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Saudi Arabia leads UN human rights panel

Nation's history of rights violations causes controversy

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Saudi Arabia, a nation with numerous human rights offenses, was recently named the chair of the United Nations human rights council. After a U.N. watchdog organization disclosed this, many people reacted negatively. “Somebody at the U.N. has their head up their rear if they are willing to appoint the Saudi envoy to the U.N. to head up anything to do with human rights,” David Vila, professor of religion and philosophy at the University, said. “To appoint one of the worst offenders of human rights in the world to be in charge of appointing experts and setting up human rights standards around the world legitimizes the horrific record of human rights abuse in Saudi Arabia,” Vila said. “And it also does not bode well for the development of global policies on human rights that have any substance if the standard is going to be Saudi Arabia.”

“It seems like a joke,” Haley Maguire, senior communications student, said. “I feel like a country leading a U.N. Council should look at its own country before telling others what to do.” The U.N. Human Rights Council consultative group is made up of five rotating members who “interview and recommend candidates for dozens of experts, called ‘special rapporteurs’ or ‘independent experts’ whose job it is to examine specific human rights challenges and make non-binding recommendations to the human rights council,” explained an article from The Daily Beast. In other words, Saudi Arabia—along with Lithuania, Chile, Algeria and Greece—recommends expert candidates to the president of the Human Rights Council. The president of the Council then interviews these candidates, and after getting appointed, the expert then addresses and analyzes a variety of human rights issues. Much of the negative

feedback over Saudi Arabia’s appointment to the consultative panel has to do with the perceived hypocrisy of the appointment, according to The Daily Beast. The kingdom has a long list of human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, torture, beheadings and poor treatment of women and religious minorities, according to Human Rights Watch. A couple of the nation’s widely reported human rights controversies include a public beheading of a woman convicted of sexually abusing and murdering her 7-year-old stepdaughter. Saudi Arabia is also in the national spotlight after sentencing a blogger, Raif Badawi, to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in prison for advocating free speech and insulting Islam. Badawi, still in prison, was awarded the Pen Pinter Prize this week for advocating for free speech. The prize is awarded to those who show a “fierce intellectual determination... to define the real truth of our lives and our



Courtesy of GOOGLE IMAGES
Raif Badawi's wife, Ensaf Haidar, and protestors stand outside Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada to campaign for Badawi's release from Saudi Arabian prison on Sept. 10.

societies,” wrote the BBC. Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales accepted the award on Badawi’s behalf, and Badawi’s wife continues to campaign for his release. “It’s scandalous that the U.N. chose a country that has beheaded more people this year than ISIS to be head of a key human rights

panel,” Hillel Neuer, U.N. Watch executive director, said in a statement. “This U.N. appointment is like making a pyromaniac into the town fire chief,” Neuer said. Despite widespread criticism, Saudi Arabia has pursued a seat at the head of the United Nations Human

Rights Council for several months. The United States and other key nations were encouraged to protest Saudi Arabia’s appointment to the panel, but kept silent, likely because of the power of oil, according to U.N. Watch.

Trump holds top GOP poll position

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Political frontrunner Donald Trump may not be the preferred candidate for all Americans, but he has brought national attention to the Republican Party’s debates this year. Trump has held this attention since Sept. 9 due to his comments about Carly Fiorina. Trump has held the top GOP power ranking position for weeks and continues to lead the race in polls. “Nearly six in 10—57 percent—Republicans now have a favorable view of Trump, compared to 40 percent who have an unfavorable one. “Trump’s celebrity and his tendency to say things in offensive ways is what brought more media attention to clashes between candidates,” Lucas Roebuck, John Brown University’s chief communications officer, said. Roebuck was a political newspaper columnist for nearly a decade and ran for a Republican seat



Courtesy of GOOGLE IMAGES
Donald Trump currently holds a 57 percent favorable vote for the Republican nomination.

in the Arkansas House of Representatives. “Trump’s stance on immigration is very divisive but it is also very powerful, because for so many frustrated voters, immigration is the singular issue that guides their vote,” Roebuck said. Jacob Russell, junior engineering major, said

Trump’s success has widely come from his past celebrity, not from his current campaign. “Things he says are displayed massively, such as his comments about John McCain,” Russell said. Russell also believes Trump inspires debate among Republican candidates that may not

have occurred without him. “He definitely takes a radical conservative stand, but sometimes it is just to be overly conservative,” Russell said. While Trump appears to be a candidate that will bring about change, he may not be the best person for the Republican Party, said Russell.

