowd that was once absent." Many other performers shared the same experience. With so much talent present at this event, it was not difficult to feel the embrace of the sounds that filled the air.

The performance delivered by La Sierra students revealed the hard work within our campus, and how in tune the Music Department is, to enhancing and exposing the talent in the city of Riverside.





# SCIENCE/TECH

## A Festival of Innovation

Science was abundant in the streets of Riverside through the Long Night of Arts and Innovation. Cal Baptist University showed off their courses and all the fantastic innovations they have achieved.

Cal Baptist had simple physics demonstrations that offered new steps into discovery. The school had an important role in this long night with stands supporting their Engineering, Chemistry, and Earth Science programs. The Earth Science booth displayed examples of newfound minerals and pieces of earth. They also had abundant information dedicated to Earthquake safety and awareness. Cal Baptist played videos of what the hemisphere of an earthquake looks like and gave out flyers filled with facts and tips about earthquakes. They showed how to make a proper earthquake kit, which is essential information for everyone in the city of Riverside, especially having a major fault line so close to home. Along with useful advice, Cal Baptist offered fun science experiments for children to enjoy. The chemistry department showed several examples of how covalent bonds act and had a crowd of adults and children watching closely.

The true light of the night came from the Engineering Department which displayed fantastic innovations. There was a touch-less mouse which has become an invention in progress, very popular at the time. Phones and televisions are currently trying to include touch-less functions. Very much aware of this Cal Baptist students created their own steps to achieve this goal and went a step further. On a nearby stand, they had material that was completely waterproof. People could literally throw water drops into the artifacts without leaving damage. The most impacting piece from the Engineering Department was the 3D printer. They created a prototype called "Cube X Duo". A machine basically built from the ground up. To replicate this printer, expenses run from \$600 to \$100,000 based on how much color the printer will use and the functional intentions of the machine. Cube X Duo uses a plastic material made from plants called PLA. It takes the PLA and builds it from the ground up, making vase like structures and thick forms, to create 3D forms. This innovative invention can create a whole new medium of art and take the business of graphic design and advertisement to a whole new level. This Long Night of Arts and Innovation was proof that the next big thing could come from our own community, and more specifically our own campuses.



# FINE ART

More American Photographs

The Long Night of Arts offered many spots for art fans. La Sierra's Art department participated by giving workshops of screen printing and other art techniques ran by faculty and students. Tim Musso, a faculty of the Art Department had an exclusive exhibit along with artist Camilla Taylor based in Long Beach, California. The exhibit was an abstract world from two perspectives. There were natural shapes in Musso's extraordinary woodcut and screen print pieces, and dreamlike creatures in Taylor's paintings and mixed media sculptures that could easily be part of Tim Burton's film.

A block away from this exhibit was UCR ARTS block. This art institution is composed of the California Museum of Photography, the Sweeney Art Gallery and the soon-to-be-completed Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Art. Exclusively for the night these galleries were open free of admission to the public. Concurrent to Long Night of Arts and Innovations was the opening reception for Amy Myers' Different Particles & Intermediate States at the Sweeney Art Gallery in display October 10 - November 23, 2013. These monumental drawings made of graphite, conte crayon and gouche embody abstract patterns and forms that reference the movement of subatomic particles, trajectories of

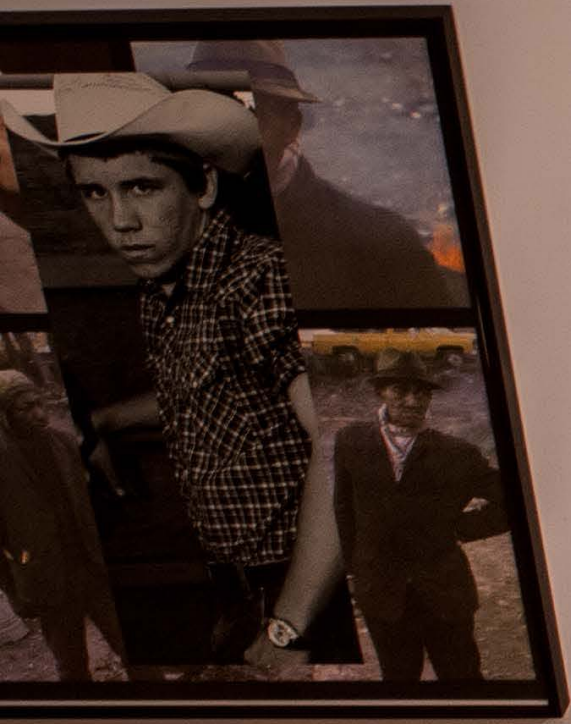
cosmic events and female sexual features. Do to the size of these drawings, varying from seven to twelve feet, viewers are instantly drawn into the geometric colorful world of Myers.

Long Night of Arts is designed to have something for everyone, from abstract art to social documentary photography. The California Museum of Art has in exhibit the impacting collection of More American Photographs in display September 28, 2013 - January 11, 2014. The United States is yet to recover from the most significant economic recession since the Great Depression. This exhibit displays in one side historical photographs from the Farm Security Administration Program (1935-44) by Esther Bubley, John Collier, Jack Delano, Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange and many more. Among these is an original copy of the famous photograph by Dorothea Lange known as Migrant Mother. Towards the left wall of the exhibit is a combination of photographs by twelve contemporary photographers who were commissioned to travel the United States, documenting the land and people. These photos show the conditions of life among middle class and poor people. Many of the photographers are portraits, focusing in the eyes and often wrinkled foreheads of individuals. Photographer Larry Clark particularly captured two young adult males. They are shown up close in an outside environment with no shirts on. They are bare and exposed to their surroundings, vulnerable and with subtle expressions of surrender to their conditions. It is a powerful experience to walk through the daily lives of the common people portrayed, to sympathize with them and feel their pain. This collection speaks without needing to use a word. The parallel of this modern collection is set alongside historic depression photos to remind people that poverty is still happening today. The economic depression is just as real and painful as it was during the historic depression, and Americans today are still in the battle to recovery.



**L**ong Night of Arts and Innovation combines the perfect balance of entertainment, education and philanthropy. It's a night to discover Riverside's greatest talents and become a close-kitted community. Right at the center of the event, between Main St. and Mission Inn Ave. there was a small Wishing Tree surrounded by a thin rope. Volunteers asked people to pause, and write in a small paper any dream, hope and aspiration they had for the city or for themselves. People would then hang the dream and were explained that the tree would be planted in Victoria Avenue, along with the dreams buried underneath the roots to nurture and help it grow; a symbolic yet tangible ritual to envision a better Riverside.

*To keep updated with entertainment and local events visit [www.criterion.lasierra.edu](http://www.criterion.lasierra.edu)*





Small informational text or label on the wall to the right of the bottom-right photograph.

# SPORTS

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# MANZIEL VS. NCAA

by: Adrian Wilson



Illustration by Andrew Clazie

December 8, 2012 college football star Johnny Manziel was the newest member of the Heisman Trophy winners for his outstanding breakout year as a freshman. The quarterback of the Texas A&M Aggies also won the Davey O'Brien quarterback award, as well as the Manning award. Manziel put himself in the history books as being the first college player to win all those awards as a freshman. Manziel had a grand total of 4600 yards, which put him ahead of former Heisman Trophy winners Cam Newton and Tim Tebow. He was also the first freshman quarterback to pass for over 3000 yards and to rush for 1000 yards.

After his stellar season Johnny Manziel became a huge celebrity after and everybody wanted to be like him. He gained the nickname "Johnny Football" during the 2012 season. While living the life as the man on top of the mountain, this summer was a different story.

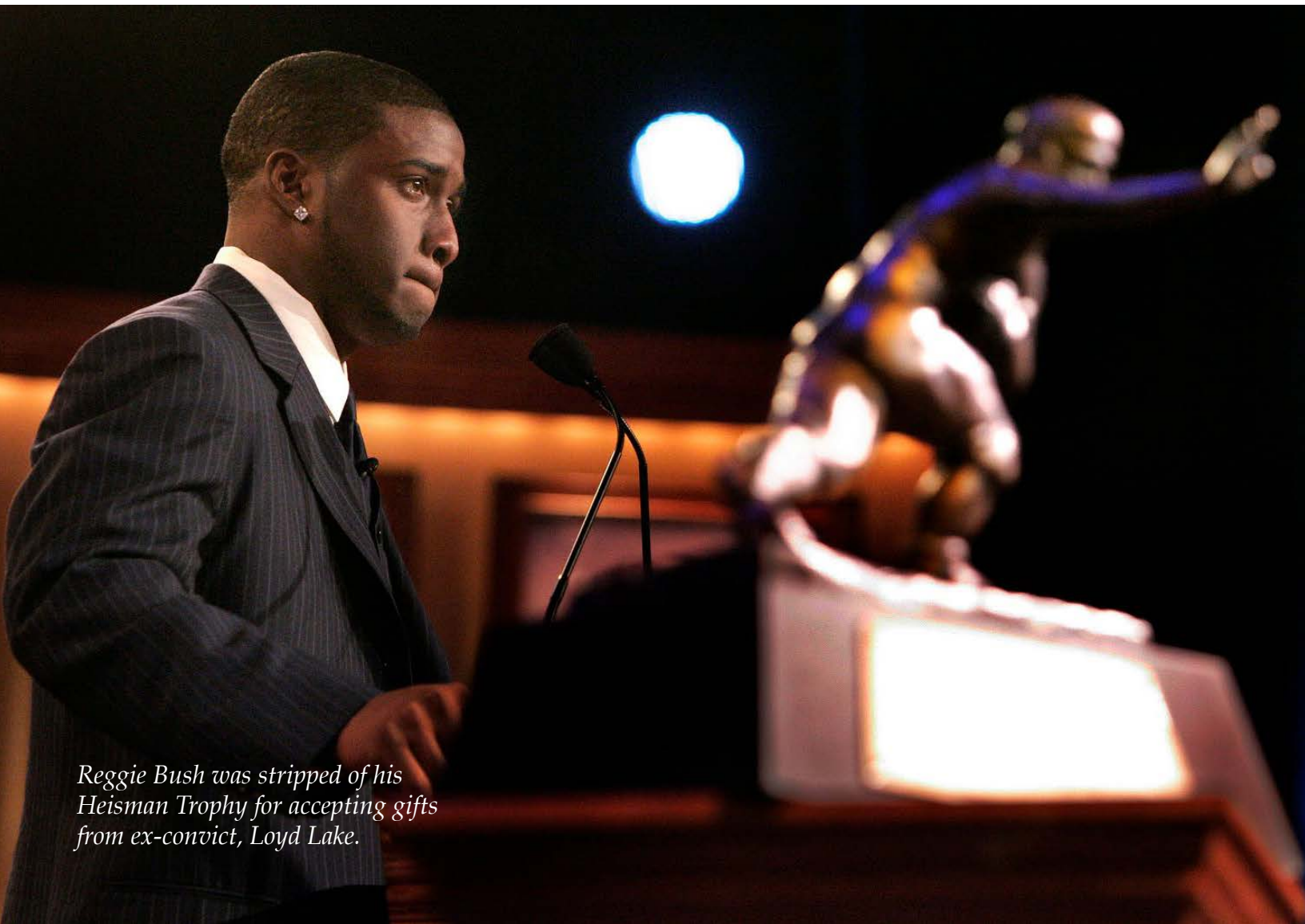
Although Manziel was noticed for his performance on the football field, he gained plenty of attention with trouble off of the field. The first incident was when Manziel was asked to leave the "Manning Passing Academy" after oversleeping during the camp. He would also post Tweets saying that he could not wait to leave Texas A&M. On top of that, Manziel found himself getting kicked out of a rival school, University of Texas, after he was seen at a fraternity party. This is not the first time that Johnny Manziel found himself in trouble. In June of 2012 Manziel was arrested for disorderly conduct, failure to identify, and possession of a fake license, which said that he was twenty one years of age. This was after he was seen in an altercation with his friend and another individual. The charges that Manziel was arrested for were dropped except for having a fake license for which he pled guilty.

