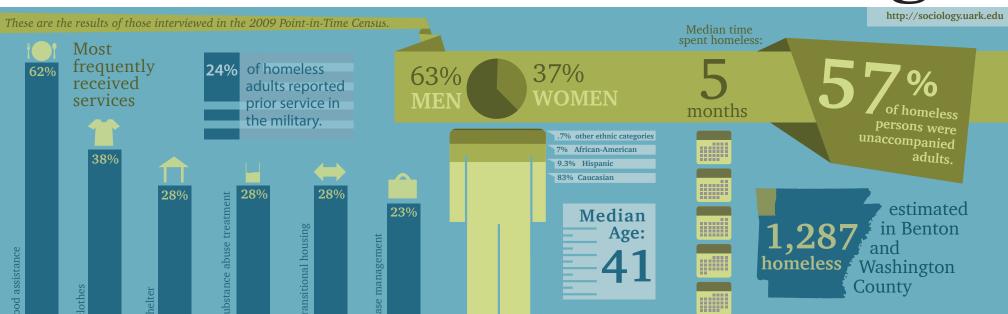


Thursday, December 4, 2014

Issue 10, Volume 80

Siloam Springs, Ark.

U.S. hides homeless from sight



Graphic by ALYSSA SCHOENWALD/The Threefold Advocate

BECKY WATTS

Staff Writer wattsb@jbu.edu

The growing homeless population leaves city leaders around the nation pondering how to provide for these residents. States such as California, New York and Florida have implemented regulations restricting the homeless out of a desire to protect communities from dangerous situations.

In Fort Lauderdale, Fla. authorities allegedly arrested 90-year old Arnold Abbott for feeding the homeless. According to the New York Daily News, Abbott was breaking a new law that made it illegal to feed the homeless outside without a permit.

Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler defended the law by saying, "What Arnold is doing is actually a very kind and compassionate act. We are just simply asking him to do it in a proper location."

New York City is currently working to remove park benches to ensure safety for families. According to The New York Times, the benches are being removed as a result of recent clashes between the homeless and residents of the neighborhood

shelter in Siloam Springs, since 2006. Baird is also an ordained minister in the Episcopal Church. He believes it is his purpose urchins, alcoholics and drug addicts often associated with homeless people.

"When I go to speak at places, I openly admit that the

The vast majority of the people we see grew up here and went to school here, but have experienced life circumstances that have led to homelessness."

Baird believes there is an appropriate way states can approach keeping homeless people away from family-friendly areas that will not only ensure the safety of the public, but also provide aid for the homeless.

He suggested that to help the homeless, states should construct rather than remove places for them to spend their time.

"States need to construct decent day shelters that can be a resource, construct enough day and night shelters to house the homeless and create a larger budget that funds both permanent and intermediate houses," Baird said. "Most importantly, we need to accept the fact that we cannot fix the entire problem."

Baird shared a story that he has often used in his sermons on Sunday.

Michael was chronically homeless. He would travel

from California to New York and would often stop by the Genesis House during his journey. One day Michael went to the Genesis House and explained to Baird that he was too old to be homeless, so Baird sat him down and they

outlined a plan.

Baird helped Michael find a one-day job and arranged to meet with him again after he received his paycheck to discuss how to save money.

The day came and Michael arrived at the Genesis House without the money. Sitting down, Michael told Baird his reason.

Michael was walking by Wal-Mart when he saw a couple of homeless children outside the store. Michael asked if they had eaten that day. "No," the kids replied. They had not eaten in a while

Michael took the children into Wal-Mart and bought them dinner. After they left the store he sat and ate with them.

"I think Michael truly understood what Jesus taught," Baird said.

genesis house OFFICES ADAY SELTIFIA RESOURCE CENTER (479) 549-3438

CLAYTON LYON/The Threefold Advocate

Jo Lynn Roberts (left) has worked at the Genesis House for 4.5 years. According to the ministry's website, the Genesis House's mission is to "provide a safe place of shelter and support to needy individuals striving to overcome obstacles to self sufficiency."

who complained that they no longer feel comfortable attending a park.

Gary Baird has served as the director of the Genesis

House, a local homeless

as a believer to care for the homeless

Baird said the public has many misconceptions about the homeless. He challenges the stereotypes of dirty street stereotypes exist, but then I mention the people I help," Baird said. "I tell them about the woman with cancer who had to pay for treatment so now she can't pay her bills.

Too many children, not enough homes

ALEX KING

Copy Editor kingaj@jbu.edu **BECKY WATTS** Staff Writer

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When it comes to adopting children, whether it be foreign or domestic, the obstacles can be devastating. Social Psychologist Susan Newman discussed the various barriers that couples face when looking into adoption.

"If you adopt a child from the welfare system, the child will most likely be over the age of three," Newman said in an article published in Psychology Today. "I can attest to the fact that in a short lifetime, children in foster care will probably have been subject to considerable emotional and/ or physical deprivation and/ or abuse that leaves scars and behavioral problems adopted parents will work hard to surmount for years."

Nearly 18 million orphans live in orphanages or on the streets worldwide, according to the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. There are 397,122 children in the foster care system in the United States alone, 101,666 of which are available to be adopted. The U.S. State Department reported that in 2012, Americans only adopted roughly 7,000 children, not even coming close to providing homes for the majority of these children.