“One advantage of having no political history is that you can define yourself however you want.”
- Lucas Roebuck

“Trump will stay in the news because he says stupid things,” Russell said. Jesse Hertzberg, sophomore business management major, said he feels Trump has run a good campaign so far. One of the reasons Trump’s campaign has been so successful is because “he just tells people what they want to hear,” said Hertzberg. Hertzberg believes that Trump has been so successful in the debates because he was able to steal the show from the very beginning, taking the spotlight by not committing to unconditionally supporting the Republican nomination. Hertzberg continued by

saying that he agrees with many of Trump’s policies, but he doesn’t agree with Trump as a person. “You wonder how many people will actually vote for him,” said Hertzberg. Trump is one of a couple of Republican candidates with no political history, but whether this will prove an overall advantage for his campaign is still undetermined. “One advantage of having no political history is that you can define yourself however you want,” Roebuck said. Trump will get another chance to define himself when the third Republican presidential debate takes place on Oct. 28.



Submitted by ALEC SOARD
Mock Rock will occur on Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Ozarks; tickets will be \$2.

Auditions for decade-long tradition begin

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Ten years ago, one of the most popular events on the John Brown University campus, Mock Rock, began. Today Student Events and Activities will hold auditions for the group lip-sync battles in the Cathedral of the Ozarks. University graduate and current media

producer for University Advancement Kaitlyn Thompson looked back on her experiences with Mock Rock in a fond way. “It is a hilarious time to watch fellow students,” said Thompson. Ariel Lyon, assistant director of communication for Student Events and Activities, said that Mock Rock is a great way to feel connected to everyone, and being

part of a Mock Rock group allows you to work with fellow students who you may not have gotten to know. Lyon said, “It’s an experience you can hold on to with the people you shared it with.” Marikit Schwartz Fain, archives coordinator, said Danielle Vogus brought the event to campus and was inspired by her experiences at Biola University.

Awareness week supports survivors

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This year marks the third annual Sexual Assault Awareness Week hosted by John Brown University's Students Against Sex Slavery (SASS). The organization worked with the Northwest Arkansas Rape Crisis Center, who indorsed this event be held in the fall.

"One in three women, and one in six men are sexually assaulted in their lifetime. And those are only the reported cases. This isn't a 'woman's issue,' this is an issue for everyone," Krista Gay, co-leader of SASS said.

The center advocated for this change because, "Among victims [of abuse] ages 18 to 29, two-thirds had a prior relationship with the offender," according to National Institute of Justice. Hosting the event in the fall could give

survivors the resources needed to face their abusers when they return home for the holidays and are around extended family and friends.

This year with the event being moved sooner, SASS is partnering with University nurse Rhonda Hostler and the University of Arkansas, to host the event during the week of Oct. 4-7, in the fall.

Gay said she believes the week is important for three reasons: "To let the JBU community know that our students are not exempt from sexual assault, to help everyone know how to better protect themselves and to let survivors of sexual assault know that they are not alone."

SASS is partnering with the "That's so 6 percent" campaign from the University of Arkansas and can be seen on posters throughout campus.

"Research has found that 6 percent of men



KLARA JOHANNESSEN/TheThreefoldAdvocate

Students walk along a path lit with candles representing the 304 women and 117 men on campus who statistically will experience sexual assault in their lifetime.

meet the criteria for rape or attempted rape," according to the campaign website, respect.uark.edu.

The site also states, "We live in a culture in which attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors dismiss

rape as less than what it actually is." This campaign hopes to use the "that's so 6 percent" slogan to call out actions that support rape culture.

Gay said another reason for Sexual Assault

Awareness Week is that, "Unfortunately, survivors often do not know the resources available to them, and wrongly believe they are alone. They are not alone. We need to be willing to

talk about this to support them as a community, and to let everyone know this behavior will not be tolerated."

The event was kicked off last Sunday night after the Gathering. Around the campus fountain, SASS volunteers lit candles along the sidewalks to represent the statistical number of men and women on campus who will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. The statistic, about one in three women and one in six men, was applied to the student population at JBU, and the result was 304 candles for women and 177 candles for men.

Danielle Janes, a volunteer with SASS, said Sexual Assault Awareness Week is important for the sake of talking about something that doesn't get talked about very often. Janes said she hopes this week will let survivors of sexual assault know that they are supported.

Grounds crew fights webworm infestation

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Webbing on the ends of tree branches is widely spread this fall. The increased number of web tents are made by caterpillars, commonly known as webworms, devouring the leaves and branches.

John Brown University grounds foreman Travis Chaney said that while webworms are always more prevalent in the fall than in the spring, this fall they are particularly pervasive. In his estimation, almost half of the trees on campus have some level of infestation.