Even though Johnny Manziel was in a world of trouble this summer, with all the attention on him, the biggest issue that Manziel encountered was collecting money for autographs. The NCAA was not too pleased with him and is still investigating the situation. Although a college player is allowed to sign their autograph on material things the NCAA will not allow college athletes to profit from it. This has been a topic that has been in the grey area for years. When you look at it, if the players are allowed to sign memorabilia for commercial purposes, and if their jerseys are allowed to be sold, you start to wonder where all the money goes to. To answer this question, it goes to the NCAA. The NCAA profits off of this activity, and yet the players are only allowed to play and not make anything from what should be rightfully their earning. This has been a big problem with college athletes because they are not getting the same treatment like everyone else in college. When the Olsen Twins were in college they were making money off of their name and it did not bother anyone. Why should it be different for athletes? The Olsen Twins made money from autographs, movies and clothing material. They are famous, like Manziel, but they are allowed to participate in a free-market system, unlike Manziel. What some players have been doing behind the scenes is not illegal, and yet they are not allowed to do it. Manziel's jersey and football cleats that he wore during the game when he beat Alabama in 2012 were auctioned off for \$7,760. Manziel was not entitled to any of that money.



Is this right? He did play the game, and he did wear those cleats, and it is his name on the back of the jersey. Why shouldn't he get earnings for what should be rightfully his?

Some of these college athletes come from poor backgrounds and get a full ride to college. Therefore, they should be able to make money while in college. Not every college athlete turns out as a professional athlete, and yet in the end they do not get the earnings they deserve. College basketball announcer Dick Vitale said that college athletes that stick their hand out for money are like prostitutes, and it is sad. But is this scene really as grim and dramatic as described? College athletes are like every other student in college; they are trying to pay tuition. They need to make money to survive and the NCAA is not allowing that for the athletes who deserve it. Sure, once the athletes go pro, they will make millions for a long time, but is it still right to penalize them for trying to make money for themselves the legal way? For Manziel, he felt like he did nothing wrong, but the NCAA thinks otherwise. Former college star and now Houston Texans running back Arian Foster said that while at the University of Tennessee, he took money all the time because he reasoned that he needed to make a living and felt like there was nothing wrong with it. He thinks it is hard for athletes to watch fans pay to fill up seats, get free autographs, and watch fans wear their jersey and not get paid for it. Foster says it is not fair to the athletes that work hard to get what they deserve. Another former college star, Reggie Bush, was penalized for accepting gifts during his time at USC. They took away all of his awards including the Heisman Trophy and erased all of his stats and made it seem like he never existed. In the eyes of some people, it was not worth the trouble, seeing that he had already gone on to the NFL. They felt like he did nothing wrong. With Manziel, he was only suspended for the first half of the season opener due to the fact that the NCAA doesn't have any evidence that Manziel actually took the money. This rule may not affect Johnny Manziel in the long run but this is a rule that is flawed.



*Reggie Bush was stripped of his Heisman Trophy for accepting gifts from ex-convict, Loyd Lake.*

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They need to make money to survive and the NCAA is not allowing that for the athletes who deserve it.

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# RELIGION

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As the apostle Paul sits in prison, arrested for preaching the Gospel, he writes a letter to the church located in Philippi. This is what he says.

*“If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.”*



# a game of thrones

by Matthew Valdez

Just as Paul has done numerous times before, he calls for Christians to live up to that name and be of the same mind as Jesus, to love each other as Jesus did, to abandon selfish ambition and conceit, to embrace humility by regarding others as better than themselves, and to look to the interests of others before their own. This is what makes Paul's joy complete. This is what makes all the time he has to sit in prison worth it. In broad terms, we can say that this is the gospel that Paul was spreading. A gospel of servanthood. He even recites an early Christian hymn to emphasize the fact that Jesus attained glory and was highly exalted by God because of his sacrificial, self-emptying love. For to live this life of humility and love, placing the well-being of others before oneself is what it means to be a Christian. These are the principles that the early Christian church lived by.

Christianity has since grown to be the most dominant and influential religion in the world. Christians no longer meet in the secret of their homes, but in large ornate cathedrals and stadiums. There are approximately 2.2 billion Christians in the world taking up nearly one third of the entire human population. I think it would be an understatement to say that Christianity is popular. The United States of America has the most Christians out of any country in the world making up for 86 percent of our population. That means 86 percent of the population of the United States should be living according to the principles and teachings of Jesus as emphasized by Paul in Philippians. Principles such as abandoning selfish ambition, embracing humility by regarding others as better than ourselves, and looking to the interests of others before our own. 86 percent of the population of the United States should proclaim Jesus as Lord; meaning that they accept and live by the sacrificial, self-emptying love that gave Jesus his glory and Lordship in the first place. However, as I examine American society, I fail to see the gospel being lived out by the majority as fully realized as Paul wanted it to be. Instead I see a society based and defined by greed. I see a society defined by self-interest and personal gain. I see a society possessed by the every growing need to consume. The never ending cycle of want, fulfillment, and disappointment continues to shape and define us. We worship rich and famous people because we aspire to their richness, fame, and glory. I see the worst economic crisis in the recent

history of our country caused by the greed of people trying to take advantage of other greedy people in order to maximize economic gain. I see a society that professes the Christian understanding of *loving thy neighbor as thyself* and is still outraged that everyone has access to affordable healthcare.

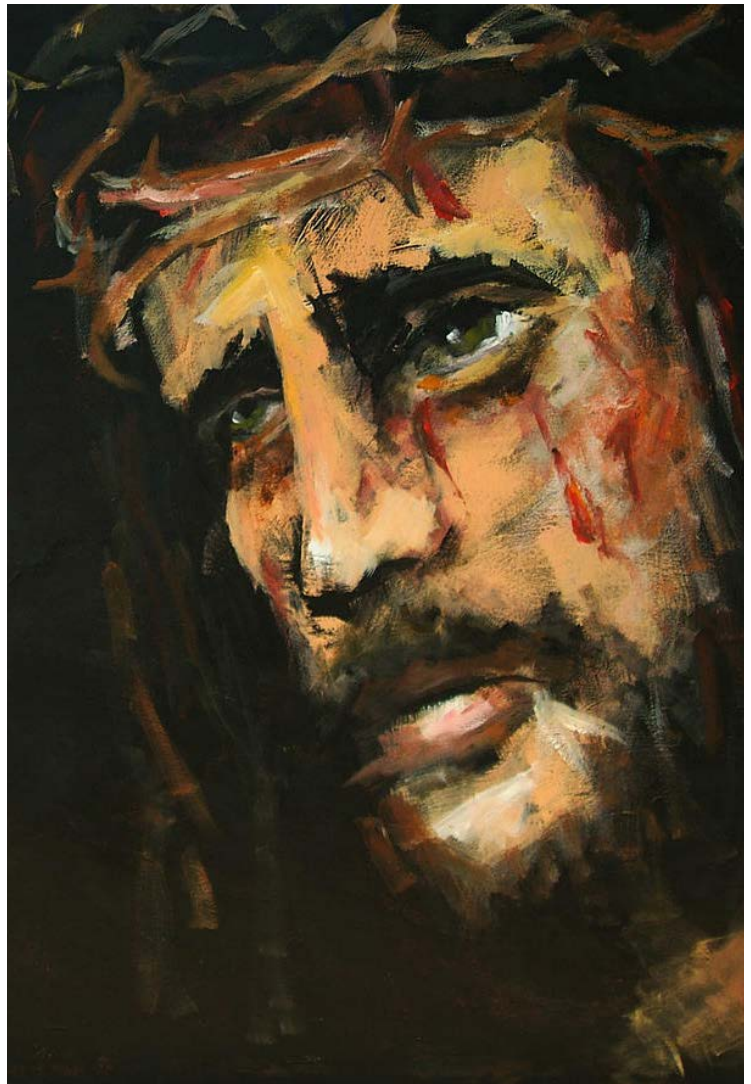
The Jesus that emptied himself taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness, and being found in human form, and humbled himself, the Jesus that preached blessed are the poor for theirs is the kingdom of heaven and cursed the rich, the Jesus who probably only owned the clothes on his back and the sandals on his feet, the Jesus who associated with the lowest socio-economic class in society and called them children of God, the Jesus who was crucified, raised from the dead and proclaimed as the name above all names, and king above all kings, Lord of Lords, this Jesus looks so foreign and out of place in our society, even with the 86 percent majority being Christians. No longer do we say *Jesus is Lord* as the early Christian church did, but instead we have replaced it with *greed* is Lord, *consumerism* is Lord, and *Capitalism* is Lord.

