

SIFE scores trip to nationals

Emerson Ayala

Opinions Editor

ayalae@jbu.edu

For the twelfth year in a row, the John Brown University SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) competition team was crowned Regional champion March 26.

The Regional competition took place in Rogers, Ark., with competing colleges and universities from Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. JBU SIFE is advancing to the National competition that will take place in Kansas City, Mo., May 22 to 24.

The teams were divided in three leagues, and two champions were



SIFE
STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE

selected from each. JBU SIFE was named champion in league number three, along with Pittsburg State University from Kansas.

The JBU SIFE speakers this year are sophomore Marcel Guadrón from Guatemala, juniors Estefania Verdin from Mexico, Katherine Jaramillo from Ecuador, and seniors Kassie Keeter and Philip Ruppert from the U.S.

Senior Jasmine Chavez served

as vice-president of competition, while the media team was made up of seniors Analu Marin and Kate Williams, juniors Gerardo Marroquin and Caylie Foley, and sophomore Andrea Eifert.

During the competition, the students had 24 minutes to present four of the current SIFE projects to a panel of judges, mostly entrepreneurs and SIFE sponsors.

JBU SIFE director and Sam Walton Fellow, Clayton Anderson, said he was proud of his students' accomplishment.

"[The speakers] delivered a powerful presentation to nearly 140 people," Anderson said. "We believe our projects make a difference, but it's nice to know that the

16 judges also agree."

In his first year as JBU SIFE director, Anderson changed some of the strategy for the presentation. Whereas in past years SIFE advisors are involved every step of the way, Anderson gave students more freedom and less oversight.

"Zac [Freeman] and I placed a tremendous amount of responsibility on the students. But the team was very capable, I think it's clear they rose to the challenge," Anderson said.

Keeter said she became a SIFE speaker because she believes in SIFE's impact and wanted to be able to tell those stories. Keeter

See SIFE on page 7



JP GARCIA, SETH KAYE/The Threefold Advocate

Brother & Sister

Sidney Van Wyk

Sports Editor

wyks@jbu.edu

Sophomore Leah Engstrom first started playing tennis the summer after sixth grade. Her brother Eric, a senior, had just decided to try out for his middle school's tennis team.

They and their parents went to their local tennis courts almost every night to play together.

"We would always go out late at night when no one else was there," said Leah.

Now Eric and Leah Engstrom play tennis together almost every night, but they share the court with the rest of JBU's tennis program. Eric is the student coach for the men's and women's teams while Leah is a co-captain of the women's team.

"It's awesome to have something where I know I will get to hang out with my sibling two hours a day," said

Eric.

He said they have always been close, though playing tennis together has helped deepen their relationship.

Eric had joined the tennis team as a walk-on his freshman year. He had not played competitively played tennis since middle school because it conflicted with high school baseball.

"I had played before, I felt comfortable on the court and I love tennis so I thought 'what the heck, why not'," said Eric about deciding to try out for the

team.

Leah said she and her parents had not been that surprised when Eric called them during his freshman year and said he was going to play tennis at JBU.

"Eric is one of those people who randomly show talents in lots of things," said Leah.

Playing tennis with Eric is one of the main reasons Leah decided to

See TENNIS on page 7

Students, SGA seeking connection

Esther Carey

News Editor

careye@jbu.edu

It is election season for the nation – that time of year when candidates seek the votes of their constituents.

On the campus of John Brown University the candidates for the Student Government Association blend in well.

Wearing everyday clothes, they wander their classes or the cafe-

ria on a quest for the signatures needed to put them on the ballot. Often, they run unopposed. Of the 20 available senator positions, only about half are currently filled.

For many students, the work of SGA officers and senators remains something of a mystery. An example is freshman Maggie Willis. She never really hears anyone talk about SGA, she said, and doesn't really know much about it. She added that may be because she has not been here very long yet.

But from what she has seen, she

continued, "SGA doesn't seem to be as big of a deal as they are advocating themselves to be."

Senior Hannah Cook, student body president, said that while being typical students is what gives SGA members a unique role it is also their biggest weakness.

"We are just students too," she said. That is what qualifies them to do their job, but is what can also hinder them from doing as much as they would like because of time constraints.

Cook said SGA members' big-

gest strength is their participation in Board of Trustee meetings and other campus administration committees. As president, Cook gives a report to the whole board twice each year.

"We are often the only actual students the trustees ever come in contact with," Cook said. Because of this, the trustees do ask the SGA members for input. Cook continued that this part of SGA officers' jobs affects students in real ways they probably do not realize.

Willis said that role made

perfect sense, although she had not known about it before. She continued that she wondered what type of things they told the board, and also how SGA members could communicate back to the students what occurs in the meetings.

"If SGA would publish a report about the meetings, or really anything they're doing, it'd make it easier to understand and keep up with what they're doing for JBU," Willis said.

See SGA on page 7

NEWS

The Threefold Advocate

Housing numbers shaping up for next year

Adrienne Redding
Copy Editor
reddinga@jbu.edu

With spring break over, housing registration is approaching quickly. Next year’s seniors have already applied to live off campus and room draw will begin shortly.