"They're an embarrassment," Chaney said about the web tents.

Despite their appearance, webworms never cause lasting damage to trees unless the trees are already very weak, Chaney said. Even if the webworms completely defoliate a tree, it would only be a few weeks before the tree would naturally have shed its leaves for the winter, Chaney said.

Grounds crew work study students have worked to remove the webs by scraping them off with rakes or clipping them out

of branches. Some full-time grounds workers have gone up in a lift to clip branches that are out of reach from the ground. Chaney said the removed webs and branches are then burned in a trash can behind the facilities office.

In spite of these efforts, webworms can still be spotted around campus. Chaney said there are simply too many of them for him to win the battle.

"We just don't have the man power to get it all," Chaney said.

Amy Smith, University biology professor, is a trained stream ecologist and has taught entomology, the study of insects, off and on for the past twelve years.

"Any time you see an increase in population numbers, it's due to an abundance of resources and/or a shortage of biological controls," Smith said. "Biological controls would be predators and parasites."

Smith speculates that the flooding and heavy rain this past spring may have affected populations of predators; birds that would have been nesting at that time may have lost young. This could result in less predators for the webworms in the fall.



Left: Groundskeeper Brody Collins clips webworm tents out of a tree on the quad. Right: Grounds crew student Elizabeth Jones drags an infested branch into a trailer.



JESSIE BRANDON/TheThreefoldAdvocate

Chaney said he has noticed less European Starlings flocking around trees and eating the webworms this year.

Coleen Huebert, University biology professor, added that the heavy rains this spring have provided increased foliage for webworms to eat, creating an abundance of resources for them.

University web developer, Tim Stockman, and his family have experienced the worst of the campus infestation.

Stockman moved into a campus duplex with his wife and two-year-old son in July. At this time he noticed three to four branches with web tents. However, within two weeks the webworms had enveloped the entire tree. At this point, their population died down.

However, Stockman said they soon came back with a vengeance that covered the entire trunk in webbing, as well as the duplex roof and walls. Stockman said every time

he opened the front door, at least ten caterpillars would fall inside the house.

"They were raining from the tree," Stockman said. "Every time we would leave the duplex we had to use an umbrella. Otherwise we would have caterpillars all over us."

Stockman said his wife was distraught and during the worst of the infestation did not leave the house for three days.

Campus grounds crew cut down the tree in mid-September, which would

have been removed anyway once the duplexes are demolished in construction. This solved the problem, but Stockman and his wife were already planning to find a more permanent residence, and moved out two weeks later.

"I've decided to see this kind of like a blood moon," Chaney said, referring to the recent total lunar eclipse and explaining that this fall's level of webworm infestation is a natural phenomenon that is seldom seen.

"Every time we would leave the duplex we had to use an umbrella. Otherwise we would have caterpillars all over us."

- Tim Stockman

NASA announces water discovery on Mars

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Deposits of water were found in the icecaps on the north and south poles of Mars according to space and astronomy news website space.com

"New findings from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) provide the strongest evidence yet that liquid water flows intermittently on present-day Mars," was released on Sept. 28 according to NASA.

NASA scientists

started using imaging spectrometer on MRO to detect different minerals that were on Mars' slopes. Certain streaks of minerals indicate material hydrated by existing liquid water. These streaks change with the Martian weather, getting darker during a warm period and lighter during a cold period.

The United States have been studying Mars for decades. Mariner 9 was the first space craft to orbit a planet in 1971 according to space.com. NASA started to explore Mars in the early 1990's because they were given a wealth of

information from different space agencies around the world about the possibility that Mars held water, according to their website.

In 2008, Phoenix found small pieces of bright material that ended up disappearing after four days. This lead scientists to "surmise that there were pieces of water ice" according to space.com. When scientists tested their theory they discovered traces of water vapor in the minerals. This helped to confirm their hypothesis about water being on Mars.

Then in August 2012,

scientists found multiple rocks that had been exposed to liquid water over a million years ago, according to space.com.

Finding water on Mars "will certainly generate more interest in the search for life outside of planet Earth," Kenneth Hahn, astronomy professor at John Brown University, said.

In 2020, "a car-size robot" will be sent to Mars looking for evidence of past life, said space.com.

NASA also would like to continue their "search for life in the universe, and now we have

convincing science that validates what we've long suspected," John Grunsfeld said, astronaut and associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate in Washington on nasa.com.

The downside of continuing to explore Mars is the financial cost, said Hahn.

Cristopher Poveda, freshman engineering major, said he believes that since NASA found water on Mars, "it serves as a sign that, as a product of complex chemistry, it is inexcusably egocentric to suggest that we are

alone in the cosmos."