The phrase "Jesus is Lord" was commonly used by early Christians in protest to the dominant saying "Caesar is Lord." Of course, proclaiming Jesus is Lord was considered treason by the Roman government and widely looked down upon by the majority of Roman citizens. However, it was a proclamation that needed to be said then and must be continually proclaimed today. But what does this old saying even mean today? How does it translate into our modern society? To say that Jesus is Lord is to say that we are not. It is to deny oneself in the face of someone more powerful. Powerful, not in the way that this world defines power, but in the way that God has showed us ultimate power. The world defines power in terms of control, brute force, and manipulation, while God showed us what power really meant by giving up all power as God descended from heaven and took on the form of a human. Not just any human, but a poor human who grew up in a bad neighborhood and gave up his own life to be killed as a criminal on a bloody cross. To say that Jesus is Lord is to say that I will live by the principles and teachings of my Lord. If Jesus is our Lord I will love my enemies. I will give to those in need generously and humbly. I will not worry about food, drink, and clothes for God

will always provide. I will do to others as I would have them do to me. To say that Jesus is Lord is to also actively take part in his Kingdom. Paul says in Philippians, “But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.” When we say that Jesus is Lord, we are accepting our citizenship into his kingdom and realizing that everything belongs to him.

This kingdom of God is not something that we idly wait for looking up at the sky. For Jesus says, “The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There it is!’ For in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.” When we say that Jesus is Lord we are accepting the call to actively take part in building the Kingdom of God in anticipation of God’s coming when his kingdom will be made complete.

Finally, to say that Jesus is Lord is to realize that the godliness, glory, and exalted person of Jesus was not gained through greed, domination, or violence. Jesus became Lord in which all things are made subject to him because, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, and being born in human likeness. Through the self-emptying, sacrificial love of Jesus, we see what true glory really is. As we live and breathe in this society based on greed and personal gain and look towards the self-emptying, sacrificial love of Jesus, the Holy Spirit will constantly empower us to do as Jesus did. We are empowered to love as Jesus did by protesting against the greed based principles of our society. When we start living the life of humility and love that Jesus calls us to as our Lord, it will not be easy. It never has been easy, nor will it be in the future. When we begin to live and love as Jesus did, we will be ridiculed. We will be called naïve, a liberal, a radical and even stupid. But as Paul concludes his letter to the Christians in Philippi with this famous verse, its meaning still rings out loud as ever. “I can do all things though him who strengthens me.”



*Above: Oil Painting by Carel Foret.*

*Right: Pope Francis draws a crowd on Easter day.*



# ESSAY

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# EDUCATIONAL SALT

*by Kyle Cespedes*

## Presenting the Flaw

It's time to work for a letter grade again, just another part of the daily grind to get points. For hours, students study and work for the ideal that the benefits of school will bring about a brighter future. Hopefully some quizzes are dropped, there's an extra credit trip, or the teacher is easier than others. There's nothing better than the feeling of getting a hard earned, or even better, an easily earned A in the class. The grading system has been broken for far too long. Resources, pedagogy, and the systems which teaching imposes on students in the name of learning have destroyed what it means to have an education. While there are countless numbers of changes that can be made, by simply changing the grading system, a higher standard of education can be achieved. But where exactly did grading go wrong to begin with?

The first transgression that standard grading systems make with education is the way points are used as a benchmark for learning. It's important to have a measurable way to indicate the progress that a student is making in a class, however, the point system is too inflexible to give a proper measurement of a student's expected learning outcome. For example, if a student were to learn everything a day slower than the rest of the class, despite attaining the knowledge by the end of the course, that person will fail due to not being able to give satisfactory work at the time the assignment was due. A question missed once and answered the second time only dampens the damage that was previously done. Somewhere along the line points no longer had to do with academic progress, but a struggle to stay at the top. It could be argued that deadlines provide a congruent emulation to the work that is to come in the future; however, the point is providing an accurate measurement of ability, not a "holistic" excuse of a justification to handing out grades. Holding a higher accountability to accurate grading is imperative to truly understanding how education can be further improved.

Fixing the inconsistency in grading can be achieved by imposing the idea that grades should be flexible and solely for the purpose of the student to understand their strengths and weaknesses. With flexible grades, punishment for previously not understood concepts will be rendered moot. Grades should give a general picture to where a student stands in a particular area of a subject and be prone to change on future assessment. Future assessment not only means that grades can be improved during reassessment, but that it's also possible that they may go down. Flexibility within grading brings in a truer aspect of not only of current knowledge, but how well previous knowledge is retained. By looking at trends in current versus previous knowledge, insights can be gained on what types of material need more or less focus in a classroom.

# A Proposed Model

A subject studied has various learning outcomes that are to be fulfilled by the time the class is completed. Learning outcomes should then be divided into subgroups, which teachers feel are important to be assessed. For example, a math class could have addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division be set as the goals until the quarter ended. Each category will then be graded with a point value after each assessment. To simulate this model, let's assume a five point system that corresponds to a letter grade (5 = A, 4 = B...). At any time an assessment can change the grade of the category without regard to what previous scores may have been, so 3 in addition can go to a 5 and possibly down to a 4 or 2 in the future. Assuming by the end, the student gets a score spread of 2, 3, 4, 5 for each respective subject, the score will be tallied together and divided by the number of subjects ( $14/4 = 3.5$ ) giving a 3.5/5, which would be in the C range.

Each group, such as addition, could also be made up of smaller subcategories that function the same way as the subgroup. If subcategories, such as calculation, speed and accuracy are included, the total can be added together, then divided appropriately to score. If calculation speed was at a 5 and accuracy were at a 3,  $(5+3)/2 = 4$ , earning a B in addition.

This model is heavily focused on the ability to readily change grades and be open in reassessing them on a regular basis in order to get closer to a more realistic grade based on current knowledge. Grades should also have a history to view and analyze learning trends that can be used at both the teacher's and student's discretion. The ability for reassessment poses several hurdles for the teacher, however. Being able to reassess learning at any time could drastically increase the workload of the teacher if the retesting isn't organized well or efficient. Because of the average teacher to student ratios, it would be overly time consuming to be able to give everyone a fair chance of grading their abilities. Poor teacher distribution doesn't mean that real grading can't be done. However, a little ingenuity and creativity is needed in order to make it function well while being able to get a night's rest.

To summarize, if grades were categorized by expected learning outcomes that could be regularly assessed and reassessed without any regard to how good or bad previous assessments were scored, a more legitimate grade would be had, instead of a salty student.

A

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OCTOBER 2013

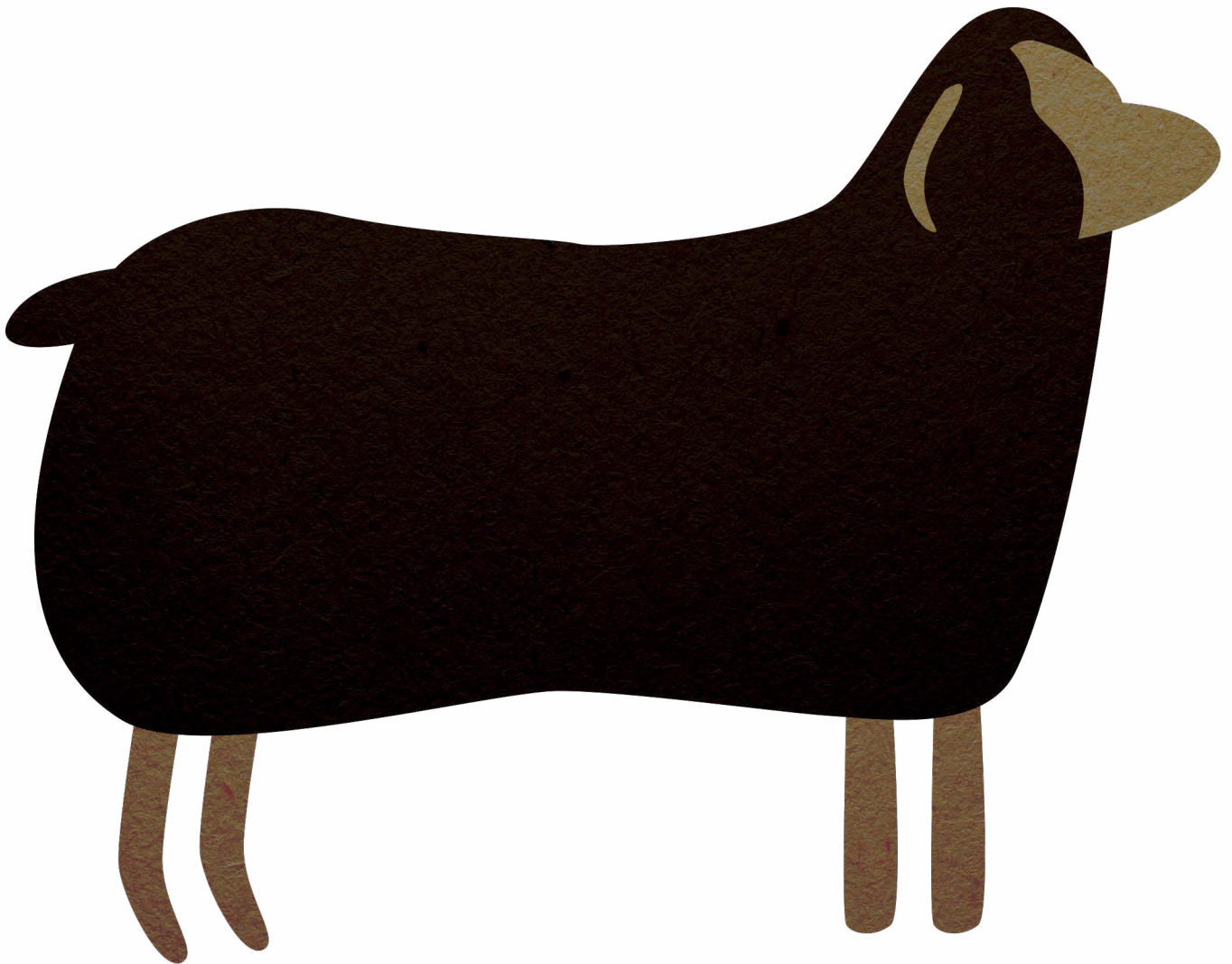


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# CRITERION

THE STUDENT NEWS MAGAZINE OF LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY

HOLIDAY 2013



**Are We the Black Sheep?**

**LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY** STUDENT MAGAZINE  
**HOLIDAY ISSUE**

**2013**

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"WHAT IS OUR  
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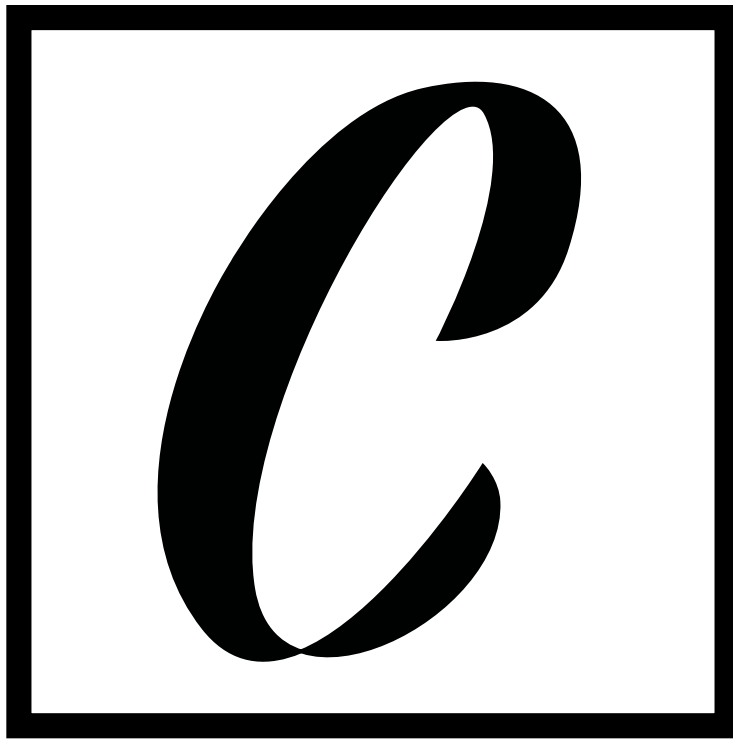
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# EDITOR'S NOTE

**O**n October 17, 2013, David Read of ADVindicate Inc. reported in his pseudo-journalism article titled, “The Failure of the Adventist Accrediting Association” that La Sierra University “has exhibited behavior that is in many ways anti-Adventist.” This was written in response to our university’s recent certification by the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA), which has accepted the “quality of the [La Sierra University’s] programs and their implementation of the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy of education in order to foster the unity and mission of the Church.”

Read went on to dissect our university’s past encounters with Evolution and our Biology Department with an adverse bias. Furthermore, Read singled out several Theology professors, accusing the entire Religion Department as being “so liberal as to be outside the parameters of Seventh-day Adventism.” This was carried out with little regard for the importance of contextualization, a proper prerequisite when delving into academic considerations, albeit faith-based. The negative comments extended even to the office of our own president, calling for his firing and the replacement of La Sierra University’s entire “rebellious” administration. In short, Read called for reform in our campus, setting forth his ideal vision of conservative theology, faulting our “liberal World-view” as being “anti-Adventist.”

Students of La Sierra University, what are your responses to such assertions? Do these critical remarks disturb you? Do they, in some ways, anger you? While we, as students of La Sierra University, have many reasons to stand furious against such sensationalist and inflammatory remarks, I recommend that we take the high road and stand contrary in our own way: through thoughtful consideration. Something that we ought to recognize is the fact that David Read, the same author that has accused us of turning our back on Adventism, is also a Seventh-day Adventist. And while he may be one man, he certainly represents a sect of the Adventist community. This brings forth the conversation of sectarianism, the differing ideologies of conservative and liberal thinking. It is a discussion that is full of gray area, disagreement, and often leads to enflamed arguments. No matter how messy this dialogue may be, it must exist. Arguments are an essential part of the dialogical experience, given that they are the beginning of such a vital conversation. To argue is to listen, and by listening, our responses will be deliberate and well informed. In this manner, real communal growth can occur.

At the genesis of any exchange, both sides must know who they are, their identity. Therefore, we present the question to you, “What is our identity?” As highlighted above, others have already defined and continue to define what La Sierra University is. Those are their terms, through their preconceived lens, their bias and their ideology. It’s your turn to speak, to theorize, to consider, and to come to your own conclusion of our campus’ identity amidst the clashing voices. This thinking is not limited to conversations of faith and religion, but also extends to our academic identity, our cultural identity, and our place within a diverse community,

We hope that this issue is but the beginning of this discussion, one that we, as individuals, must engage with not only our Adventist community, but with the world at large. And in this pursuit, perhaps we will be able to define what it truly means to be a part of La Sierra University.

Peace and love,

Jonah Valdez

Editor-in-Chief



TOM & VI ZAPATA  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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**NEWS**

# A TALK WITH PRESIDENT SANDRA ROBERTS

## Finding Identity

By Jason Wymore

**W**e are all products of the identities we create for ourselves. Kobe Bryant recently signed on for two more years with the Los Angeles Lakers. His pay? 24 million dollars per year, making him the highest per season earning player in the NBA. Billboards and websites give people a close-up look of Katniss Everdeen. Our president's image immediately brings to mind the recent issue of Obama Care. His face is currently more associated with health care than any other nationwide circumstance.

Kobe Bryant is not only an amazing basketball player he is also an image. His identity represents success and dedication to both the league and the fans. Katniss

is a book character. Her identity reminds the novel's other characters to strive for freedom, and the reader of the books they're reading. President Obama is identified by and represents the choices he makes. He is known for the ways he affects others around him. These characters, both factual and fictitious, are popular culture symbols because of the identities they have created, or were created for them.

As La Sierra moves into the 2014 portion of this school year, we need to continually ask ourselves, what is our identity? As community members make their way down Riverwalk Parkway, Pierce St., Collett Ave. or any number of Riverside streets, they see a large gated lawns. Rolling hills with small buildings perched amidst hundreds of species of trees. They can see La Sierra

University Church. They can also see the school's black gates installed a few years back. Today, what they may be able to see most prominently is the new School of Business: Ranked first out of "The fifty most beautiful business school's" by a prominent business degree location finding website.

But, despite what the community sees, when they look at La Sierra, what would they say our identity is? Is our institution simply buildings, fountains and gated lawns or does our identity, within the community run deeper? The news staff at The Criterion recently sat down with the new Seventh Day Adventist South Eastern California Conference president, Sandy Roberts, to find out her identity, discuss her new position, and our institution's identity in the community.



A DISCUSSION WITH  
South Eastern California  
-CONFERENCE PRESIDENT-

**SANDY  
ROBERTS**

## Criterion (CR):

Who are you and what inspires you?

## Sandy Roberts (SR):

I am inspired first of all by God's incredible love and grace, it motivates me. I am also inspired by the things that break my heart, hurt and suffering. I know it also breaks the heart of God. God has invited us to participate in sharing hope to people around us.

## Cr:

In your job as a president, what kind of things do you do? What does a typical day for the president look like?

## SR:

A typical weekday in the office includes leading out or participating in meetings where we plan, make decisions regarding churches and personnel and the overall mission of SECC, as well as meeting with pastors. I often spend evenings out at churches at board meetings, and pastoral search committees. I spend weekends in churches, preaching and participating in celebrations such as church anniversaries, organizing new churches, pastor ordinations, church dedications, and evangelistic meetings.

## CR:

How has your role changed in the conference office? What do you like about being the president? What do you dislike of your new responsibility?

## SR:

I started out in the conference office as one of the youth directors and loved that ministry. Now as president, I have the rare opportunity to see the bigger picture of what God is doing in SECC. It is a different view that requires broader input and conversations to make decisions. It is an opportunity to cast a vision with pastors, teachers and ministries as we seek to follow Jesus into our future. I find joy in that. You ask what I dislike about this responsibility; I most dislike dealing with people and groups of people who forget that this ministry is not about us. People who seek power and control drain me!

## CR:

When you finished your studies, where did you expect to end up? How does being president of the SECC fit in?

SR:

I wanted to do youth ministry when I finished graduate school at Andrews. Leading a summer camp program was where I wanted to end up. In many ways this job, being president, requires a similar skill set and passion. I never wanted to be an administrator. God has a sense of humor!

CR:

The theme for this month's Criterion issue is, La Sierra Universities Identity and presence in the local community. Where do you think La Sierra University fits in to the community? Where does the conference fit into the community?

SR:

God has placed us here, in this region, for a very particular purpose. The fact that we are here, in Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties is not an accident. God has work for us to do and this work has its roots in the orange groves of Riverside that stretch to Redlands, the beach cities of our coast to the rocky terrain of our deserts and the cool and refreshing air of our mountain communities and even to the congested freeways that riddle our landscape. God has called us here to be salt and light, hope and healing, faith and action, mercy and compassion! God has called us here to proclaim loudly this message of Hope of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the reality of the Kingdom of God.

CR:

What are some things the university body can do to be representatives of the conference and Adventist church into the local community?

SR:

La Sierra University and Southeastern California Conference have a symbiotic relationship in the communities we live and dwell in. I would love to see that strengthened by doing more intentional ministry together. Together, we can follow Jesus and amplify our mission.

CR:

Looking into the future, what direction do you want the conference to go in? Does your vision involve La Sierra University, if so how?

SR:

I am optimistic about the future of our conference. I am full of anticipation of what can happen as we work together in all of our diversity, which is one of our many strengths. This diversity will continue to unite us in mission, while the expressions of that mission may be vast and varied. The institutions of higher education within our conference, La Sierra University and Loma Linda University, and the ability to cooperate together, can create unstoppable opportunities to impact this territory.

CR:

Though ultimately, this article focuses on La Sierra University and the relationship to the conference, I want to talk about your election as a female. As the first female conference president, how does that make you feel? How do you view your responsibilities to the conference compared to your responsibility to the larger Adventist Church?