Andre Broquard, director of resident life at JBU, said that as of now, there are 69 seniors that will live off campus, four that will live with faculty or staff, several getting married and 10 who will be 22 or older. The numbers are still rolling in as the semester draws to a close, however.

“Everything is still in a state of flux,” Broquard said. After everyone fills out their pre-housing registration he will have a much

better idea of who will be where.

Roughly 50 seniors lived off campus the 2011-2012 school year, compared to the 69 for the 2012-2013 year.

This extra number of seniors off campus will hopefully free up some dorm space or spots in townhouses, as residence life currently estimates there will be 940 to 980 students living on campus next school year. In fall 2011 there were 939 on campus. This spring there are 915.

Junior Dylan Smith plans to live in a townhouse with a group of friends. “I want to live somewhere that is a little quieter than J Alvin,” he said. “[J Alvin] is fun, but sometimes [is] a little difficult to find some quiet time to do homework. I know most of the guys in my group next year, and they’re all serious students. Plus, I’m excited about a full kitchen and an actual house to

live in.”

This upcoming year, seniors and a few juniors have another option for living on campus, in the Broadhurst Village duplexes.

The duplexes are typically rented out by the University to seniors, graduate students or married couples that want off-campus housing on campus. Due to overflow in the dorms, 16 seniors are currently living in the duplexes. But for the 2012-2013 school year, Broquard plans to keep the duplexes for on-campus students.

The process will function much like the townhouses, he said. There are 36 spots available, mostly in units of four. There will also be two resident assistants.

Upperclassmen will apply to live in the duplexes, and priority will be given according to credit hours. Overflow will be directed

to wherever open spots are available, whether in the townhouses, North Hall or any of the other dorms. Those groups, he said, would have to break up or shuffle around.

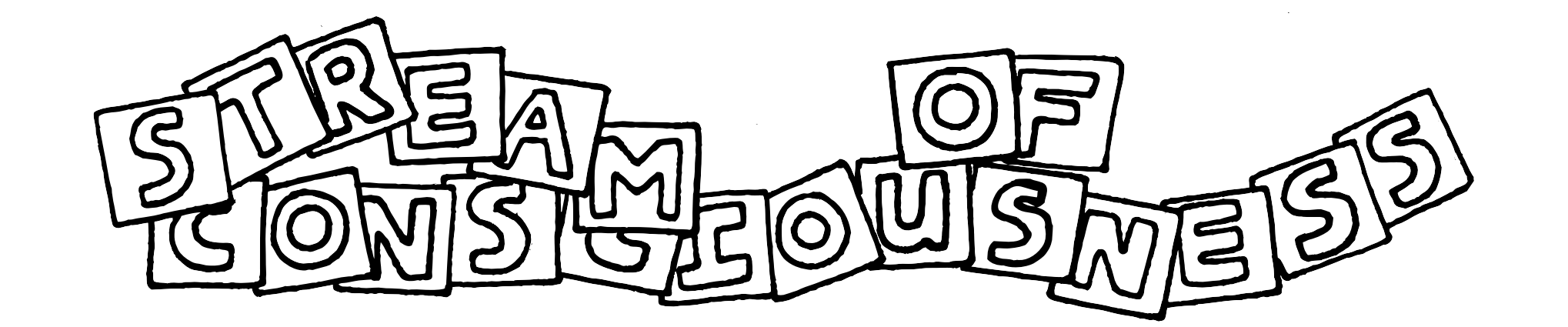
Despite greater options on campus, off-campus living is still popular.

Junior Maria Taylor is one of the 69 planning to live off campus next year. She and five friends have rented a house together. “Living off campus will save several thousand dollars,” she said. “I also just love the idea of living in a real house in a real neighborhood. Coming from the townhouses, the transition to living in an off-campus house will not be severely significant as far as responsibility goes, but it will be fun and different. Also, while I love JBU and our beautiful campus, I am just ready [for] something new.”