When looking for any signs of life, there are a few things to consider. Hahn said these are "liquid water, stable temperatures, a stable orbit around a stable star, the right mixture of chemical elements available to support life and an atmosphere capable of supporting life."

Hahn said that while "most planets seem to have what we have, the Lord has given the Earth the right mixture and the right conditions for life to survive and thrive."

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3 SPORTS

New eagles build strong team



DANIEL MADRID/TheThreefoldAdvocate
Griffin Brady, returning player for the Golden Eagles, practices with his new teammates. Out of the team’s 14-man roster, 10 of its players are first-year members.

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Some people might see coaching a sports team with over two-thirds being new players as an obstacle. Jason Beschta is not one of these people. Beschta, John Brown University’s men’s basketball coach, has a team of 14 with 10 new members. But in spite of the remodeled roster, he is optimistic in preparing for the new season.

“It’s something we can view as a blank canvas in front of us,” Beschta said. “We’ve got almost a brand new team, so we can go in about any direction we want with it... We’ve been focusing on that and just trying to get a really good foundation with everything that we do by starting at some of the basics.” Shooting guard Matt Ledford had similar thoughts about the team. As one of the Golden Eagles’ four returning members, Ledford thinks

that their chances are good for success in the upcoming season. “Playing with them has been great,” Ledford said. “I think we mesh pretty well, and they’re a talented group of guys.” The “talented group of guys” that Ledford speaks of is quite the diverse group. The new faces are from all over the map, ranging from a freshman from just-down-the-road Bentonville to a senior who transferred from Raleigh, NC. Beschta said that he’s enjoyed

seeing the group come together over basketball. “[The progression has] been really fun to watch with this group, because with this many new guys, they’ve come together faster than any team I’ve been around so far, in all honesty,” he said. “They genuinely like each other. These are guys that spend a lot of time on the floor but also off the floor. They’re friends. They’ve got each others’ backs. They trust each other.” Freshman Marquis

Waller, shooting guard, said that the connection Coach Beschta spoke of was almost instant for him and his teammates. “The first day, we just connected well,” Waller said. “It was crazy. Everybody works hard; we’re all on the same page.” But the team’s instant chemistry is not only due to the players on the team. Senior Luke Moyer, a point guard who transferred from NCAA Division I Campbell University, turned praise back to the coaching staff for the team’s success. “The reason why I came here is because of the coaches,” Moyer said. “They’re all so welcoming and their faith is really important... These coaches really care about us as men growing in our faith off the court more than basketball players. That’s really important for life, so when you add basketball to it, it makes it a whole lot easier.” Though the team has enjoyed wonderful camaraderie so far, there are still adjustments to be made on the court. One such adjustment is found in the fact that freshmen who used to be standouts in high school are now called on to play a more team-centered role. “Coming out of high school, most of the players we get were either the best player on their high school team or the second best player on their high

school team,” Beschta said. “They’re used to being the man; they’re used to having things run through them. You get a team full of those guys, and not everyone can be that anymore, so everyone’s got to accept a brand new role and work to discover what that role is and discover ‘what’s the value that I can add to this team?’” Waller, who used to play the “superstar” role on his high school team, said that he has definitely had to adjust to everyone playing at or above his level. “The level of play is different,” said Waller. “I can adjust to the speed, but the level of strength is different. It’s a lot of smarter players, and basically the whole team is good, so that’s an adjustment.” Not only that, but the team also has yet to play a game. Ledford said that playing games is part of the process of understanding each other and coming together as a team. “I think we’ll get better as the season progresses,” he said. “We can’t expect the chemistry to be perfect right away; it takes time and practice. We’ve only had about four practices so far, but I think that, as the season goes on, we’ll get even better.” “I’m looking forward to this season. It’s gonna be a special one,” Waller said.

Blasingame leaves legacy of character

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“Encouraging.” “Positive.” “A role model.” These are words used to describe Elizabeth Blasingame, or Libby, as she is better known. Blasingame, who plays middle hitter for John Brown University’s volleyball team, has spent her time at the University leading by example, both on and off the court. Though her college legacy is centered on volleyball, Blasingame, a native of Plano, Texas, didn’t take up the sport until sixth grade. “I started playing volleyball because I had started out doing gymnastics, but I got too tall for gymnastics, so my parents thought that volleyball might