Newman mentioned many other factors that cause problems for couples wanting to adopt such as high cost, legality issues when adopting from other countries and delays stemming from the large amount of paperwork that most be completed.

Despite these obstacles, couples around Northwest Arkansas are willing to take the necessary steps in order to pursue their dreams of building a family.

Siloam Springs' city communication manager Holland Hayden and her husband Kolin Blakeley recently adopted a baby boy through an adoption attorney based in Rogers.

"Less than 5 percent of unwanted pregnancies end in adoption here in the United States, so if you're wanting to adopt a newborn, it's an uphill battle," Hayden said. "Adoption of a newborn—even domestically—is very expensive and the community, our friends and our family really helped us raise some money for the cost of the fees."

After a GoFundMe campaign on social media, a fundraising party with silent auction and an adoption awareness event, the couple raised about \$6,000, making a dent in the over \$40,000 total costs they were facing.

This \$40,000 included fees related to vetting adoptive parents, informing birth mothers of the process and their rights and medical bills.

Hayden and Blakely said their journey was undoubtedly emotional, but ended happily when they were able to hold their son Henry for the first time.

Such happy endings are what the Northwest Arkansas ministry The CALL is hoping for. The CALL, which stands for 'The Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime', is a Christian non-profit

See CHILDREN on Page 3



Photo Submitted by Holland Hayden

Holland Hayden and Kolin Blakely with their newly adopted baby, Henry. The couple prayed for their child for years before Henry joined the family.

Small businesses thrive downtown

News Editor hedgesr@jbu.edu

With an estimated population of 15,800 and an estimated 2,080 companies in Siloam Springs, it would seem that the livelihoods of businesses both large and small are easily accomplished. Yet, there is much work and upkeep behind the small businesses in our historic downtown to keep them sustained.

Many vintage shops and consignment shops are located on Mainstreet Siloam Springs and have learned different methods to keep their businesses in good health. One consignment boutique, Cari's Closet, will celebrate its one-year anniversary on December 9th.

"It was really scary starting up here. The place was not in good shape and even kneedeep in trash. I also did not have a lot of inventory and I started with just my friends' and my closets," Cari Lewis, owner of Cari's Closet, said.

Lewis said the growth she's seen in a years time is amazing. "We've grown to have 300 consigners in a wide spread of places, not just from Siloam."

'I've been a consigner my whole life and I know what I like, so I know what my costumers like," Lewis said. "They want, a good deal and name brands and they don't want to travel far to get it."

Lewis said she has gradually learned her audience, and thinks that every small town

REBEKAH HEDGES needs the "downtown center" that gives the town a "cool feel."

> Being next to John Brown University, Lewis has benefited as it has helped her business grow.

"About 50 percent of my costumers are from there and their clothes help my business as they drop off clothes before summer when it gets slow."

Mackenzie Schrader is the owner of Baby & Momma, which opened on Broadway just before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Schrader said she relocated her business from a different location in Siloam to gain more foot traffic.

"You can't explain how good it feels to be in downtown with the support and how we support each other," Schrader said.

Her business is connected with The Chamber, whose mission is "to provide opportunities to achieve a higher quality of life for the businesses and citizens of Siloam Springs," according to their website.

"It's all about networking and getting to know the community, which The Chamber has helped me accomplish," Schrader said. "I also use Facebook and word of mouth, which are both free ways to get my name out there."

Another children's clothing boutique located on Broadway St. is Heather Hill. Owner Heather Lanker said that although she has a store location, her business relies on her online market.

"I've seen a lot of businesses come and go



Heather Lanker, owner of Heather Hill organizes her hand-made children's clothes in her boutique located at 122 N Broadway Sreet.

down here. If their store doesn't have other ways of distribution, then they are going to have a harder time," Lanker said.

Although she is no longer connected with The Chamber, Lanker's primary market is online with Amazon and Zulily.

"There is no rhyme or reason to the way business flows, and most of my costumers are visiting in town, or coming from out of town to eat at places in and around Siloam," Lanker said.

"It is very hard for some of the businesses during the summer as they rely on the John Brown students," Lanker said. Luckily Heather Hill has a strong online audience and does well relying on that market of consumers.

Whether online, through social media or community support, just a few of the small businesses on Siloam's Mainstreet have found their way.

This holds to Mainstreet Siloam's mission, "to provide leadership to a community initiative for the revitalization of our downtown into an economically vigorous commercial center and a gathering place for hospitality, arts and entertainment with a carefully maintained historic district."



CLAYTON LYON/The Threefold Advocate Cari's Closet celebrates their one-year anniversary on Dec. 9th. The consignment boutique is located at 205 A East Main St.



LEXI CHRISTENSEN/The Threefold Advocate The newly opened store front of Baby & Momma is located at 116 S Broadway, Suite 1 in Downtown Siloam

LEXI CHRISTENSEN/The Threefold Advocate

Students produce campus coverage

KELLY ESCARCEGA

Staff Writer escarcegak@jbu.edu

John Brown University communication students are working to create a news broadcast called Eaglebreak. In its second season, students continue to grow and improve as onair personalities, reporters, editors and producers.

Eaglebreak began in 2012 as a class, but has become a program designed not just for students who are interested in broadcasting, but for anyone who wants to help produce relevant news campus-wide.

Senior communication major Michael Burchfiel is the director, editor and producer for the sports segment of Eaglebreak.