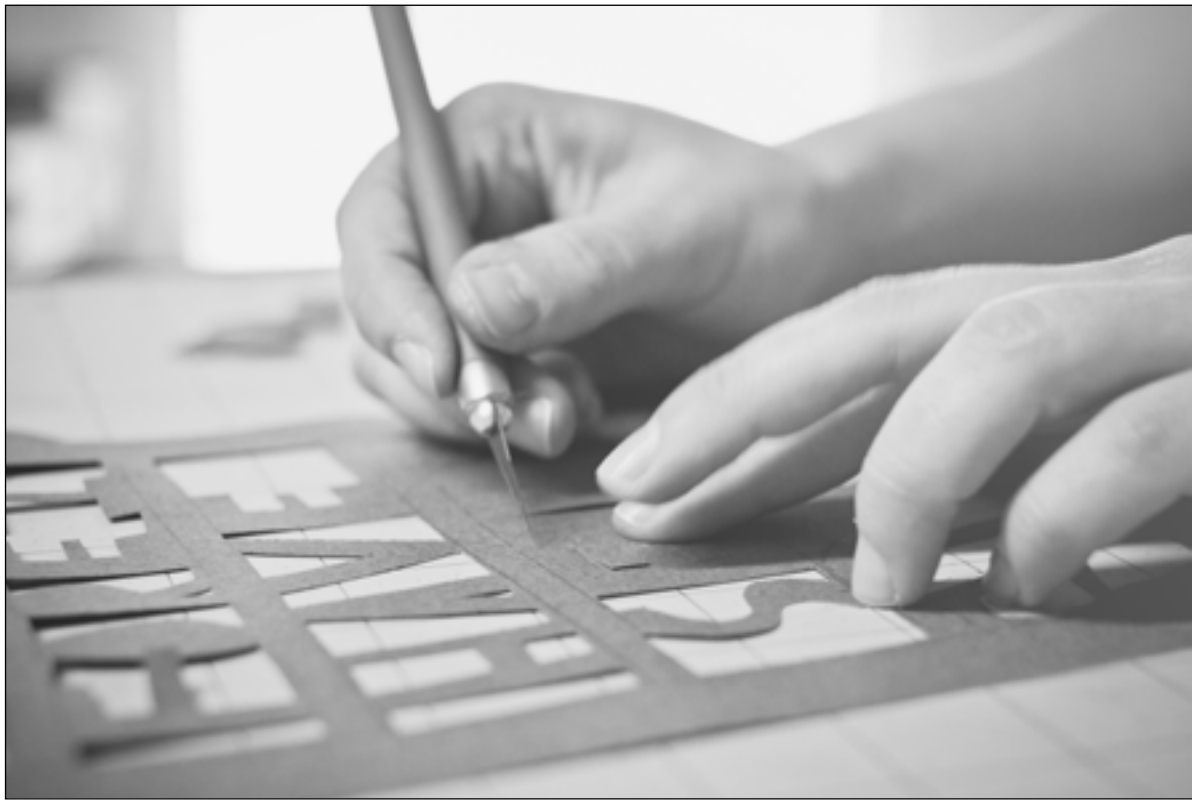
Important Housing Dates & Information

March 26-April 9: Complete pre-housing registration on EagleNet.
April 9-13: Squatters contact RD to keep room.
April 16: Housing Appointment emails sent.
April 17: Room Draw for Townhouses.
April 19: Room Draw for Residence Halls.

Students must have housing deposit receipt and proof of class registration for Room Draw.



HEATHER FOLEY/The Threefold Advocate



Senior Katelyn Banks will unveil “Stream of Consciousness,” a cut paper installation inspired by prayer and derived from meticulous hours of preparation on April 3 in the new art building.

The theme of the gallery comes from Psalm 1, in which the author uses trees planted by the living water as a metaphor for someone who delights themselves in God.

As Banks prayed, “God, I want you to use this, let everything come from you,” her inspiration for “Stream of Consciousness” came alive.

---Compiled by Brittany Reading

SIFE continued
from Page 1

also said the team did not make mistakes through the entire presentation, which boosted their confidence.

“After we won I was so proud and relieved that we made it through regionals,” Keeter said.

Verdin said JBU SIFE has been one of the highlights of her JBU experience. She said the speakers could still improve individually and as a team, but that they deserved the win.

“We have put a lot of effort into it and it’s amazing to see it reflected. It’s a tremendous honor but a great responsibility to do an excellent job at Nationals,” Verdin said. She said she appreciated the support from other SIFE members and friends who attended the presentation.

Andrea Morales, JBU SIFE vice-president of communications, said she was proud the efforts to maintain the quality standard of the team paid off.

“I know [JBU SIFE] has been an excellent competitor in past years, it’s something we have inherited from other generations,” Morales said.

She added that her favorite part of the event was the judges’ questions and answers to the speakers, SIFE president Brandon Knight, and project leaders.

“When they were answering I could see the passion, encouragement and knowledge they have,” Morales said.

After the presentation, president Chip Pollard joined the team in celebration with pizza and gelato at Fratelli’s Pizzeria downtown.

“Winning is part of being in SIFE, but knowing we impact people’s lives in Siloam Springs and Central America is what I love the most,” Morales concluded.

Looking into Nationals, Anderson said the group would need to tighten the script and improve consistency across print and audiovisual materials.

“The official scoring sheets won’t be returned for two weeks, but the feedback we received from rogue judges, competitor teams and observers was overwhelmingly positive,” Anderson said.

The winner at Nationals will join 3,000 students from 39 countries at the SIFE World Cup in Washington D.C., Sept. 30 to Oct. 2.



Submitted by CLAYTON ANDERSON

The John Brown University SIFE speaker team poses with the regional competition trophy on March 26. The team competed against teams from nearby states. This is the 12th year JBU has won.

In the Bubble

Locking folks in

On March 30 Vibe is sponsoring a JBU lock in at the Bill George Arena.

The fun will start at 10 p.m. and continue throughout the night.