be a good sport for me because you have to be tall to play,” she said. Blasingame said that she didn’t initially enjoy the sport as much as she does now; however, the strength she gained from gymnastics gave her an advantage from the start. “I could serve overhand when I first tried it,” she said. “Back then, I wasn’t very aggressive. I didn’t like to take the ball away from people. I didn’t like it as much at first, but over the years, I grew to like it.” Once she began playing volleyball, she didn’t stop. Blasingame went on to play four years of high school volleyball at Frisco Liberty High School, the latter three on the school’s varsity team, where she was a three-year letterwinner and won All-District First Team awards twice. From there, she was recruited to play

at John Brown University, which she had heard about from counselors at summer camp. “I heard about JBU because I had been going to New Life Ranch for a while, and a lot of the counselors there were from JBU,” she said. “So I had kind of heard about it from there, but the old coach, Coach Johnson, had started recruiting me to play. I visited and really liked the team, the campus and the whole atmosphere. So I decided to come up and play here.” In 2012, Blasingame began to play for the Golden Eagles, but her college volleyball career faced a major setback shortly after. In 2013, she tore her ACL, which had already been hurt while skiing over Christmas break. “When I practiced, I fell on it the wrong way, and I tore it,” Blasingame said. “It was really a confidence blow at the time. It affected me more mentally trying to recover from it, but I worked really hard during my recovery and came back in five and a half months

and started playing again. But during the time of recovery, it was really hard, because I really just wanted to be on the court with my teammates.” As a result of her injury, Blasingame played right hitter [which is not her most skilled position] in her sophomore season. But that didn’t stop her. That year and the following year, she helped her team reach the Sooner Athletic Conference tournament quarterfinals. In 2014, she earned the award of All-Conference Second Team. Blasingame, now a senior, is currently one of the captains for the Golden Eagles. “Libby impacts the team on many different fronts,” Ken Carver, head coach for the Golden Eagles, said. “On the court, she is our team’s strongest blocker. Because she is a middle hitter, she has to hustle to block from pin to pin at the net. Her work ethic, level of hustle and desire to block terminate balls is constantly on display when she is on the front row. She also is one of our top offensive



KLARA JOHANNESSEN/TheThreefoldAdvocate
During her time at John Brown University, Blasingame played on a team that earned All-Conference Second Team and the reputation of a hard worker, strong leader and encouraging teammate.

players as well.” Blasingame is not only a talented player but also a valued teammate. Fellow middle hitter Mollie Pugh said she is always an excellent presence on the court, whether she’s setting up a play or rousing her teammates. “She is one of the most encouraging teammates that I’ve ever played with,” Pugh said. “She always helps me when I need help or need help with the plays. She gives me advice.” Blasingame’s influence doesn’t stop when she walks off the court. Both Coach Carver and her teammates said she is an excellent example for others when it comes to her character. “Libby is an awesome friend,” outside hitter Audrey Dearien said. “She’s always there for you and she’s always

putting people before herself. She’s really a servant-leader.” “Beyond the court, Libby serves as a role model for our team as she has one of the highest GPAs on the team as well,” Carver said. “Her Christian witness and character is solid too, so to see her encouraging or praying with a teammate is pretty common.” It is clear that Blasingame has left a positive impact on her team. She wasn’t hesitant to express how the team has impacted her either. “Overall the team has just been awesome,” she said. “There’s a ton of accountability, and we’re all really close friends. I’ve had a really great time.”

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Corrections: in our September 24 issue, the men’s rugby picture on page 8 of the sports section was credited to Anna MacLachlan instead of Jessie Brandon, who is responsible for taking the picture.

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Pay attention to elections
Watch the primary debates

Believe it or not, the current Republican Party debates are actually important.

Right now, you might be thinking, “Um, yeah, I know. The debates narrow down the field.” But I’m not talking about how they narrow down the field or that they evaluate how skilled candidates are at throwing sticks at each other. The debates come down to the candidates themselves, what they stand for and the decisions they make during the course of the debates.

We The Threefold believe that such aspects of the debates warrant your attention as an American citizen.

It would be easy to pick up the debates in March when both the Republican and Democratic presidential primaries have four candidates apiece (all of whom are still throwing sticks), but you shouldn’t wait that long. There’s too much to learn from watching them now. Not only are candidates currently revealing what they stand for, there are many other important personal details that must be watched very closely.

Consider if Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, who are currently leading their respective parties, broke through to the primaries. Clinton managed to get through all the red tape surrounding her private email account and Trump diverted us all from the fact that he’s taken just about every stance you can on every issue since he’s been sponsoring politicians.

Then there are issues that arise during the race itself. For example according to The Guardian, a couple of weeks ago, Ben Carson openly stated that Muslims shouldn’t run for presidential office due to their Sharia Law, which says that the state must comply with their religion. While the Islamic faith itself is perhaps severe when it comes to making the government support its beliefs, Carson should not generalize all Muslim-Americans as unable to accept separation of church and state. Once the primaries start though he will most likely have made it past that issue.