He said his goal is to make the sports show visually appealing and smooth.

"I would like the show as a whole to reach a broader student audience and for people to recognize the show more," Burchfiel said. "Right now I think there are a lot of people who have no idea we are even here, but think that a TV news program would be a great idea and worth watching."

Kara Gould, adviser for Eaglebreak, shared that oftentimes it's a struggle to get students interested in current events.

"Eaglebreak is studentproduced, which means that students generate story ideas and desire to create a show that JBU students, as well as other campus community members, would like to see."

Eaglebreak is released on Fridays on their Facebook page. The segments include news, features and sports.

Students get real-world experience from creating the lighting and sound to script-writing and camera work, Gould said.

and Lacey Fryer create a new broadcast.

"In the first two seasons, Eaglebreak staff have won several awards, including awards from the Spring Creek Arts

festival, the South Central Broadcasting Society, and the Arkansas College Media Association, which named EagleBreak anchor



KELSEY GULLIVER/The Threefold Advocate Michael Burchfiel and the Eaglebreak staff manage the audio and visual behind the camera as Matthew Bowen

Amy Perry Arkansas College Television Anchor of the Year for 2014."

Lacey Fryer, a senior double-major in communication and Family and Human Studies, also talks about how Eaglebreak has helped her. She and Burchfiel were the "guinea pigs" of the program and were there from the start.

Fryer is in charge of producing the general news and features show. She comes up with story ideas and assigns them.

"I'm responsible for the overall look and feel of the show," she said.

Though most people involved with Eaglebreak are communications majors or students involved in news, anyone and everyone can benefit from helping to produce the show.

"The experience that students can get from this is great," Fryer said.

BLACK PLATE

December 4, 2014

The Threefold Advocate

No more quarters: Coinless laundry



KACIE GALLOWAY

Opinions Editor gallowayks@jbu.edu

Coinless laundry machines will make their campus debut beginning in the spring semester of 2015. The Student Government Association has worked with Steve

Beers, the vice president of student development, and Andre Broquard, the dean of students, to make the long-anticipated dream become a reality.

With the new system, students will use their credit or debit cards to pay for their laundry instead of hoarding quarters. For those students who do not have a

credit or debit card, prepaid cards may be purchased at most grocery stores and drugstores in town.

"I think it's a great thing," said junior Megan Ranz, assistant resident director in Mayfield. "It will be nice to not have all the quarters."

Prices for laundry will remain the same in the spring, but will increase \$1

the following year to cover various costs, including the new system and the city's rising utility costs.

Students may complain about the increase in price, but Student Government Association President Brad Johnson pointed out that it was long overdue.

"Energy prices have

in the past seven years, yet laundry prices at John Brown University have not changed," Johnson said.

As well as the coinless upgrade, the new laundry system will also feature a smartphone app called Waverider which allows students know how many machines are available and

GRACE NAST/The Threefold Advocate

Laundry services will continue to be provided by the current company, and a new business plan with the Heartland credit card processing company will provide the upgrade.

In addition, all washers in the dorms will be replaced with new machines, and dryers will be replaced as needed.

'TOO MANY CHILDREN, NOT ENOUGH HOMES' continued from Page 1

advocacy organization that focuses on recruiting families to become healthy foster homes, working with the Division of Children and Family Services to provide training to potential foster parents.

In addition to recruiting families to foster and adopt, The CALL works with local churches to provide support for foster and adoptive families in whatever way they can.

Kyle Agee, an instructor of visual arts at John Brown University, works with The CALL. He and his wife intend to

become foster parents. What attracted Agee most to the foster care system, he said, was the great need. According to The CALL's website, "today, more than a dozen children will come into foster care in Arkansas because of abuse or neglect. They will join nearly 4,500 other

children in state custody." In Arkansas there are only 1,110 open foster homes, while there are 3,988 children who need homes. Even if each home takes in two foster children, that will still leave almost 1,800

The CALL believes that "Having a pool of available foster and adoptive families in every county in Arkansas would go a long way toward solving the problem."

children without a home.

The process of becoming a foster parent is not an easy one, however. The Department of Children and Family Services does in-depth background checks and home visits to ensure that the house is safe and comfortable for a child.

"The first step is you attending an informational meeting, where they explain the need and what the expected requirements are," Agee said. "They

answer the questions people have concerning whether this is something they can really do. Then at the end of that meeting they hand out the first stack of paperwork."

Agee's first stack of paperwork was a thorough background check that questioned whether he had ever harmed any child, person or animal. It also checked the financial stability of the couple.

"At The CALL, their primary goal is to always provide a safe environment for these kids, because they are always being pulled out of a dangerous environments," said Agee about the beginning

of the process. The next step includes two different home visits. During the first visit, the Department of Family Services ensures that the prospective family offers a safe environment, checking for smoke detectors, proper plumbing, ventilation,

heat, adequate space, etc. The department then informs the potential foster parents of what needs to be brought up to code. The second visit verifies that problems found during the first

visit are taken care of. Despite the difficulty of the process, Agee believes becoming a foster parent is worth the tedium, and that foster care is an issue that the church should

place a stronger focus on. "At this time it is not that big of a priority," Agee said of the church's response to the foster system. "This is a heart issue for the church. We have to ask ourselves how we are utilizing the time we have been given for the kingdom."