SRA for the win

Students have a chance to win one of several prizes by filling out the Student Relationships Assessment. The SRA is a survey created by the CRE. Prizes include a Kindle or three \$50 gift cards.

Out of the Bubble

Cuba and the Pope

cnn.com Mar. 27

Pope Benedict XVI arrived in Cuba on Monday following a visit to Mexico.

The pontiff met with the Cuban president Raul Castro and may have also interacted with his brother Fidel Castro, the former leader.

Benedict was also scheduled to lead Mass for a large crowd of people in Revolution Plaza. That is where John Paul II first addressed the Cuban people in 1998.

Court on healthcare

nytimes.com Mar. 27

The Supreme Court began hearings about President Obama’s healthcare law on Monday.

The plan was closely questioned by four of the conservative judges. A fifth justice will probably vote against the law.

Much of the debate so far has centered around the justification provided for the plan.

The final decision will likely be based on the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Aloha Tans

Relaxing atmosphere/hot tanning
beds/lotions

Student rates \$22/month

Open Mon-Sat Open 11-8

511 W. Tulsa St. Located in the Tulsa
Street Centre



Radio station fundraiser resounding success

Russell Hixson
Editor-In-Chief

hixsonr@jbu.edu

101.1 KLRC, the University’s Christian radio station, ended Sharathon this month with \$746,904 pledged from nearly 2,400 listeners. This has ensured the ministry’s funding for another year of operation.

“The mountains we were facing this morning was too big for us. Then, in a flurry of phone calls and data entry, that mountain we were facing became clearly visible in our rear-view mirror,” said general manager Sean Sawatzky in a statement to listeners. “We’re all walking around the building talking about what God did – and will be for some time to come.”

The station reaches more than 60,000 listeners in North-west Arkansas each week with Christian music and programming. It also serves as a train-

ing ground for JBU’s broadcast-ing students who can be heard on air. To keep running, the sta-tion has to raise 70 percent of its yearly operational budget from

listeners.

During the two-day event, dozens of listeners phoned in not just to pledge their money, but also to express their sup-port.

“As long as I got KLRC play-ing its positive music, it’s hard for my mind to become cloud-ed with anger. I feel clear,” said one caller.

Ten-year-old Johanna Reyn-goudt brought homemade choc-olate chip cookies by the office with a note that read, “I made these cookies myself to thank all the KLRC staff and make you feel happy during Shara-thon. Thanks for playing all the wonderful music!”

To make Sharathon a suc-cess, a multitude of organiza-tions donated their time to the event, including Ability Tree,

Cobblestone Project, Habitat for Humanity, NWA Healthy Mar-riages and Samaritan Commu-nity Center.

During Sharathon 2011, the station raised more than \$660,000.

KLRC has been named the Radio Station of the Year by the Christian Music Broadcast-ers and the Gospel Music As-sociation four times. This is a national award and the high-est honor available for Chris-tian radio stations in America. It has also been named a final-ist for the two most prestigious awards given to radio by the National Association of Broad-casters—the Crystal Award for Excellence in Community Ser-vice as well as the NAB Mar-coni Award.



SWEPCO: Five things to know

Kelsey Gulliver
Staff Writer

gulliverk@jbu.edu

1. It’s not easy to find

Located around Gentry, Ark., there is only one access point for the lake, which can be especial-ly difficult to spot if you go at night. From campus, head east on U.S. Route 412 and soon after Walmart turn left onto State Highway 59, northbound. This will take you into Gentry. Once there, look out for State Highway 12. You will turn left onto it and head west for a couple miles until you hit Cripps Road. Turn left again and go south for just a few more miles until you see a park-ing lot and boat ramp on your left. Hello, SWEPCO.

2. It’s a JBU tradition

SWEPCO is one of the count-less JBUisms referred to through-out the year on campus, although especially so during Orienta-

tion Week each fall. Groups of students notoriously carpool to the lake and take a dive into the warm, murky waters. Sophomore Sara Stoll described the experi-ence as both fun and gross, add-ing that, “once you get over the concept of it, the water feels nice when it’s chilly outside.”

3. Murky legality

SWEPCO Lake is outside of the Siloam Spring’s Police De-partment’s jurisdiction and the Benton County Sheriff’s Office could not be reached for com-ment. So it may be legal to swim in the lake or it may not be - just keep that in mind as you wade into the water.

4. It’s warm year-round

This man-made 500-acre lake is warm 365 days a year because it serves as a cooling agent for the nearby Flint Creek Power Plant. According to a forum on bassca-towners.yuku.com, the water can be between 70 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit, depending on where

you are on the lake. And remem-ber, if the power plant happens to be shut down for maintenance or something along those lines, the lake will be cold just like any other lake, especially during the winter.

5. More than swimming

Because of the unnaturally continuous warm water supply, SWEPCO Lake is a great place for fishing. Jason Cossey of area J and B Fishing Guide Service told Channel 5 News that he once caught a 60-pound bass in the wa-ter. He said that the fish tend to be bigger in this lake, growing all year long because of the warm water. Cossey also stated that the best times for fishing were early morning or twilight. But if fish-ing just isn’t your thing, there is also a half-mile trail, the Eagle Watch Nature trail, to hike. Also drawn because of the warm water each year, many American Bald Eagles arrive on the lake each fall and spend the winter living off and around the lake.