We the Threefold believe that, as the stakes become higher and the presidential election draws closer, these issues matter even more, which is why it’s so important to listen to what is going on before that time comes. The GOP debates are when these issues are discussed the most, which is why it’s important to be attentive to them. If there are enough candidates with skeletons in their closets (or out in the open, for that matter), they may have to rely on the support of uninformed Americans to gain momentum.

We don’t elect policies or stances to the presidential office. We elect people like you who have flawed opinions and make mistakes. We will never elect a perfect person to office, but the gradual perfection of the presidential office and, more importantly, our nation rests in the hands of the voters.

Therefore, We The Threefold urge you to pay attention to the debates that are going on now.

Egotism kills service
Be less self-focused, make a difference

College students have most of their days planned out. With upcoming projects, tests and hours of reading, their time is scheduled so that they can be productive every day.

This is an excellent method to succeed academically, but it can sometimes hurt relationships and limit new friendships. Students are sometimes guilty of being more focused on their studies than on the people around them.

We The Threefold challenge students to actively look for more ways to serve others and not focus themselves.

An easy way to do this is to look for “unscripted moments” or random acts of kindness at every opportunity.

An unscripted moment is doing something that you did not plan on doing. It’s helping out a friend when you have an upcoming test or just spending time with someone even though you feel you have more important things to do.

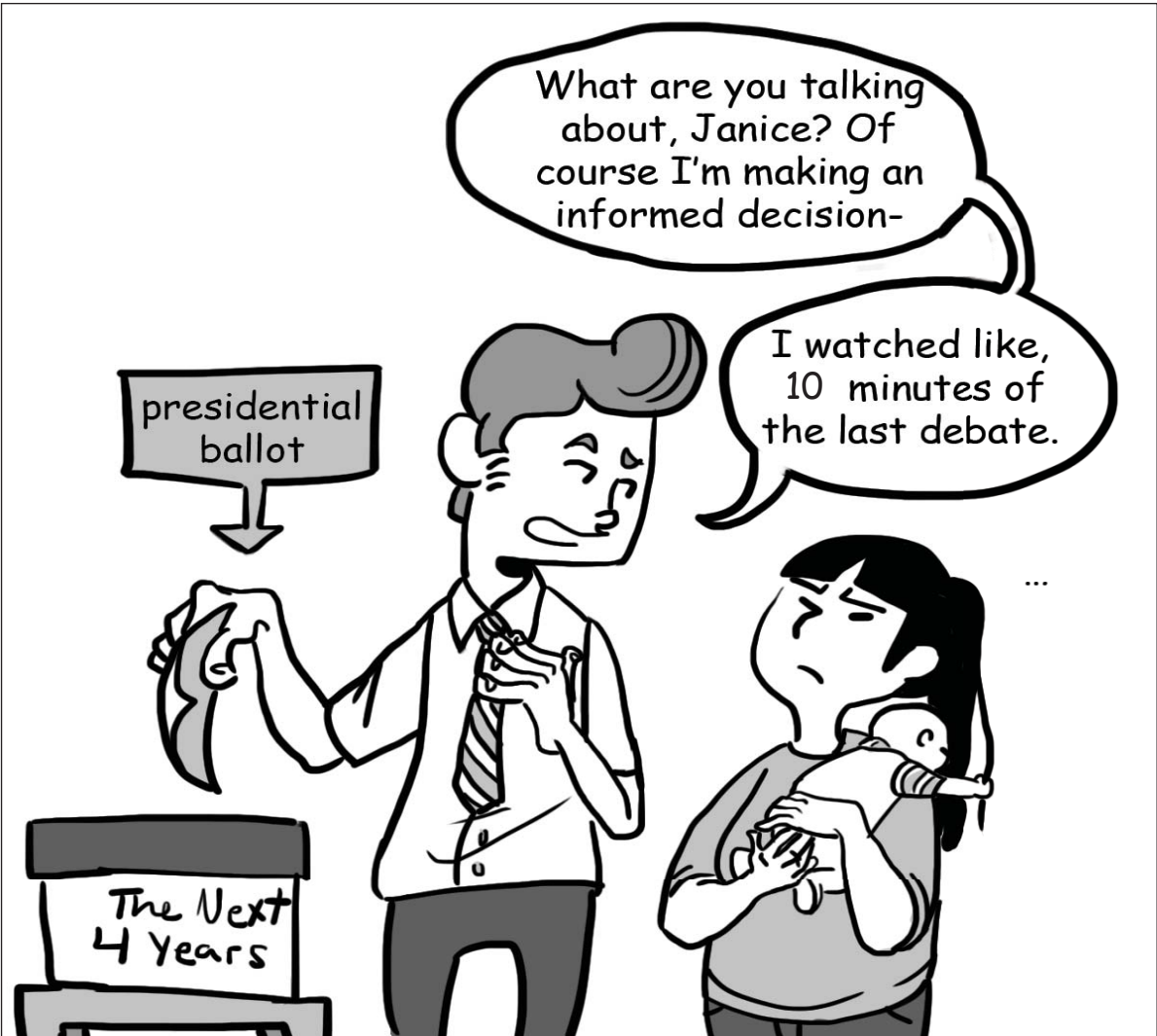
Doing this will allow students to focus on others. It will remind students that connecting with people is a significant part of a the college experience and of life. In comparison, a grade received on any test or project may not matter as much in the long run. The support we get from our peers can even improve our overall academic performance by refreshing our minds and giving us encouragement.