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4 CONTINENTS • 8 COUNTRIES • 60 CITIES • 1 UNIVERSITY

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MAGENTA PLATE

CYAN PLATE

BLACKPLATE

Ferguson ignites race discussion

Students should listen with sincerity

A few months ago, no one knew or cared about the town of Ferguson, Mo. It was a suburb of St. Louis with just over 20,000 people, but on Aug. 9 it became a place of racial tension, tragedy and violence the next day. The shooting of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown by white police officer Darren Wilson set off waves of protests across the nation.

After three months of an unusually long and detailed Grand Jury examination and masses of media attention, the jurors decided not to indict Wilson. The decision sparked more protests, some violent and most peaceful, and once again forced Americans to look at racism in the land of the free.

Some say racism is over. Others complain that all they see in the news is Michael Brown. Some deny the fact that there is a disturbing number of young black men shot and killed by police officers in this country. If you are one of these people, or if you don't understand what the big deal is about Ferguson, then we The Threefold Advocate want to help you understand.

It is obvious that racism is still a severe problem in America, and when it comes to police shootings, the numbers speak for themselves. According to USA Today, more than twice as many black youths were shot by police than white youths over a sevenyear period.

In a study by independent non-profit ProPublica, researchers found that young black males are 21 times more likely to be killed by police than white males of the same age group. These findings support the idea that Michael Brown's death was not an isolated incident or freak accident. It was another tragedy in a historical pattern of violence.

We The Threefold Advocate urge you to not dismiss these facts. We ask you to listen sincerely to the problems in the world especially if you think they have nothing to do with you.

The vast majority of students at John Brown University are white. Understanding their black brothers and sisters is difficult and impossible to an extent. Different people's experiences give them unique perspectives on various issues. However, it is essential that white students do not dismiss the concerns, experiences or stories of minority students. Just because few people are complaining does not mean there is not a problem.

The issues of police shootings and racism are highly complex, with each instance having different factors. However, the fact that so many young black men are shot and killed is unacceptable. The fact that racial profiling is still an issue is disturbing. It is clear that something in our justice system is broken and desperately needs

As Christians, we tend to turn the other way when faced with something unsightly or controversial. We don't like to tarnish our shiny Christian image with topics like racism, divorce, suicide and mental health. However, we more than anyone should be at the forefront of working to help victims of these problems.

We The Threefold Advocate encourage you not yo get caught up in who was right and who was wrong in the Ferguson tragedy. Instead, it is important to recognize that Ferguson is another instance of a much larger problem. In order to help improve our society, we must have the knowledge and courage to speak up when injustice occurs.



LAURIE SKRIVAN / The Associated Press

Protesters rally together and raise their hands as part of the "hands up, don't shoot" campaign.

Threefold Advocate - advocate.jbu.edu -

The Threefold Advocate invites you to submit a signed letter to the editor. We ask that you keep your comments to fewer than 300 words, and we reserve the right to edit for space and appropriate content. The writer's phone number, classification and hometown must be provided. Email or mail letters by 6 p.m. on Monday.

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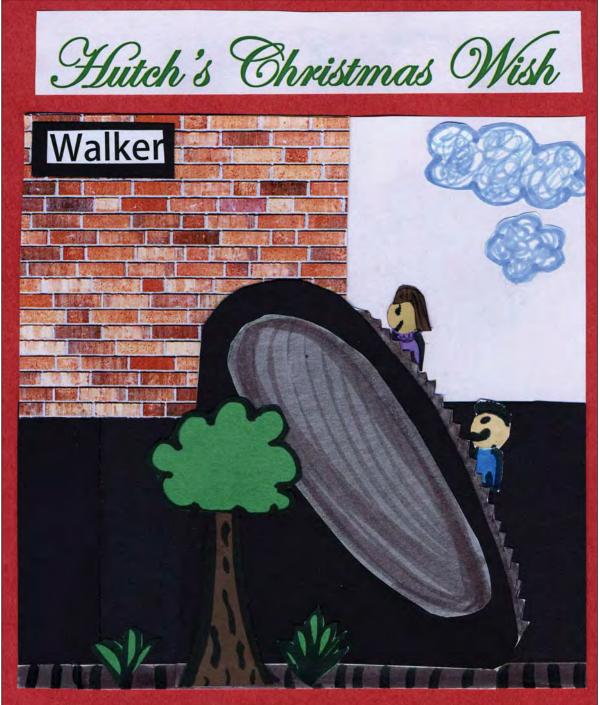
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REBEKAH HEDGES / The Threefold Advocate

Military kid myths



ALLENA PALMER STAFF WRITER

The life of a military kid is commonly put into one major category involving a lot of moving, one parent gone constantly and a life filled with emotional handicaps. Conflicting with widespread opinions, not every military kid experience is the same.

My own experience with being a military kid is not the horror story most people expect. My father joined the Air Force before I was born. From my recollection, I don't remember him being gone very often. By the time he was stationed in the Unites States, those memories of his absence were suppressed by the developing mind of a toddler.

My family only moved twice. The first move I don't remember at all, and the second wasn't very traumatic either. The only fear that resonated during his service for me was the threat of him being called into action overseas, especially when the 2000's came around. He retired in 2004, finishing up 22 years of service.

Kindermann, Lanae freshman at JBU, has a father who served in the Air Force for 26 years. Her father used to be in the Air Force Academy Band, and while he was not overseas, he was still gone from home a lot. Kindermann recounts, "It was awesome as a little kid having them (the band) all know me, and I would go up on stage and hang out with them in the back, it was a lot of fun."