KELSEY GULLIVER/The Threefold Advocate

The warm waters of SWEPCO lake lap against the fishing pier. The heat draws eagles, fishermen and University students to the area.

Spring break mission trips impact lives

Hannah Wright
Staff Writer

wrightjh@jbu.edu

The SMLT sponsored three domestic mission trips over spring break, taking groups to Jackson, Miss.; Panama City, Fla.; and New Orleans, La.

The Jackson trip was led by director of discipleship Frank

Huebert. Partnering with the John M. Perkins Foundation and the Zachariah 8 Community, stu-dents tackled service projects with a focus on Christian com-munity development.

Students on the Jackson trip were able to hear John Perkins speak, and discuss difficult is-sues such as race and culture as they pertain to faith, as well as studying the book of Acts.

The Jackson missionaries

worked hard on their assigned tasks, doing everything from weeding to digging trenches.

Freshman Mikayla Roberts re-membered working on a drainage ditch. It started pouring as the team was working on the trench, Roberts said. But they were de-termined to finish because it was their last day to work. By then, the trench had already filled up with water so they had to guess where to dig. Roberts said they

said it was a life-changing expe-rience. “For the first time I could experience the power of the Holy Spirit when sharing the Word of God to people I would never imagine I could pursue a spiritual conversation with,” she said.

The New Orleans trip was led by Bryan Cole and Austin Rob-ertson, the resident directors of North Hall and the Townhouses, respectively. The goal was to ex-perience and minister to the city of New Orleans. Partnering with TouchGlobal, a response ministry of the Evangelical Free Church of America, students worked to fight the still visible devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Split into two groups of thir-teen, students worked on two separate demolition projects. One was to tear down parts of a house in order to refurbish it, and the other was to complete the de-struction of a condemned house.

“Even seven years later, roads are unfixed and slabs of founda-tions are in the overgrown grass,” said junior Rachel Brown. “I was caught up in the idea of losing everything; how does one move on?”

Most students spoke of how their lives were changed, in ways large or small.

“Everything that happened in this mission trip was God talking to us and working in our lives,” said junior Carla Penate, who went on the Panama City trip. “I am not the same,” she said.

Many students also expressed amazing interactions with the communities of their mission fields.

“The people down there have some of the greatest hearts and give all the time they can to any friend,” said Brown.

The trips were generally con-sidered a huge success, each group accomplishing what they set out to do, as well as larger goals.

“We wanted to bring our work back and to remember what we learned,” said Huebert. And they “absolutely did.”



Submitted by FRANK HUEBERT

Three University missions trip participants--senior Cori Van Gorkom, sophomore Broderick Wilson and freshman Amber Moore --work on weeding a plot of land in Jackson, Miss. The trips provided opportunities to serve others and be changed by the experience.

Ole for JOSE'S

South West GRILLE

www.oleforjoses.com

(479)750-9055

5240 W. Sunset Ave. Springdale, AR

did eventually finish the trench, but not before engaging in a mud war or two.

The trip to Panama City was led by assistant director of disci-pleship Lisa Corry. The students were part of a group of 800 who attended a conference called Big Break. The conference focused on equipping students for evan-gelism. Students spent two hours on the Panama City Beach shar-ing the gospel with passers-by.

Junior Velma Sanchez was one of the students on the trip. She

SGA continued
from Page 1

Cook said she had never thought of telling the students what happened in the board meetings. Some of the information is confi-dential, and other things are more detailed than students would prob-ably be interested in, she added.

Steve Beers, vice president of student development, said SGA members provide a constant re-minder for the board and the cabi-net about who their policies affect. The University’s administration takes the liaison position of SGA with the board seriously.

By working within the admin-istrative system, Beers said, SGA can coordinate with school offi-cials to make real changes. He gave as an example the fact that it was SGA representatives eight or nine years ago who helped students get Good Friday off of school.

“Students would complain about having classes that day in March or April. But by then it was too late to do anything about it, and they would forget about it until the next year. SGA members were of significant assistance in working with committees and petitioning that this be changed.”

Danielle Keller, coordinator of student activities, is the school ap-pointed advisor for SGA. She said one of the challenges for SGA is communicating what they are ac-complishing back to the students. They could do better at market-ing themselves to the student body, she said. This is sometimes hard because they do not want to come across as bragging, she said.

It is important for there to be two-way exchange between stu-dents and SGA. Keller added that the SGA senate meetings are open to the student body, a fact many do not know. If students want to present to the senate they need to be placed on the agenda, but they are always free to attend and listen.

Cook agreed. Students often talk about SGA to one another, but typically they do not talk to the SGA members. “We want people to come directly to us,” she said.

SGA Senate meetings are held at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Check back next week for an article about SGA projects.