We The Threefold understand that this can be difficult and students have busy lives, but it is important to look beyond ourselves.

Even five minutes of an unscripted moment can make someone’s day significantly better. A few weeks ago when the Pope visited the United States, USA Today ran an article stating the most moving time of his trip here were his unscripted moments.

For these reasons, We The Threefold urge students to look for ways to help others even when things do not go as planned.

Inform your vote



Submitted by BECKY RAMIREZ

Reject stereotypes



ALICIA WATT
CONTRIBUTOR



When I was eight years old, I wasn’t allowed to enter a Chucky Cheese center because I didn’t look like my mom or dad. At the time, I remember being embarrassed that I was the center of attention, but I was also confused as to why my skin color was such a big deal. And that is my earliest memory of when my skin color truly made me feel like an outsider.

Even now, being an adult, I am still reminded every day that people will treat me differently because of the color of my skin. And it doesn’t stop there. I am treated differently when my manners of speech and favorite hobbies don’t appear to reflect my black skin. To put it simply, I may look black but I certainly don’t act black or black enough for some people. I’ve had friends ask me why I can’t dance or why I don’t talk black. I’ve even had friends share their opinions about black people in front of me, because, to them, I act too white to be associated with black people. At times I feel that I don’t belong anywhere. Judging by



GUSTAVO ZAVALA/TheThreefoldAdvocate

my appearance and personality, I’m not white or black or even African. Where do I belong, and where am I truly accepted?

There’s even a word for people who may look black but act very white, and that’s an oreo: a person who looks black on the outside but acts white on the inside.

When I was little, people would tell me that I was black, and I would firmly shake my head and inform them that I was actually purple. I know that sounds ridiculous (have you ever seen a purple person before?) but looking back, I had wanted to be defined by my own terms. I wanted to choose how I wanted to be portrayed. When someone decides to define me as a black and white cookie, they’re choosing the way and

the manner of which I should think, feel and act. And when does it ever feel good to hear that you should be a certain way because of your skin color?

As Christians, it’s time we stop treating people certain ways based on how we think they should be. Instead, we need to start loving them for who they really are. Who cares if you’re a black girl who reads Shakespeare or a white guy who’d rather listen to hip-hop instead of rock? We all know the pain of being singled out because we’re not doing things the way others think we should.

“I am even treated differently because my manners of speech and favorite hobbies don’t appear to reflect my black skin.”