She says the hardest part was her father being gone from home a lot, but with her dad retired as of this year, she is glad to spend more time with

Zac Sandell, a sophomore at JBU, has a father who served on a Navy submarine. While Zac didn't exist when his father served, his father's military life still had some impact on him.

When asked if he would join the military, Zac gave a shrug that only military kids give. A shrug of "I don't know" mixed with the look of deep and hidden thought. "... while order, structure and all that is nice, it does change a man... which can be tough to adapt to."

Zac thinks there should be order and structure in life, but that it doesn't necessarily have

to come from being in service. Zoë Shafer, a freshman at JBU, has a father who also served in the Navy. Zoë's family made a bog move from Arkansas to Yokosuka, Japan, and lived on the base there for about 5 years. Zoë says her experience from moving to a different country transformed her, especially in her faith.

"I went to Japan as a spiked

pastor's daughter and came

back a devoted believer." The benefits received from her father's military life also helped with medical needs, schooling and above all, an unforgettable transformation of growth. Shafer said if it weren't for the Navy she wouldn't be able to attend JBU, and is thankful for all the opportunities it gave her.

How could four stories with the same basic principle end up so different? No two are the same, and none will ever be the same. Let us remember these stories not as a book series, but as a collection of books, each with its own priceless experience unique adventure to share.

Palmer is a freshman majoring in art & illustration. She can be reached at palmera@jbu.edu.

What do you think?

Last week's results

Do you think JBU should block the Yik Yak app through campus wifi?

Yes: 43.5%

No: 56.5%

Watch for our weekly poll starting again in the spring! Poll questions can be answered anonymously via Facebook. (www.facebook.com/ThreefoldAdvocate)

Tree reminds professor of eternal goals



TED SONG CONTRIBUTOR

During the hot summer of 2009, God opened a door for me to work and study in Turkey for the first time. It was almost the end of that summer when I started my trip to the seven churches in the book of Revelation. I began with Smyrna, hoping that God would speak to me through what I would see at each site. Following the scripture and reflecting on what God spoke through the author along the trip was a true blessing. However, I was still not definitely confident on why He had sent me to see

place, Laodicea. It was a hot day in early August, and I was excited to visit the final destination of the trip. As the author mentioned in Revelation 3, Laodicea was a wealthy place, and without trouble; I found ruins made of stones showing how prosperous this place was. I kept walking and saw a huge tree standing

these sites until visiting the last

among the ruins, showing its precious life with colorful green leaves. After seeing this tree, I suddenly realized what God was trying to show me. The glory of this world is just a stone building that will eventually become a ruin, but what He has prepared for believers is the crown of eternal life through the cross of Jesus Christ. God used this tree to remind me that it is eternal life that I need to strive for, not the stones that mean nothing in eternity. I remembered how self-satisfaction based on wealth made it difficult for Laodiceans to see that they were "wretched and miserable and poor and naked (Rev. 3:17)." The tree was also a reminder that God gave me to show that whatever I have apart from Christ might hinder me from seeing how I am a sinner who is not worthy to be saved.

Even now, this tree is a reminder to me as I face my own sinful nature every day. Being a professor at a Christian college is a great blessing, but it is easy for me to become a proud and arrogant man-a man who cannot see his sinfulness, as these stones of self-satisfaction can easily be idolized without knowing. I now am in great danger of selfcomplacency dragging me from to sins I want keep away. As I know that without His mercy I'll never be able to see myself as one who deserves eternal death, I need to keep seeking the light, Jesus Christ, so that I am reminded of who I am before



Submitted by TED SONG

A tree stands strong amongst the ruins of ancient Laodicea, a once wealthy city that Song visted while on his trip to Turkey.

Him—a sinner who deserves the death on the cross for my sins. Ironically, knowing that I am the worst sinner leads me to true peace. My unworthiness is not the end of the story. God continued that story by having His Son crucified on the cross and defeating the power of death through the resurrection of Jesus, and I know this is the only truth that will lead me to His rest.

"For what am I pursuing this?" This question to myself often helps me evaluate my intention and avoid pursuing

the self-congratulatory stones which are sometimes attractive to my sight. However, there are times when I forget the most important things and waste my time and energy for something that is irrelevant to Christ. I now pray that God would bring me back to the cross of Jesus Christ whenever I try to pursue these stones in my life. I also pray that God would remind me every moment that I am an unworthy sinner; that Jesus died on the cross for my sin and was resurrected, so that I could become a humble servant who

is not lukewarm but zealous for his master. Finally, I pray that God would help me to keep remembering that hot day when I visited Laodicea and the moment when He used that tree to remind me what truly matters in eternity.

Song is an assistant professor of engineering & construction management. He can be reached at tsong@jbu.edu.

Vote smart: research candidates first



JOEL NIZZA CONTRIBUTOR

On November 4 of this year, some of us voted. Statistically about 25 percent of collegeage young adults actually vote in mid-term elections. It can be pretty difficult to vote as a college student, as we are often far from home. Luckily, we have an absentee voting system that sends you your ballot and allows you to make your decision before mailing it back. I've voted absentee since I've been in college. This year, I sat down on a couch, and for

about two hours, did research the time to do that? It's even on all the main political candidates, trying to make an informed decision, which is really hard given the amount of disinformation out there.