Positive impact

WHY WE STILL BELIEVE IN THE KONY 2012 CAMPAIGN

It blew up the Twitter feeds. Everyone you knew was reposting it on Facebook. In only five days, it had received over 70 million views on YouTube. It was without a doubt one of the biggest social media campaigns this world has ever seen. That’s right, “it” is the “Stop Kony 2012” video sponsored by Invisible Children.

The 28-minute documentary spotlights Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army in Central Africa, who is accused of overseeing the systematic kidnapping of thousands of African children. He then forces the boys to fight for him and turns the girls into sex slaves, killing anyone who doesn’t comply. The video then calls for the arrest of Kony before the end of 2012.

Any person, place, thing or idea that receives virtually overnight popularity becomes subject to mass amounts of criticism. The Stop Kony 2012 campaign is no exception. Invisible Children and its video have been under fire almost nonstop since the release. However, The Threefold Advocate believes its critics are too quick to find flaws and too slow to offer alternatives.

One of the major critiques of the Invisible Children involves their budgeting practices. Currently, only 37 percent goes to aid programs in Africa. The rest is spent on raising awareness and paying their management. However, many critics fail to realize that Invisible Children is first and foremost an awareness organization. Their main goal is to raise awareness about the injustices occurring in Africa, not to directly help the mistreated. The fact that so much of their budget actually goes to the children is generous.

Secondly, many complained Invisible Children oversimplified the steps it would take to stop Kony in their video. They say it is much more complicated than simply changing your profile picture or hashtagging #stopkony.

However, we would argue the steps had to be simplified for the sake of the video. No average Joe is going to watch a 30-minute presentation on the complicated strategy involved in capturing the world’s most wanted. The video did what it had to do to make people aware, and just the sheer number of views is already putting pressure on the government to do something.

Finally, critics point out the risk involved in using the Ugandan army to carry out the Invisible Children’s plan. The Ugandan army does not have a good track record where human rights are concerned. The army has allegedly used child soldiers as well.

However, we recognize no part of this plan involves the ideal situation. Ideally, the Invisible Children would use an army just as concerned with human rights as they are. But in reality they are forced to use what is available and best in the situation. Even with the campaign’s flaws, the outcome will still be positive.

Therefore, we believe critics need to take a step back and stop criticizing just for the sake of criticizing. Most would agree Kony is a bad man who needs to be stopped. If you do not agree with Invisible Children’s attempts to do so, then you need to offer up a better solution instead of tearing down the one in place.



Graphic by RUSSELL HIXSON / The Threefold Advocate

The Threefold Advocate

- advocate.jbu.edu -

STAFF

Russell Hixson - Editor-in-Chief

Brittany Reading - Managing Editor

Esther Carey - News Editor

Seth Kaye - Photo Editor

Emerson Ayala - Opinions Editor

Anali Reyes - Lifestyles Editor

Adrianne Redding - Copy Editor

Sidney Van Wyk - Sports Editor

Jenny Redfern - Visual Arts Director

Jon Skinner - Graphic Artist

Taylor Alison - Ad Director

Marquita Smith - Adviser

STAFF WRITERS

Kelsey Gulliver, Shelby DeLay, AJ Miller, Hannah Wright

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

JP Garcia

Abby Chestnut

Lindsey Gerke

Max Grubb

Michael Bruner

Laura Parker

Rebecca Curry

Ashley Elkins

Stephanie Willis

Angela Morse

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. E-mail or mail letters by 6 p.m. on Monday.

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY COLUMNISTS OR IN LETTERS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLISHER, ADVISER OR STAFF.

CONTACT US

E-mail | Advocate@jbu.edu

Mail | JBU Box 2501

2000 W. University Street

Siloam Springs, Arkansas 72761

The Threefold Advocate would like to clarify that editorials, those pieces in the column above this paragraph, are the opinion of the editorial board. They are therefore not attributed to individual writers. The writings to the right, with mug shots and pithy headlines, are columns. Each is the sole opinion of the mug shot’s owner. On occasion, readers wishing to respond to an article or to express a viewpoint will write a letter to the editor. The opinion pages serve as a community bulletin board and are meant to continue the dialogue about various issues relevant to the JBU community. Please write. We want your input.



RUSSELL HIXSON / The Threefold Advocate

Letters to the Editor

Lack of Salsa Dance raises questions

I read Jose Alvarado’s column about the lack of a Salsa dance a few weeks ago, “Spring events lack Salsa spice,” and I had a few things to add.

First off, I also want to ask why aren’t we having a Salsa dance? It just does not make sense to me. The salsa dance has been a beloved event for the last few years, well attended by students from many different cultural backgrounds. Both my freshmen and sophomore years I attended and the event was extremely fun! The venue was packed with students from all years enjoying not only the music and dancing, but also the fellowship with friends, delicious food, and exciting environment.