SR:

How does it make me feel? I know there has been a bit of conversation about that, but my reality was that the day after constituency session, I had to roll up my sleeves and go to work. There is much to do, and I haven't given much thought to the gender issue. This conference asked me to serve as their president and that is my primary responsibility. That being said, we are a part of a world-wide Church and will remain strong in our support of our Church at large even though this decision has been controversial.

CR: What sort of struggles within the Adventist Church do you anticipate having based on your gender?

SR:

I don't anticipate having much struggle that is gender related. This conference is supportive as well as the North American Division. The struggles will come with leadership in general. Leadership is difficult. We have complex issues to keep working through and much work to do.

CR:

What are some of the Conference's goals? And what are some of the unique challenges in this conference?

SR:

We are just beginning a strategic planning process for the first time in years. We will do this through careful listening and dialogue with our churches, schools and personnel. Goals for SECC will emerge through that process.

CR:

Are there any specific projects you are working on that you can share?

SR:

I want to dream God's dreams for our conference, and to pay attention to what God is revealing to all of us. Continuing the work of Jesus in our region is not a top-down process, but a process of listening and discerning God's direction for us. Right now I am doing a whole lot of listening. I am committed to making mission driven decisions.

CR:

Finally, what words of encouragement or purpose can you give for the LSU students and the readers of this paper?

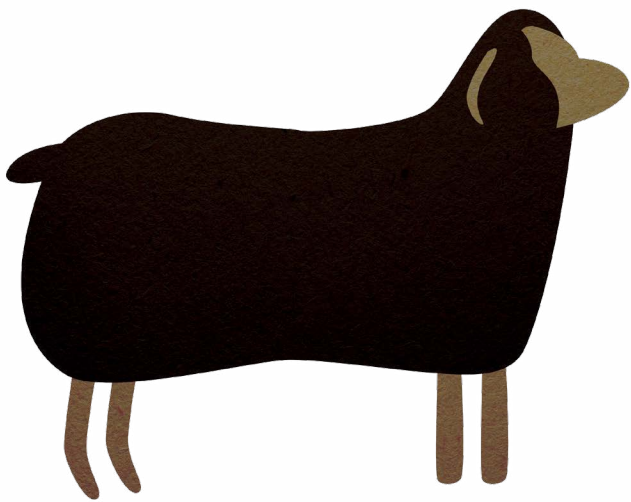
SR:

Remember that God is at work, always, everywhere and in every situation. Find joy in what you do.

**W**

e, at The Criterion, would like to thank President Roberts for taking the time to speak to us. La Sierra is a progressive, changing school. From new renovations on campus to growing community outreach and Service Learning Programs, La Sierra is constantly finding ways to uphold a faithful, proud identity. In the midst of renovations, new film degrees and building changes, our institution has to remember, as President Roberts put it, it's not about us.

Though the things done to bolster the image of the campus are invaluable, they should not be a means to an end, but serve as supporting aspects of our identity. Which is To Seek, To Know, To Serve. As our student body moves into 2014 we need to continue to look inwards, look outwards and look forward. Seeing not ourselves, but those around us. C.S Lewis wrote, 'humility is not thinking less of oneself, but thinking of oneself less often'. Our image is important, but only because our image symbolizes our identity. And a crucial part of that identity is supporting member of the community we are a part of..



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**FEATURES**



# LA SIERRA BLACK SHEEP

are you in or out?

By Janell Haylock

**H**ave you ever looked at the stars and thought about your place among them? How your life will resonate throughout the universe? What if you never existed? Unfortunately we humans are fated to the boundaries of the Earth for recognition. Whether you are a pessimist, optimist, realist, opportunist, or anything-ist, there is an innate desire to be remembered. To be acknowledged by humanity. We find ourselves compelled to find community—a niche in this life. Upon entering a crowded room we quickly scan for a familiar face, someone to make us feel comfortable and at ease with ourselves. My question to you is, “Why does society cause us to silence our radical thoughts?” Rather than stand out among friends with an opposing opinion, many of us provide slightly different responses, or plainly agree with the majority. The theme for this issue of the Criterion is, “What is our identity?” as a university. Lets take that further: “What if La Sierra stopped being radical?”

In the world congregation of Adventism, La Sierra University is frequently labeled as a radical center of learning. You might be thinking this is a good thing, but be reassured that many take the opposing view. Rather than being the questioning mind that compels conversation and invites sharing through curiosity, La Sierra is often perceived as a rebellious and unruly child. The continuous stream and flow of everyday life here at La Sierra can cause us to forget, or even realize the impact we have. Did you know that being a student here and contributing to class conversations

is actually stretching the boundaries of Adventism? Pastor Chris Oberg, the senior pastor of La Sierra University Church, acting as a guest lecturer in a religion class, commented that as she began to explore and participate in theological discussions outside of La Sierra University there was a huge shift in her perception of how the world church perceives Adventism. Pastor Oberg continued to describe how her religious studies at La Sierra had exposed her to radical-type thinking that pushed boundaries left untouched by the world church.

Perhaps you are asking yourself, in what ways are we radical? In general, La Sierra finds itself standing alone in its application of Adventism in everyday life issues as well as theological discussions. These include and extend beyond: sexuality, woman ordination, worship services, community of faith sharing, combination of science and religion, and diversity found in an inclusion of all peoples. The radicalism we share is not simply a passing or superficial emotion shared by the campus, rather, it has seeped into the definition of who we are, who we have been, and who we will be.

The Criterion is a student media source and as such we jointly decided to survey our sister Seventh-day Adventist schools for their opinion of us. The opinions were gathered from our peers, fellow students that seek to reach a higher education within the Adventist system. In reading these statements, we ask that you read objectively as our purpose is not to criticize the campus, but instead to learn and grow from these opinions of La Sierra.

## SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

When questioned over the general mood towards La Sierra's perceived radicalism, Andrew, a senior chemical engineering and astrophysics student commented: "When I meet people from California and ask them why they didn't go to La Sierra, the answer I most often get is, 'Well, I wanted to go to an Adventist school.' I can't speak for every Southern student, but in general, LSU is viewed as a party school that teaches evolution and doesn't really stand for Adventist principles. Personally, I feel like LSU is definitely a more liberal school based off what students there have told me. As far as evolution is concerned, although some of the stuff I've heard goes on there sounds pretty crazy, I don't know what or how much of that is true. As far as the party scene is concerned, every Adventist school has one, including Southern; maybe LSU's is just bigger.

***LSU is viewed as a party school  
that teaches evolution.***

## ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Kyle Dever, a graduate student, chaplain and former La Sierra student replied: "In my experience at Andrews, La Sierra is known as the 'liberal' school. Anytime I wear any La Sierra gear on campus I get made fun of for being a bad Adventist or being generally on the 'left.' Several times students have wanted to have serious conversations about La Sierra because of the perceptions that many impose on them or rumors about La Sierra they may hear. In my experience so far these perceptions match reality, probably not to the extent that students at either university might think of the other, but in general I've noticed that the campus and surrounding culture of La Sierra is more liberal, progressive, or open than that of Andrews. Specific perceptions I've seen include: drinking coffee, teaching evolution, smoking weed, being gay, having liberal religion faculty, not having as devout of a spiritual life as Andrews. Often times these perceptions are shown through jokes but students have also proven that they actually hold some or all of these perceptions to be true as well."

***Specific perceptions I've seen include:  
drinking coffee, smoking weed, being gay,  
having liberal religion faculty...***

## UNION COLLEGE

Katy, a Sophomore, added her thoughts: “Well, to be honest, I don't hate La Sierra but I don't love it either. I have indifferent feelings toward it. I've been to La Sierra's Campus a couple of times and it's a nice campus but it is not a place where I would like to be at. I don't know much about the school to hate on it or love it. I know before [I]ve talked about La Sierra a couple times in high school and I would say that I didn't like it, or that I hated it. But I didn't have a reason, I would use the excuse, ‘La Sierra is too liberal that it's become a party school.’ Honestly I guess you could say that about any other school that isn't as strict or conservative. If you'd ask me now, ‘Come to La Sierra!’ I would kindly say no. The couple of times that I've talked about La Sierra to others on campus, they have said they didn't like it, but the conversation never went further than that.”

*I don't hate La Sierra,  
but I don't love it either.*

## PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE

An anonymous senior explained, “Well La Sierra to me has always been the more liberal school with liberal views, which I never had a problem with. La Sierra is also known as the commuter school—the school is lively during the week and dead during the weekends. That's one of the reasons I did not pick La Sierra. I did not want to be able to go home every weekend. I wanted enough distance that I would miss home and it challenged me and helped me grow in a lot of ways. La Sierra is known as the ultimate party school as well. PUC has its issues, as well, though.”

*The school is lively during the week  
and dead during the weekend.*

## WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY

A girl's dean described her perspective: "We definitely feel that compared to Southern or Andrew's University, most SDA schools on the west coast are liberal compared to them. In terms of accepting gay or lesbian individuals we're definitely more open to that. I know that from talking to some of my friends that have gone to LSU, they are very spiritual. The general sense about schools from California like LSU or PUC is that people from here feel that things are just a lot more 'superficial' there than they are here. La Sierra of course has the Riverwalk that has just been put there a couple of years back, which is very beautiful by the way. And yes, we do know about the new business building that was featured in a business magazine as 'the number one' aesthetically pleasing building. I don't want to use the term 'snobby' because it is too strong of a word, but even most students we feel from California feel the need to dress their best for class. So, in California while they're more concerned about 'superficial' things, we put the utmost importance on everyone coming together and truly feeling a sense of strong 'community.' We want everyone to build strong relationships with each other. I myself had the choice of either going to LSU or Walla Walla. I chose Walla Walla, and now I permanently live here. That's just how things work out sometimes. Not to say that one school is better than the other."

*People from here feel that things are just  
alot more superficial  
than they are here.*

## OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

Kyle, a Theology and Business double major replied by saying, "Me personally I believe La Sierra is an excellent school academically, but has lost a strong Adventist identity, although that doesn't represent everyone of course. Religious ideology I believe is wayward, based on my discussions while on campus. It's good to stretch your thinking and challenge the status quo, but some of the comments had no Biblical foundation. I think our generations spirituality is lukewarm on most campuses."