I mean, really, how many of us can name our senator? Representative? What about those who are running for state representative? I won't even mention the various city offices that appear near the bottom of the ballot. How should we make those decisions? The easiest way, of course, is to simply check the box of the candidate from one's preferred party. Unfortunately, this kind of behavior only reinforces the strength of our two-party system.

Problems like this are easier to spot, but harder to fix. How should we make our voting decisions? If you don't have a chance to bring your ballot home, you have to make all your decisions in your polling station. It's possible to find out about some of the candidates for higher offices ahead of time, but how many people take

became evident when I saw how many people I wanted to keep in

my life identified as Catholic,

family and friends alike. Almost

my entire family on my paternal

side is Catholic, including four

aunts who either have been or

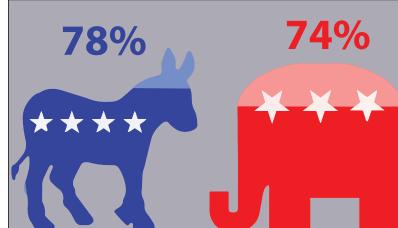
tougher to find information about candidates for lower office.

Informed voting is difficult, but it can be made easier. One big area is in campaign finance reform, an important issue that is mostly overlooked. Public funding for elections should be expanded, and private contributions to candidates and political action committees or PACs should be severely limited.

Private money is the biggest driver of political campaigns in the United States, and its influence is only growing. The election of 2012 cost a recordbreaking \$6.2 billion. Fixing this problem will result in campaigns that are cheaper and representatives who are less beholden to the deep pockets of special interest groups.

Informing voters at the polls is more difficult to reform, due to the extreme partisanship of today's political landscape. Allowing for more absentee voting or even allowing people to take their ballots home with

Registered voters that straight-ticket vote for major races:



Graphic by ALYSSA SCHOENWALD/The Threefold Advocate

them could help people make a more informed decision.

While all of these government reforms are important, the best thing you can do is to get informed and inform others. Check out Project Vote Smart before you head to the polls to read up about candidates, then go vote for the candidate that best represents you, rather than simply voting for an elephant or a donkey.

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Catholics and evangelicals commanded to love



HEIDY AVALOS

a self-identified am evangelical who was raised in Catholicism. I am also a confused evangelical who has noticed a subtle, mean-spirited criticism of Catholicism. I only noticed this long after I broke from the Catholic path and decided that my own personal reasons for choosing to become an evangelical ultimately did not give me the right to assert my specific beliefs on anybody. realization for my

CONTRIBUTOR

a grandmother who never fails to pray the rosary and a cousin aspiring to the priesthood. Some of my closest relationships are with Catholics. We even

talk with one another about our differences and manage to maintain respect towards each other's faith.

desperate need for tolerance Remember the Diet of Worms' ruling for Martin Luther's writings? What about King Henry the VII's impulsive split from the Catholic church in order to selfishly divorce? Remember the violent Thirty Years' War? Or the more recent continue to be practicing nuns, Troubles in Northern Ireland?

"We have much more in common than we realize and even if we did not, Jesus' sincerest command was to love one another, just as he loved us."

Historically, Protestants and

Catholics have not been on

good terms with one another.

Both sides have been terroristic toward one another and continue

It sounds as if both Catholics and evangelicals are avoiding a challenge to some deep-seated prejudices if we are closedminded to the differences between the faiths to the extent that full-scale wars have played out. Even today, most parts of the world see a clear polarization between the two sides. Some are reviled enemies.

What many do not understand is that the religion we were raised in is often the one we will stick with in our adult years. What that means is that the faith we decide on has shaped some of our core beliefs on why we matter in this world. To attack one's religion is to attack the individual, not an institution.

Often what happens, however, is that some core beliefs, such as loving God above all or Jesus being truly divine, are overpassed in favor of disputing secondary beliefs, ones that, while important to understanding the world we live in, ultimately will not matter when we face Jesus.

Why are evangelicals so divided in their denominations? Why do Catholics pray through saints? Why are evangelicals so relativistic? Why do Catholics hold on to tradition? Why are Evangelicals so uncomfortable truly facing the powerless? Why is the Pope the final answer to theological disputes?

The questions are truly important and relevant for a believer. But as a Catholic friend once told me, "I believe in Jesus Christ, I believe he was virginborn, that He is the only way to salvation. I love Jesus and he is my lord. I do not understand why people do not see this."

We have much more in common than we realize, and even if we did not, Jesus' sincerest command was to love one another, just as he loved us. His statement was not directed at just Evangelicals or just Catholics, but everyone.

Avalos is a senior majoring in family & human services. She can be reached at avalosh@jbu.



MAGENTA PLATE

BLACK PLATE



Join the herd?

JBU students react to Yik Yak controversy

HANNAH WRIGHT Staff Writer wrighthj@jbu.edu

Controversy has come to campus again, this time in the form of an app called Yik

Yik Yak is a social media app that allows users to post brief messages completely anonymously. Users can see Yaks posted in their immediate geographical area, making the app popular on high school and college campuses. At John Brown University, Yik Yak is gaining popularity.

"The point of Yik Yak is to share parts of our lives that we can all relate to, because we're all sort of living in this bubble together," said senior Kaitlyn Thompson.