Both years I helped give the Salsa dance lessons with Gabo Ruiz. For each of the lessons that we offered we had a completely packed room full of students eager to learn to dance. Dance is so important in many cultures, and the fact that we have one less dance to participate in at John Brown is disappointing to say the least. The Salsa dance was something that many students looked forward to year long. It was one of the two dances that JBU offered that all students could attend, enjoy, and participate in. Junior-Senior banquet is a spring event sure, but not all students are invited to attend. This means that there is now only one dancing event where freshmen to senior students are allowed to participate in.

Another important reason why the Salsa dance should not have been taken away is that it strips something from the vibrant Latin community we have on campus. This community is exciting, accepting, and proud of their cultural past-times. To take away an important event from this community affects not only this community but the JBU community as a whole. I believe that the Salsa dance should be reinstated at JBU for so many different reasons, and I know that I am not the only one who feels this way.

I am wondering what are other people thinking about this on campus? I know many friends have talked about it, but I feel like there has been little response from SAC. So, since they’re not speaking about it, or addressing students’ questions about this, I am adding my voice to the discussion because I truly don’t want this issue to be laid to rest without giving it the attention it so rightly deserves.

Glenna Pittman
Junior
Family and Human Services
PittmanG@jbu.edu

Word on the Web

What’s your take on the Salsa Dance?

Will you miss it?

Join the conversation on The Threefold Advocate’s social media sites.

Facebook.com/ThreefoldAdvocate

or

Twitter:

@TheThreefold

OPINION

The Threefold Advocate



Why early marriage works



I am 21 years old and will graduate December 2012. I will be married in 44 days.

That's right—I will be married before my fiancé and I graduate from college. We will be back for one last semester in the fall.

There is always buzz on campus about romantic relationships. Everyone has an opinion about the couples here. And more often than not, I have heard conversations bashing the idea of young marriage, or especially marriage while at JBU. I have read columns on the Threefold that have made snide comments about marriage between students here.

Because I am in the minority, roughly six percent of the student body, people seem well-versed in reasons to avoid early marriage, but not the reasons as to why some of us welcome it. Here are a few of my thoughts. Of course, these only completely apply to my own situation, but I bet they apply to most other couples as well.

1) This isn't a romantic whim. I have explored the details of graduation dates, life insurance, health savings accounts, rent, change in social security status, the myriad of possibilities of birth control, financial aid, earning enough money for a honeymoon and not a spring break trip, tax codes for dependents, juggling two families, finding jobs and a whole lot more. The paperwork and hassle of job hunting, wedding planning, graduation seeking, and everything else in life will make just about any couple take

a second look at the whole marriage in college/right out of college thing.

2) We do realize money will be tight, thank you. Reports show that finances are one of the major causes, if not the most common, of divorce. That is a pretty sobering statistic—one that has made us consider carefully about our budgeting and financial strategy.

Both our fathers were most concerned over the lack of money that we would face in our first years together. After first making sure that we could balance things like loans, scholarships, gas money, insurance and savings, we explained that we probably would fight over money sometimes. Doesn't everyone?

Often the serious, repetitive

“I am grateful to be among JBU students now and feel a lot of encouragement for my life choices, including my upcoming nuptials.”

fights stem from different views of how money should be saved and spent—something that couples should know about each other before they get engaged.

We both come from similar Christian households that taught the same principles about saving and spending. Because we know our foundational beliefs are the same and that God is in control of our finances, our money squabbles will not put an unbearable strain on our marriage.

3) My sex life isn't any of your business. Perhaps that's too harsh. If so, I apologize. But too often on campus I have heard people remark, “well, you know the only reason they would get married so soon is for sex.” I hope no one says that about me!

First, it's a very private section of my life. Secondly, it's not true. But since I brought it up, I will say: my fiancé and I are getting married for sex—but not only for sex. As Christians, we understand that sex is holy, satisfying and beautiful inside the commitment of marriage. We also understand that marriage is more than “sex on the regular;” it is also about presenting a symbol of Christ and His church, a safe environment to raise children and a loving, supportive relationship to stabilize not only the individuals, but society around them as well.

Getting married primarily for sex is dangerous and unfulfilling. However, God did give sex to humans to enjoy and please Him with, but only within marriage. So, please don't assume that sex is the only thing on our minds. We are pursuing marriage because we believe God is calling us to it.

One small deciding factor of whether to wait longer or go ahead and get married in 2012 was the environment at JBU. My fiancé and I will be within a few hours of our families and will be surrounded by a Christian environment that is sympathetic to, if not supportive of, early marriage. That sounded like a better place to start our relationship than states away in who-knows-what environment.

As a whole, I am grateful to be among JBU students and feel a lot of encouragement for my life choices, including my upcoming nuptials. I respect your decision to be single or to be casually dating at this point in your life. I assume that's where God has you now. Please assume the same for me.

Redding is a senior majoring in political science. She can be reached at ReddingA@jbu.edu.

Trayvon death reveals ugliness



Pointless, needless, ugly, racist, out of line, justified – all words swirling around the tragic death of a Florida teen.

Seventeen-year-old Trayvon Martin, who was black, was returning from a trip to a convenience store when George Zimmerman, a community watch captain, became suspicious of the hooded teen. Against police advice, Zimmerman followed the teen and two had a confrontation. Martin, unarmed, was shot in the chest and died.