*I believe La Sierra . . . has lost a strong  
Adventist identity.*

**A**s we can clearly read, there have been haunting whispers throughout the nation regarding our dedication to Adventism. Southern questions the morality of our science department in presenting evolution to students in the past. One might question how biology majors are intended to succeed in the larger culture of scientific thought and discussion if they have been sheltered from evolutionary discussions. Our faith and belief in Adventism should not prevent us from learning. A fear to expose students to real-life questions and problems will only hinder the student body and broaden the schism between science and religion.

Meanwhile, Andrews points to the liberal staff at La Sierra University and gay awareness as lacking Adventist identity. May we beg to differ? Christ himself was radical; in the face of legalism and trickery by the Pharisees, Christ transformed society with his power to love completely. This is our goal at La Sierra, to love all people regardless of their gender, race, social standing or sexual orientation. The staff perpetuates this type of thinking and that is partly why they are labeled as liberal.

In the heart of Riverside, La Sierra stands as a higher standard of education that seeks to serve the community. Unlike PUC or Walla Walla, La Sierra is not located in a less urbanized area like the Napa Valley. Consequently, students can commute from home during the week or travel elsewhere during the weekends. This is why La Sierra is commonly perceived as a "ghost town" during the weekends. In actuality, there are many students and staff on campus that attend different events prepared for them.

Interestingly, it seems the questioning spirit evoking radical thoughts and actions by the campus is interpreted as liberalism. The opinions provide us with a general mood of openness expressed by our campus. If La Sierra University stopped being radical, Adventism would lose an overwhelming force evoking thought, questioning, change and development. YOU are essential to this concept. You make this happen. You are the radical. The only question left to explore is whether you are up to it. Let us be the rebellious, rambunctious and world-changing children of Adventism.



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**SPORTS**

# THE STANDARD

## volleyball

### By Adrian Wilson

Hard work, dedication, and a will to win is how you describe the Golden Eagles women's volleyball team as they had the best regular season in all of the Cal-Pac and earning themselves No. 1 seed in the conference. The women's volleyball set the bar high this year for all sports this year as they had an outstanding season finishing a 22-9 on the season and an impressive home record at 13-1. The team was very disciplined and had little to no errors during the year. Was the team perfect? No, but this team showed how volleyball can be played at the highest level, better than any other team in the Cal-Pac Conference. This team started off the season with high expectations by having eight experienced seniors on the team. The team believed that the sky was the limit for them this year and they did not disappoint. When they played well, they did not get too high and focused on the next game. When they played bad and still won, they paid for it in practice. The volleyball team knew what it took to win. This year, each player on the team held each other together. This team went as far as each player went. The Golden Eagles volleyball team is the true definition of the word "team." When talking to captain of the team, Colleen Stafford she said she learned the true definition of a team while playing here at La Sierra. There was not one star player that was noticed; all of the players on the team were stars and played a specific role on the team. From coaching, to the setter, to the bench, each person on the team had a job. Every person knew what that job was and did it the best that they could. This team fueled off of the positive attitude of each other, and had fun just playing the game while being competitive at the same time. Being around the women's volleyball team, this group of ladies, is more so like a family rather than a team. Each person on the team is treated with equal respect and does not hold one person higher or lower than the

other. "I can say the high point of our season was towards the end of our regular season when we were able to beat teams we had lost to at the beginning of season, and it was when we became closer as a team and family playing together on the court for each other and that is what made us carry out the rest of the season with winning and into playoffs," said senior Ana Flores. This team had a great ride this year and it showed on the volleyball court. When asking Ana Flores of how this team was different than any other teams she had played for, she simply said, "This team was different from the rest of the teams I have been a part of because of the talent and hard work we put into for this season. We had so many options with players being able to play multiple positions and it carried us a long way, all the way till the end of season. This team was more of a family and life-long friendships were made that will continue to grow even now after season, and I love every single one of my teammates and coaching staff endlessly." This team had a great bond with each other, even before the season started. Most of the players on the team were returners for last year so the chemistry was already there. Everyone on the team bought in to what they needed to do to win this season, and it started with the coaches. First year assistant coach Nikki Cheong was asked what she learned from this season and she said, "I learned quite a few things from my first year as a collegiate assistant coach. First, I learned that the players definitely notice everything and it is important to show how much you care & how much effort you put into helping them become the best athlete they can be. Second, I learned that coaching, especially at the collegiate level, takes a huge amount of time and dedication (especially if you want your team to do well). Third, the coaches are just as much a part of the team as the players; without good coaches it is hard for the team to be successful." Failure is not

an option when playing on Erin Conley's team. Each player knows that they have to put everything on the line when it comes to playing for the team. Sacrifices have to be made as well, and willing to sacrifice for a team comes a long way. This team knew what they had to sacrifice, which resulted in a successful year. This year's team has eight seniors that will be leaving after this year, three who were all conference first team (Colleen Stafford, Lupe Garcia, and Lina Semaia). This team has a lot of pieces to replace, but still have the Miller sisters who will be returning. Robyn Miller finished All-Conference second team. The team did come up short in the championship game against Menlo University. Even though they came up short, it does not take away the amazing season that they had this year. This year's volleyball team set a new standard of how La Sierra athletics should be and how working together as a team, sacrificing for the team, being disciplined, and fighting until the end helps a team become successful.



Photos by Adrian Wilson

# soccer

Down 2-1 to the best team in the Cal-Pac Semi-finals, it looked like this was it for the Golden Eagles men's soccer team, but with soccer games, they are never decided in the first half. It takes the whole 90 minutes to decide the outcome of a soccer game. For the Golden Eagles it took just that as junior forward Edgar Padilla scored two consecutive goals to put their team up 3-2 against Marymount. This resulted in the biggest upset and biggest win in La Sierra history. For Marymount, this was a huge shock to them, but to the Golden Eagles, this was nothing new, as they are used to playing in hard fought games. This was a prime example of how the season went for the Golden Eagles; when it looks like they are down and out they always find ways to come back and win. With no one outside of La Sierra having faith in their team, the Golden Eagles embraced the underdog role and accepted the challenge to prove their doubters wrong. This season's ups and downs for the soccer team, physically and emotionally, was the identity of the team, as they finished 9-9 for the season. However this did not define the character of the team this year. This team fought together as a brotherhood and had a "never quit" mentality. Senior defender D.J. Bonanken said, "Hard work really does pay off. We really put in the work this year, a lot more than my last three years and the results showed." This team fought tooth and nail through every game and the team was banged up for most of the season. With senior mid-fielder Sid Dube coming off of a severe knee injury to captain Joel Hernandez playing through a foot injury, or even the goalkeeper playing 50% towards the end of the season this team still found ways to win. Freshman players stepped up, teammates fueled off of each other, and seniors that were on the team turned into leaders of the team. Outside of playing soccer this team showed that they built a stronger bond than past soccer teams of before. This team did not just build a bond through adversity, but this team grew spiritually. "The way I see this team different from past years is that the whole team became stronger spiritually, but still a competitive enough wanting to win games," said by captain Joel Hernandez. This team's spiritual background was anchored by other captain Dakota Shelton who was baptized a few months ago. Dakota was the one that encouraged the team to pray before games and he was also the player that showed his team how you can play the game at a high level and still be a Christian on the field. The teammates looked up to Dakota and decided to follow in Dakota's footsteps on the field. This team battled together, fought together, laughed and cried together. This team was a

team made up of brothers that had one love and one goal, which was to playing soccer at the highest level. Even though the season is over this team is still brothers off field. When senior Sid Dube was asked what he will miss about playing soccer at La Sierra, he simply said, "I can't say the guys because we've made a deep bond that we'll continue to hang out and see each other even after season. I guess I'll miss practices and playing competitively. There is no better feeling than stepping to a field with ten other guys and fighting for 90 minutes." This team had a total of eight seniors that will be leaving the team this year. Even though many players are leaving, saying that the team would have to start from scratch is an overstatement. This team has a lot of freshman that now

know what it takes to win and know that they have to give it their all for 90 minutes of a game. Freshman players' Josue Meza and Joel Mendoza have a lot of potential to become great players. In years to come they will be the ones that will anchor the team. This team also has key players returning that were key components of the team's success, including the return of Kenny Bonanken who sat out this year. This team has all the potential of being better next year, they just have to go onto the field and show it. Even though this season did not go the way that they wanted it to go, this team still had a lot of fun and they can say that they were the only team that knocked out the number one team in the playoffs. It may be one game, but that one game will go down in La Sierra history for years to come.





# 2013 WORLD SERIES

## october glory

By Jamie Perchez

It took six games but the Boston Red Sox were able to defeat the St. Louis Cardinals. The band of bearded men won the first game of the series but lost the next two. They were able to come back and win the next three allowing them to clinch their third title in ten years.

In game six they never trailed the Cardinals; they were up six in the fourth inning. It was not until the seventh inning that St. Louis's Carlos Beltran was able to score with an RBI, but their one score would stand alone on the score board.

When they reached the ninth inning, left fielder Jonny Gomes caught the first two outs, getting his team that much closer to a win. The final out happened when closer, Koji Uehara, struck out Matt Carpenter.

Second baseman, Dustin Pedroia, said he wanted to win at home for the fans. Pedroia also said that "it's just unbelievable to think about," referring to the way they came back from their last place finish the season before and going on to win another World Series.

MVP, David Ortiz, said this World Series "might be the most special...that [he] has been a part of." Ortiz has been a part of this team for all three titles; he is definitely speaking from a place of understanding.

Manager John Farrell said the "team has got a place in history."

He is definitely right because this particular win was important. It was the first time the team was able to win a Championship at Fenway Park since 1918. The other two Championships they won, in 2004 and 2007, were both road wins. This was a great win for the city of Boston because of the tragedy that happened earlier in the year at the Boston Marathon. And players, such as Ortiz said, the "town...struggled early this year with the situation all of us went through." This win will definitely go down in history as a memorable win for the city of Boston.