Thompson uses Yik Yak in her spare time, and is the author of many popular "yaks," such as, "Dr. Pollard needs to form a crime fighting duo with a fish. Then they can be Fish and Chip."

Although the app has the potential to be a lot of fun, some staff and faculty are expressing concern with its

"I became significantly concerned with the app after the immigration conference," said Andrew Lehr, resident

director of Walker Hall. After hearing about problems from other colleges with bullying and harassment on Yik Yak, Lehr started looking at the app regularly, and wasn't pleased with what he saw.

After the immigration conference, yaks began to appear using racial slurs against Hispanic students and telling students in the Walton **International Scholars** Program go back to their home countries.

Such yaks continued after the chapel on racism on Nov. 13, featuring Vincent Bacote of Wheaton College.

There have also been disparaging remarks on the sexuality of women at the University, several crossing into the territory of sexual harassment. One such yak reads, "I'm way overdue to f*** a 19 year old." (Censored at the request of the editor.)

Lehr and other members of the student development staff are still discussing what to do about the app. Students have come to them feeling harassed, bullied and unwelcome.

"I don't see the value in spending the campus'

bandwidth on [Yik Yak]," said Lehr. "It serves no purpose."

Discussions are still underway as to whether the app will be banned or not.

"We still don't know if we're going to block it, but the challenge is students will just use their data plans," said Steve Beers, vice president of student development.

"I wouldn't blame them if they did block it," said junior Sara Whitlock, an occasional Yik Yak user. However, she added, "It might solve a temporary problem of saving the university's image, but

it wouldn't solve the root problem."

There is a way for Yik Yak users to police each other on the app. Yaks can be "upvoted" or "downvoted" by other users, and a yak with five downvotes is permanently deleted.

Hurtful comments aren't always downvoted, but it is possible for other users to make harmful yaks disappear.

"Students need to step up and change the peer culture so that comments like this are unacceptable," said Lehr.

Thompson agreed.

"You have a responsibility to put on clothes when you walk out your front door," she said. "You have a responsibility to purport yourself as a decent human being in a public place, whether that's online or downtown."

Some students see Yik Yak as an opportunity rather than a problem.

"We should engage with it," said senior Josh McBride, a regular Yik Yak user. "God has afforded us the opportunity to speak truth into an area where truth is not well-received."

McBride said he would be disappointed in student development if Yik Yak were banned.

On Nov. 20, Rod Reed, university chaplain, spoke in chapel about the necessity for Christians to act in a loving matter no matter where they are. Reed challenged students to literally stand up with those who were feeling bullied. Lehr reiterated his message.

"The larger issue is that we want to be a community that's known, and you can't know each other through an anonymous app," Lehr said. "More than banning the app, I think an attitude needs to change."



Illustration by CHLOE FENNELL/The Threefold Advocate

Student shares story of redemption

ALIYA KUYKENDALL receive praise from her

kuykendalla@jbu.edu

Maria Velázquez is bursting with life, so much so that her friend, Gabby Villalba, refers to her as "el oso," or "the little bear." When asked why, Gabby explains, "You just want to hug her like a little teddy bear." Despite Maria's huggable sweetness, life hasn't always been sweet in

Maria admits that, growing up, she experienced verbal abuse from her father. "He said very painful words." Her voice wavered as she continued, "Sometimes it's so hard to try to do your best, but you can't really receive the [acceptance] of your father, or your grandpa." She continues to explain that being female is difficult in her family, both because she knows her father wanted a son and didn't get one, and also because her male cousins are favored and

family that she does not receive.

"Even though you work, even though you have good grades or participate in many stuff, you can't really achieve [what your male cousins can]." She felt that no matter what she did, she could never earn her father's approval. "I want him to see that woman can do the same as male. [...] I was tired of trying to fight against that." The hopelessness of her struggle against sexism and rejection brought Maria to attempt suicide at the age of 15.

In spite of her emotional battles, Maria earned the respect of her father. At the age of 17 she became one of six Mexican students to receive a full ride to an American university through the Walton International Scholarship Program. Maria was selected to attend JBU. She says that her father is

controlling family, she

now more open-minded about her abilities as a woman.

Despite the positive changes that have occurred because of her scholarship, Maria carried a lot of

emotional baggage from her past to her new life at JBU. At home, Maria's parents and grandparents exerted a lot of control in her life. She explains that after years of having an overly-

found it difficult to

give God control in

her life when she was finally free from familial authority. She concludes, "The first year was awful for me. I really had struggles with God.

[...] I didn't want someone to control me, because of my parents. What I wanted was freedom." Pulling out from under

her parents' authority didn't have the effect Maria had hoped for. Her grades dropped, she felt empty inside and her conscience told her that she was in the wrong.

This May term, after a long night of deep discussion

with her close friend Naomy Olla, Maria gave up her fight with God. She sought counsel with a local priest and says she has felt much better since. Naomy noticed that since summer vacation, Maria is more open and gentle and is improving family relationships. Naomy concludes, "She is really getting more mature."

Since submitting her life to God, Maria has noticed a difference in herself as well. "I feel happier," she admitted. "I don't feel worried about my family [and] the problems in my house, because I know that God will do something with that. I told God that I want him to follow his

plan, and I just ask him for strength, patience to overcome those difficulties that will come in my life. I've been asking him to teach me how to be like him, how to forgive people, how to love people, and love your enemies."