The details of what the altercation looked like and if Martin attacked Zimmerman are both still murky. Zimmerman claims Martin attacked him from behind, punched his face and pounded his head into the pavement. Some witnesses claim Zimmerman confronted Martin.

Regardless, the shooting raises some disturbing questions.

Why is a black male in a hooded sweatshirt inherently suspicious in America? I am not saying that Zimmerman is a passionate racist who hates and fears blacks. I think that deep down many Americans are afraid of blacks. My guess that part of it is from consuming sensationalist news media, television shows, movies, music that often portrays the black male as scary, dangerous and a criminal.

It seems the culturally identification of blacks as being dangerous is affection our actions. A study in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology showed that in a video game simulation, people have a much easier time recognizing threats and shooting subjects when they are black. People are also more likely to shoot

unarmed blacks, mistaking them for threats.

And that is not a defense of Zimmerman's behavior. It is a disturbing wake up call to tell us that there is an ugly, deep, subconscious prejudice driving people to do stupid things.

The problem is amplified by another. Americans are not just terrified of blacks, but are terrified in general. Our post 9-11 world seems filled with bombings, shootings, death, destruction and murder. Part of this is because of the invention of 24-hour news cycle that is constantly pumping fear into the hearts of Americans. It's the reason people feel they need a neighborhood watch, guns in their home, alarm systems and resumes from babysitters.

But there isn't more violent crimes. In fact, according to the New York Times, the violent crime rate has plummeted to its lowest point in nearly forty years. The odds of being murdered or robbed are less than half of what they were in the early 1990s. But people are more afraid than ever about some new drug their kids will take, predators snatching their kids or hooded figures threatening them on the street.

We shouldn't even need to be talking about this case. Zimmerman should have listened to the dispatcher who told him not to follow Martin. He had no right to bother him. The police would have showed up and shown Zimmerman the Skittles, and this would have been an embarrassing case of subconscious, racist paranoia. Instead we have a dead teen. Ridiculous.

If anything good comes out of this, it will be the desire to answer some disturbing questions: Why are Americans so terrified of blacks? Why are Americans so terrified in general? Is it wise to have a gun at your hip 24/7?

Hixson is a senior majoring in journalism. He can be reached at HixsonR@jbu.edu.

Support the troops



Politics and religion: the topics no one brings up in polite conversation. But that shouldn't be the case. America has received a lot of flack for its military involvement with countries like Afghanistan and Iraq.

Many people have strong opinions on the matter and others have none at all, but one question has been raised. Can you be a Christian and be in and support the military?

I think you can. There are countless stories in the Old Testament of the Israelites asking God for favor in battle, and He granted it to them. God even called people to war to fight their enemies. However there is the commandment “Thou shalt not murder.” So what do we do with that?

Ecclesiastes 3:8 says, “There is...a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.” God knows man's heart, and we are all infected with sin. It is inevitable that there will come times of war and conflict.

God commands us to protect the weak and take care of the poor. If I saw a little child or anyone for that matter being attacked, I would hope that I would go help them and if it came to the point that it was my life or the attacker's, I would defend myself.

I wish that we could live in

peace and harmony with one another and govern with love, but we live in a fallen world. We must implement protection systems to keep order and create peace in this chaotic world. I think you can be a Christian and in the military. First Corinthians 10:31 says, “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God,” and it applies to all things including being in the military.

That's not say there aren't things wrong with the military. For example, the recent controversy with Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales who could be sentenced to death if convicted on any of the 17 counts of murder filed against him for allegedly embarking on a shooting rampage in Afghan villages.

Nothing is perfect in this world and there are extremely high standards for an organization that is in charge of protecting and bringing peace.

People in the military and those who run it fall short of those standards all the time. But there are people who are honoring God with their service and who are saving lives.

The military isn't going to go away, and I would rather have someone who tried to honor God with their lives and actions join as opposed to someone else.

So bring up politics and religion in conversation and make it polite. Make it something that Christians can talk about. I am not saying that you will agree with whomever you talk to, but it is important to not avoid the issues.

Anderson is a senior majoring in journalism. She can be reached at AndersonEM@jbu.edu.

got opinions?

Chances are you do. Let your voice be heard. Write for the opinion pages.

For more information email us at: advocate@jbu.edu or ayalae@jbu.edu

The recently completed soccer field press box ready to be used for the first time this Saturday at the men's exhibition match against Oral Roberts University. The press box still has to be wired for power and wi-fi.

A black and white photograph of a golf course. In the foreground, there is a large, light-colored sand trap or bunker. To the right of the sand trap, a golf flag on a pole is visible. In the background, there is a dense line of trees. The overall scene is a typical golf course landscape.

The University plans more improvements in the future, such as the putting green, which was one of the Athletic Department's previous renovation projects.

A black and white photograph of a male tennis player in mid-swing on a court. He is wearing a dark polo shirt, light shorts, and dark socks. A chain-link fence is in the background.

Tournament
St. Louis, Mo.