**ARTS**

*Photos by: Barraa Alaraj*

# AN ARTIST STATEMENT

## collective view

By Brenda Delfino

**F**or this special exhibit, I invite you to sit back and read with an open mind. Things might get a little confusing. The creation of “Collective view” came from the need to answer a tough question that I personally could not have answered alone. “Collective View” a short story with more than one author holds a variety of different perspectives –much like Picasso’s paintings from the Cubism Art Movement- It doesn’t quite make sense, when seen as a whole. But if you choose to focus your view, you’ll find they’re just all different angels. In this story you might find familiar thoughts, things that have circled your mind. Don’t be afraid to interpret. “You have to let go of control for wonderful things to happen.” Become a Reader-Response Critic, as we call it in my Lit Criticism class. Take a step back and look at it from a distance, see the complete picture. It might be confusing; it might make you laugh or even grunt. But lean forward and deconstruct its parts, look into it closely. Ask yourself what does this all mean? It’s okay to psychoanalyze this piece. “Why did he/she write that? You might not receive a direct answer. But maybe that’s not the purpose. Maybe the purpose is to let it all linger.

“What is our identity?”

**I**n this issue we have asked this question to ourselves, we asked the community and now, we are asking you. Would anything be different in this world, in this community or in ourselves if La Sierra ceased to exist? What makes this campus special? What is our identity? I’m not sure we have finalized an answer. But that’s O.K. because it doesn’t stop here. As a means to answer this question creatively a group of La Sierra Students participated in this joint Story.

### One View, Many Views

**I**f La Sierra would cease to exist, the world would collapse And everyone would start screaming in fear because Justin Bieber would use this ground to hold his concerts. And little girls would take over the world. And become Amazon Women who break the ground. That is when Justin Bieber reveals that he is Wonder Woman. Then the world would realize we ask the hard questions and implement them into our lives . . . The Directioners would throw a coupe. There’s dancing now? Yes, People are happy, but not as happy as they would, if La Sierra were still here. Everything that is known would not be known.

**F**or the rest of this issue keep this question in mind, and try to find your original answer. This story was a warm up; as you flip the page you’ll find more unexpected answers.

# LET'S GET PERSONAL

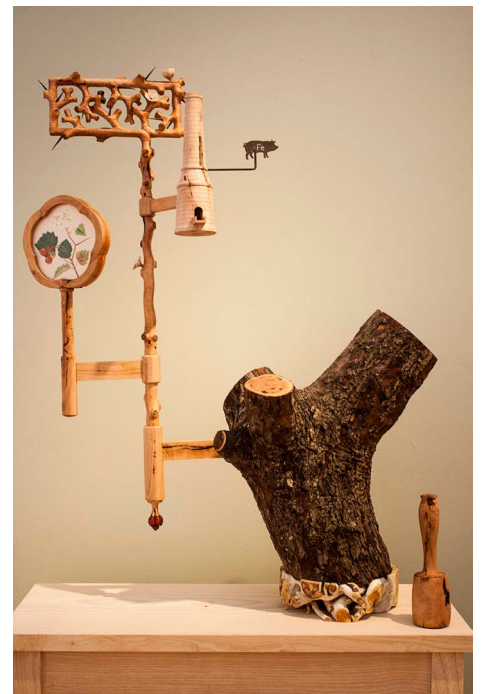
## critiquing art

By Sarah Lancaster

Interesting, I hear the woman next to me whisper. Her long brown hair twists into a side braid, the tips dip into her plastic cup filled with water. “Very interesting,” responds the man whom I presume to be her husband. I remain next to them, hoping for a continued dialogue to the visually appealing—yet conceptually confusing—work of art that I can gather the “meaning” of the wooden sculpture. The woman begins to tap her foot, as she puts one hand on her chin she lets out a loud sigh of exasperation. She lingers, staring intently at the sculpture, her brows furrow and her mouth twist. She turns to her husband with a nod and they both agree that it is time to look at another sculpture.

As they walk away, I can’t help but feel disappointed—what did they see that I didn’t? What makes this sculpture so “interesting”—even “very interesting”? I remain gazing blankly at the object in front of me, hoping to grasp what the artsy-fartsy couple so willingly accepted into their intellectual conscience and seemingly understood. I stood. I stared. I observed. Then I thought, “Hmmm, that looks like it took a lot of time and skill.” That’s it? That’s all I can comprehend about this wooden sculpture? “There has to be more to it than that,” I mused.

I’ve come to La Sierra’s Brandstater Gallery a few times before this opening, using the same formula of ignorance to balance my lack of fine arts training. “I don’t get it, but I don’t want to look dumb... he must be brilliant!” My comprehension of art stops at the “prettiness” of the landscape or the “dedication” it took to finish a piece. This time is no different as hence, I begin my very novice analysis of abstract art. First, I think of the time it took for the artist to find a log, a piece of driftwood, or reclaimed wood—the *right* piece for artist Fred Rose to *see* something within that piece of wood. Next, I imagine the skill it took to make a plain piece of wood into a hand, a fish, or a dripping torso. Heck, I’ve seen whittlin’ done on The Andy Griffith



***Art is personal***  
*it isn't defined by rules, parameters, or guidelines.*





Show, but this is more than whittlin’—these pieces of wood were “seasoned,” as Mr. Rose calls it. Then he begins his process of touching and feeling the wood, deciding what it is to become of it. I’m suddenly motivated to study it more closely because I think I’m getting a glimmer of how to appreciate art. How long did it take him to complete this piece? How long does it take to “season?” Does he close his eyes and simply “feel” the wood until it “speaks” to him? How long did it take from conception to the finished product, including all of the sawing, the bending, and glazing?

**A**s I try to figure out this art stuff, I am struck with the realization that maybe it’s a personal experience and the “meaning” of this arte de’ object has no concrete answer. It’s not like a math problem or a chemistry experiment that has precise answers. It’s not grammar or punctuation rules. It’s not how many times a player can touch the volleyball in a match. Art is personal—it isn’t defined by rules, parameters, or guidelines. It is an expression of a part within the artist that needs to come out. Maybe Mr. Rose’s opinion of the dripping torso is meant to be a statement of society’s pressure on women to dress nicely. This heavy burden weighs them down and makes them sad. But as a new art critic, I see something different. I see that someone hung up a wet top and now it is drying. Unfortunately, there is starch in the top, and it has become stiff as it dries. The title of the piece, “He Dreamt of Trusting Himself”, may simply mean that “he” often ruined the laundry, only fantasizing about what could be.

**A**fter this experience, I’m not sure if I’ll ever get to react as the couple standing beside me. I’m not even sure if I’ll ever go to a gallery opening again. But I can now be certain I will not look at art through anyone else’s eyes but mine.



# THE MAD MARRIONETTES

## a band review

**By Adrian Wilson/Kevin Alexander**

La Sierra University is a university that has many talented students. Many students on campus are involved in different artistic activities around Riverside and different areas around Southern California. One of these students, Crystal Chavez, is a member of a band called The Mad Marionettes. She is the keyboardist for the band and spends a lot of her time between studying for her art classes here at La Sierra, and rehearsing and performing with them. After attending their show at ProAbition, a restaurant and bar located in downtown Riverside, where the Marionettes also happen to be the house band, I sat down and spoke with her and the bandmates about their music.

The Mad Marionettes are an eight piece band that features Danny McCormick (lead vocals, guitar, banjo), Ulises "Cheese" Rodriguez (accordion), Damian Aguayo (upright bass), Jorge Aguayo (drums, percussion), George Canchola (drums, percussion), and Joe Di Fiore (clarinet, saxophone), and La Sierra's own Crystal Chavez. The Mad Marionettes is a band that is inspired by music from the 1920's, old jazz, French, Latin, classical, and world music. Some of the tunes they played included covers of jazz standards such as Summertime, Smile, After You've Gone, Moanin', Never Make It Home, Bella Ciao, Booty Swing, I Know That She's Mine, I Found a New Baby. They also played some original songs like Dirty Secrets, The Pop

Song, and The Trees. The band got started around 2006 with Danny McCormick and his brother, jamming out when they were kids. The band was a four piece band which was formally known as Psychobilly Flapjacks, which eventually expanded to eight members. The band doesn't represent a certain type of genre; they are mostly a band that plays all types when it comes to playing music. The band studio session time is fun for the most part, especially when Danny allegedly yells at everyone. Besides playing at ProAbition, Mad Marionettes played at House of Blues, Tiki lounge, LA Sound System Festival, Lounge 22, Mini Tour to Mardi Gras in New Orleans 2-3 years ago. They are recording music but

do not have any music releasing anytime soon. Danny McCormick was asked what the band hopes to accomplish in today's unpredictable music industry. He simply said, "World domination. A level of success beyond what we're currently at." Other goals that Mad Marionettes would like to accomplish would be releasing recordings, relocating, playing bigger venues outside of our location, improving as musicians. Unite both Korea's with their music. They would also they would like to collaborate with Goran Bregovic, Thelonus Monk, and Bjork.

Even though the band has been around since 2006, the current band is fairly new, only being together for 5 months. La Sierra's own Crystal Chavez was added to the group in July. One of her friends mentioned that his friend, Danny, was looking for a keyboardist for his band and so she got in touch with him. Crystal got a call from Danny to set up a little audition day and that's when she first heard about gypsy jazz. Crystal's first gig with them was at a graduation party. They were featured along with two other bands. It was quite funny, given that the other bands were straight metal. The experience was nothing but amazing and she had a lot of fun playing that night. She could see that everyone there really enjoyed it, too! From there, Crystal has always looked forward to playing with the Mad Marionettes, whether it was in practice, or a gig. The Mad Marionettes became one of Crystal's main priorities during summer, because they were practicing and gigging every week. Even now, with school, Crystal still keeps the band at a high priority.

Mad Marionettes really made Crystal feel comfortable doing what she loved. "I really owe a lot of my musical growth to the Mad Marionettes. Danny always made me solo in practice and would always encourage me when I was too shy or stubborn to do so.