God has given Maria new strength.

"I think that I can do everything," she said.

Despite the brokenness in her own past, Maria wants to bring healing and restoration to others. After completing her education, she aspires to return to Mexico and teach the young women of her country about their intrinsic value and beauty.



Photo by KLARA JOHANNESEN/The Threefold Advocate

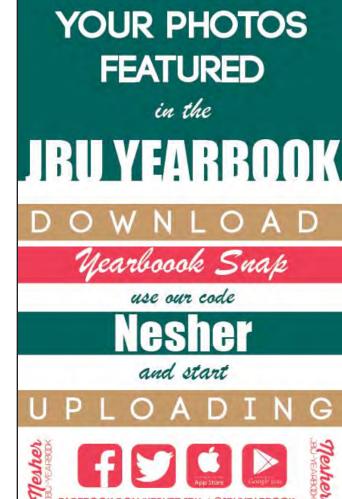
Emily Hackett

YEAR: JUNIOR

MAJOR: MATH EDUCATION HOMETOWN: AURORA, NEB.

WON A HULA-HOOPING CONTEST IN 4TH GRADE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT? AMERICAN GIRL SAMANTHA DOLL

Graphic by ALYSSA SCHOENWALD/The Threefold Advocate



WANT

The Threefold Advocate

SPORTS 7

Golden Looking back on the season





Courtesy of JBU ATHLETICS





Courtesy of GOOGLE IMAGES



Courtesy of JBU ATHLETICS



3. New coach, same team: Coach Jason Beschta takes the position as head coach for the Golden Eagles.

4. Rugby travels to nationals: JBU's rugby team travelled to

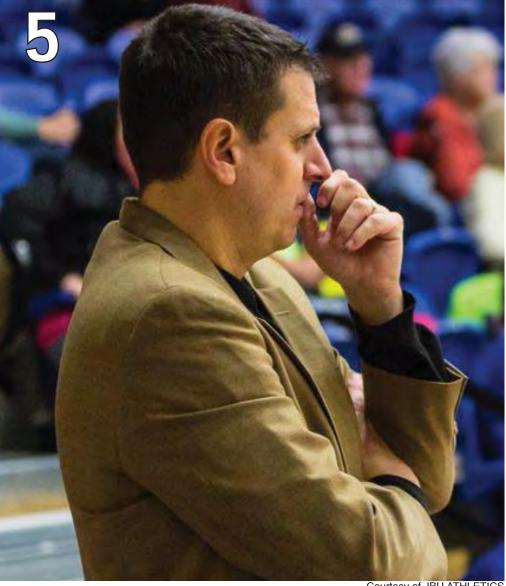
participate in a tournament. The team lost to the University of Southern Indiana but still claims Mid-American champions.

5. Legend resigns from years of service: Clark Sheehy resigns as JBU's men's basketball head coach.

6. Kansas City Royals finds place in World Series: Kansas City Royals celebrate their

advancement into the World Series after sweeping the Orioles 4-0. The Royals have not been in the World Series since 1985.

7. 13th Consecutive win at Toilet Paper Game: JBU students anticipated the throwing of the toilet paper at the annual Toilet Paper Game. The Golden eagles beat Central Baptist 82-67, making it the 13th consecutive TP Game win.



to the Hall of Fame: Sierra Shipley's jersey, No. 22, hangs in the rafters of the Ring of Honor at the Women's Basketball Hall

1. Shipley dribbles her way

of Fame in Tennessee Shipley

set the highest score in JBU's

program with 584 points.

2. Soccer lights up the field: JBU students and the women's soccer team release yellow and blue balloons after turning on the Alumni field lights. JBU

St. Louis this past weekend to

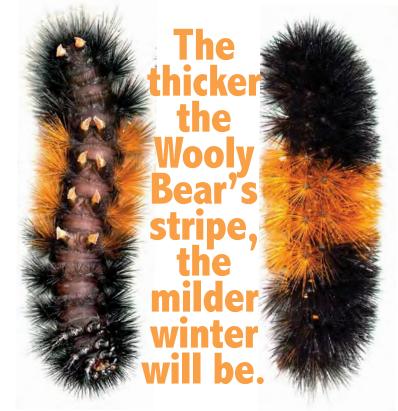
8 SPOTLIGHT

December 4, 2014The Threefold Advocate

By Colleen Cornett

By College Col

For centuries, people have used the various behaviors of nature to make weather predictions. Oral and written history is full of rhymes, anecdotes and adages meant to guide the uncertain in determining whether the next day will bring fair or foul weather. For the farmer wanting to plant crops or the merchant about to send ships on trade, foreknowledge of tomorrow's circumstances might mean the difference between success and failure. For example, according to the Farmer's Almanac, the shape of the persimmon seed determines the severity of the winter season and this year, persimmon seeds have been predominately spoon shaped, implying that there will be an average amount of snow fall. Here are a few winter weatherlore's you can test as we enter the winter season:





Onion skins very thin, mild winter coming in.

Onion skins thick and tough, coming winter cold and rough.

As high as the weeds grow, so will the bank of snow.

If bees build their nests high up in the trees



the upcoming winter will be harsh indeed.

If there's thunder during Christmas week, the winter will be anything but meek.

Squirrels
gathering
nuts in a flurry
will cause snow to
gather in a hurry.

Information from StormFax

Photos courtesy of GOOGLE IMAGES