Even when I wouldn't play during a solo, he would just wait and keep playing until I play something. Playing with them has also been a great way to explore different styles, from gypsy jazz to salsa. Danny even got me to sing, which was a pretty big stretch for me. I love singing, but to myself, alone. I remember him telling me to learn a song that I agreed to sing 'someday' only to have me sing it the next day at our gig. It was a good push and, even though I still get a little shy, I feel a lot more confident in myself." Playing for the band made her realize that a summer which looked to be dead, turned out to be a new chapter to her life. Crystal loves playing with the band and has built a bond with the members of the band. "Not only are these guys amazing musicians, but they are incredibly awesome people, as well. It's like a big bonus that we get along so well and I think you can hear that in the music, also. Even my friends who have come to support the band have said that they are cool guys." Mad Marionettes is a fairly new band that has a lot of potential to do great things for many years to come. The chemistry and feel is already there with the members. Now Crystal and Mad Marionettes look to accomplish great things in the near future. "Before the summer, I just remember hoping and praying for something to keep me busy. I didn't look forward to being a bum for the summer before school. I couldn't have imagined finding something I love to do so much. I'm extremely thankful that I met these guys and I can't stop talking about them." It is funny how God helps you find your calling even when you aren't looking for it. Crystal needed this group just as much as the group needed her, and now they are inseparable. A summer that looked to be boring turned in to a dream of a lifetime.

# visit them:

[www.madmarionettes.com](http://www.madmarionettes.com)



[facebook.com/madmarionettes](https://facebook.com/madmarionettes)



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**RELIGION**



# THE RADICAL REALITY OF JESUS

faith in action

By Matthew Valdez

**I**n the context of Roman persecution, the author of Hebrews exclaims, “But recall those earlier days when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and persecution, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion for those who were in prison, and you cheerfully accepted the plundering of your possessions, knowing that you yourselves possessed something better and more lasting. Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. For you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. For yet, ‘in a very little while, the one who is coming will come and will not delay; but my righteous one will live by faith. My soul takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back.’ But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved.” (Heb. 10:32-39) This passage was written for encouragement in the face of persecution. Although there is pain and hardships in this life, there is ultimately a greater reward to have faith. But what is faith? The author continues in 11:1, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Although this is a famous verse repeated over and over again, I believe its true meaning still eludes us.

**I**n our lives today, we may not experience the same level of hardships that occurred during the Roman persecution of Christians. However, we still face pain and suffering. We cannot escape it. We suffer. Whether it is dealing with sickness, the death of loved ones, relationship problems, natural disasters, stress, loneliness, and exclusion, we still live in a world in which suffering is commonplace. Yet in the face of all the suffering that we experience and witness in this world, we are still called, just as the early Christians were, to have faith. But again, what is faith? Is it really the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen? What does this even mean? Does this mean that our faith is something so invisible and intangible? If faith really is relying on something invisible and intangible, how does this help our very real, very tangible, and very visible suffering that we experience all the time? Growing up in the Adventist church faith was merely described as belief. More specifically belief in Jesus. If you have faith in Jesus, or if you believe in Jesus, you are saved. If not, then you are lost. So if I take this understanding of faith and place it into the problem of suffering, what we get goes something like this. If you believe in Jesus hard enough, things will get better. They will get better, either now or in heaven. However, I was and still am not satisfied with this definition and application of faith. Because the question, “what is faith?” has still yet to be adequately answered.

**W**hen we look past the surface of Hebrews 11:1, we can find a deeper meaning and intention to this extremely popular often confusing verse. “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for . . .” The word “assurance” in this verse was translated from the original Greek word “hupostasis.” While translating hupostasis to the English word “assurance” is by no means a mistake or a bad translation, much of the nuance and subtlety to the original Greek word gets lost in translation. Although the Greek word hupostasis can mean assurance, it can also mean that which has actual existence or a substance of real being. In other words, it gives a sense of material reality. But what does this reality entail? If we look at the end of this literary segment in Hebrews 12:2 it says, “looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.” This is the reality that is mentioned in Hebrews 11:1. Jesus and the world in which he changed forever is this reality. This is the kingdom of God that Jesus established and continues to establish. A reality established through love, understanding, peace, justice, and humility. A reality established through feeding the poor, healing the sick, and giving comfort to all who were weary.

**F**aith is then hoping for and understanding that although unseen and invisible, the better and brighter



future based on the love and humility that Jesus lived and died for is in fact our new reality. This is faith. It is not merely believing in the existence of God, but it is hoping for and working towards this better and brighter world in which God through Jesus sought to bring about into existence as he lived with us on earth. We anticipate the perfecting of God's kingdom in the future, but actively participate in living out this kingdom in the present. Faith is active. As Christians, we are called to shake off and abandon the prescribed reality that this world gives us and adopt the radical reality

of Jesus. The world and its popular ideology offers us a reality based on economic domination over one another, while the reality of Jesus moves us to love others more than ourselves through humility and grace. Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of God." The world offers us a reality based on greed and the hoarding of material possessions, while the reality of Jesus moves us to live simple lives, not weighed down by all the stuff that we own and paradoxically owns us. Jesus says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." The world offers us a reality of war

and revenge, while the reality of Jesus moves us toward peace by turning the other cheek and forgiveness to all people and even more so to our enemies. Jesus says, "But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well." This is our new reality.

*The world offers us a reality of*  
**WAR and REVENGE**

**There is no place for cynicism** in the midst of faith. If faith is hoping for and understanding that although sometimes unseen and invisible, the better and brighter future based on love and humility that Jesus lived and died for is in fact our new reality. If this is the case, cynicism is the complete opposite of faith. When evil occurs in this world, we as Christians cannot merely shrug it off and say, “Well, that is just how the world is and there is nothing that I can do to change it.” This is anti-faith. This is accepting the prescribed reality of the world and doubting the new reality that Jesus established and announcing that it can never be. If we truly have faith, we are to throw off the paralyzing chains of cynicism and embrace the responsibility to continually work toward God's kingdom. This reality is not some fairy tale, or some pie-in-the-sky understanding of heaven. It is the real and tangible reality in which Jesus has established through his life and his death and is perfected in his resurrection. **Welcome to God's radical reality.**



ESSAY

Palazzo Vecchio

# TO SEEK

an essay

By Isaac Carreón

I always knew I was going to go to La Sierra University. My parents graduated from La Sierra University and I even attended several classes with them as a child. La Sierra University was a very different place in the 1990's. Loma Linda University was still attached to the campus and there was dairy across the street. My brothers and I would chase chickens that would wander on the campus from the farm. La Sierra University was my playground as a child and even then I knew I would one day go to school here.

I must admit it was nice not having to worry about applying to different colleges and universities when exiting high school. I had a plan.: return to Riverside, the city with no river, the grounds of my youth and my parents' alma mater. I was excited to begin a new chapter of my life in college. I was nineteen years old, turning twenty in December, back when I first entered college in 2008. Turning twenty meant no curfew. All my friends were going with me to La Sierra; *the world was my Oyster*. Suddenly I began to hear murmurs by several people at my church upon hearing I was going to La Sierra University. Some even approached me and asked if I was okay being associated with the "liberal" stigma that La Sierra University supposedly had. To this day I still shrug those comments off and am still searching for the meaning behind such base comments. I always tried to separate myself from such things, and concentrate on more meaningful subjects like finishing my major and making sure I have enough gas in my car to get from point A to point B. I do however take pride on how diverse our university is in both ethnicity and religion. I believe that this co-existence of varying spectrums of thoughts, religion and creeds display a harmonious example of how society should function.

My junior year of college was spent abroad in Italy through the ACA program here at La Sierra. It was a spectacular experience of a lifetime where I learned so much about different cultures. It was also there that I



discovered what other universities abroad thought of La Sierra University. The stigma of a “liberal” Adventist University somehow reached across the Atlantic to the boot-shaped peninsula. The first time I noticed that some people were a little uncomfortable that most students with me were from La Sierra University was during an afternoon chapel service. A guest pastor came and spoke for the ACA students. He asked which schools were represented there in the room. I rose my hand and stated I was from La Sierra. A joke was then made by the guest pastor about Evolution and something along the lines that we’re *not a real Adventist university* because of the whole debacle back stateside. I don’t remember the joke entirely but I do remember no one laughed. The majority of us in Italy there were from La Sierra. In retrospect, I feel bad for that pastor; it must have been really embarrassing for him since we did not validate such a stereotype. Although it was a small victory for me and my fellow Golden Eagles, his joke made me reflect on how my school was being thought of, not just at a national level but an international one. Worldwide, what does everyone think of La Sierra University? That night I laid awake and I realized that whether I liked it or not, my peers and I would be evaluated by our actions for the following nine months.

I myself started to look at the group I came to Italy with. Ten of us there were from La Sierra, making almost half of the ACA Italy group. Although we all didn’t always hang out with each other, we were all friends and liked representing the epitome of La Sierra University itself; we each had varying backgrounds.

One person in particular was my good friend Karla. Karla is a kind girl from Mexicali who was just as excited to visit Italy as I was. We spoke of many topics, ranging from Italian History, the local political parties in Italy, and religion. I claimed myself under the banner of being SDA, while she told me that she wasn’t, but greatly respected our sect. Karla took a distinctive pride in just being Christian. At the time she was happy with her beliefs and had no desire to become SDA just because she attended La Sierra University. More importantly, she received no pressure to become SDA from La Sierra University; of course this came to no surprise to me but it was a concept that several people couldn’t understand. Karla went to church every Saturday, many more times than I did, an actual Seventh-day Adventist and a former pastor’s son. It wasn’t long before some male suitors came to asking about Karla’s beliefs. They would ask me frequently, “Are you sure she’s not Adventist? She acts like one.” The conversation would always end the same, “Yes, I’m sure she’s not Adventist and no she’s not interesting in becoming one.”



***to seek means to actively  
take part in the shaping of  
your own understanding***

I believe Karla dodged several bullets and I felt legitimately sorry that they could not see past the fact that she wasn't Adventist. They neglected to consider being respectful for another religion, something that nearly everybody at La Sierra University embodies. I suppose it's hard for some people to phantom a co-existence of religions and sects of Christianity, all living together on one campus, and I think that is where the stigma of being a "liberal" university comes from. I remember the last time someone asked me why Karla chose to go to La Sierra University when she wasn't Seventh-day Adventist, I told him it might have something to do with the mission statement of our school.

*To Seek truth, enlarging human understanding through scholarship;*

At La Sierra University, we aren't told what to believe but find the truth ourselves. To seek means to actively take part in the shaping of your own understanding, to broaden one's scope of knowledge. This method of education is, I think, why so many individuals from all walks of life are drawn to La Sierra University. I think we understand this truth of seeking to enlarge human understanding. We get it, and I hope that someday others will too, even at a grand global scale.



**HOLIDAY 2013**