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The Threefold Advocate

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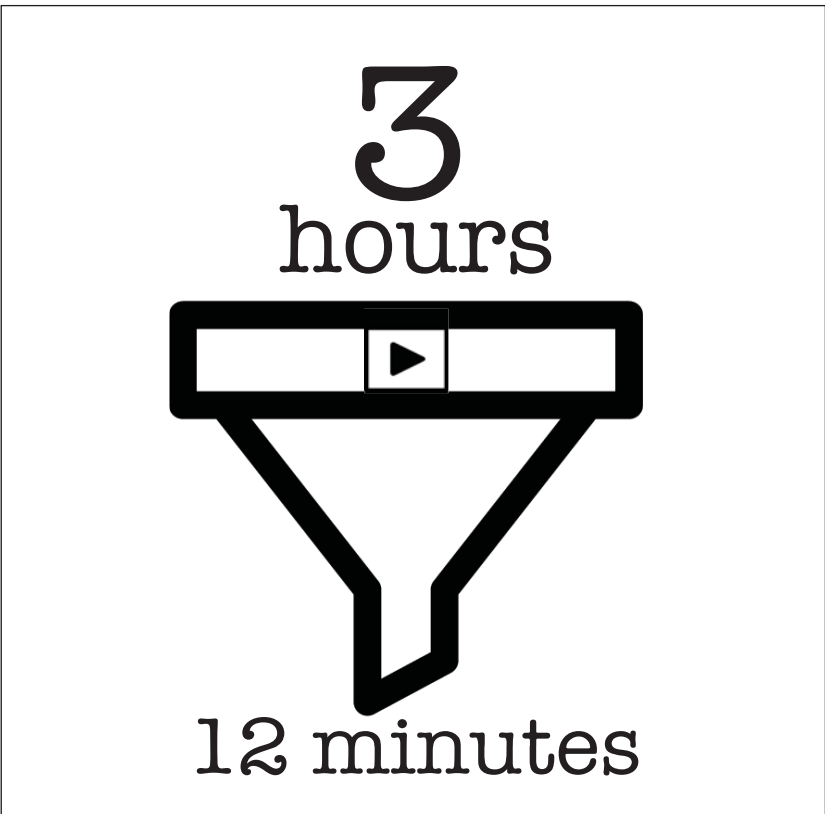
The Threefold Advocate would like to clarify that editorials, those pieces in the column above this paragraph, are the opinion of the editorial board. They are therefore not attributed to individual writers. The writings to the right, with mug shots and pithy headlines, are columns. Each is the sole 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.

Student defends funds for Planned Parenthood



MATT BOWEN
CONTRIBUTOR

Planned Parenthood is looking at losing its government funding under allegations that they’re selling fetal organs and tissue for profit. A video released by The Center for Medical Progress featured an undercover businessman attempting to purchase fetal tissue from Planned Parenthood executives. This 12 minute video, edited down from about three hours worth of footage, indicted Planned Parenthood of illegally selling fetal tissue. The issue became so intense that the government considered removing federal funding. After researching everything Planned Parenthood does for women and watching the infamous video for myself,



GUSTAVO ZAVALA/TheThreefoldAdvocate

I believe that the government could not make a bigger mistake based on 12 minutes of misinformation. Planned Parenthood is a massive, international organization that provides sex education, STD cancer testing, abortions and contraceptives. They’ve expanded these services internationally and

have centers in South America and Africa where they give health care services. In fact, according to their 2013-2014 Annual Report, they conducted 935,573 cancer screenings and 327,653 abortions. Making screenings nearly triple the amount of cancer screenings. They do such a plethora of healthcare-related operations,

and abortions only count for about 3 percent of operations. Planned Parenthood is more than a place to receive an abortion; it’s a safe place to discuss and test for multiple issues regarding women’s health at a very small cost. Shutting down federal funding despite all the organization has done for women would be considered political suicide for the conservative right, particularly its leading presidential candidate, Carly Fiorina, and a major setback for women’s rights and healthcare. But the government didn’t nearly shut the organization down because of abortions. The issue rested over the allegation of illegally selling fetal tissue and organs for profit. After having watched the video myself, I realized that the executives never gave such a claim. At times it was rather difficult to understand what they said, because the video was heavily edited. They admitted at one point that their partners occasionally make a profit from these exchanges but Planned Parenthood does not. The only thing they charge is transportation and preservation costs of tissue, but they make no profit from it. The media storm

surrounding this scandal is obscuring the facts. Planned Parenthood isn’t harvesting baby parts for money. They’re taking the ones that are donated to them by the would-be mothers and using them for research in disease prevention, vaccine creation and medical research. We have fetal tissue research to thank for the polio vaccine (which saves up to 555,000 people worldwide every year), shingles, rubella and the progress that has been made in Alzheimer’s research. This political maelstrom born from unfounded accusations could lead to an enormous setback in the case of human rights around the world. Cutting funding to Planned Parenthood because of a video on the internet recorded, and edited, by a strongly biased foundation is nonsensical. The government of the United States of America shouldn’t threaten to shut down Planned Parenthood because of a woman’s right to choose.

Bowen is a senoir majoring in biblical and theological studies. He can be reached at BowenMJ@jbu.edu.

Commit to passion, serve where you see fit



SAMUEL CROSS-MEREDITH
CONTRIBUTOR

It happens all the time. Think about a time when you asked a friend to do something that they really did not want to do. Say, for example, that you were heading to a poetry reading and your friend is an engineer. “Hey,” you’d say, “You wanna come listen to Dorianne Laux with me?” First, they don’t. Second, it is doubtful that they will tell you that straight off. “Errrrgh…” they would say, their face contorting into a comically exaggerated grimace. “Sorry, I’ve got homework,” or “a meeting,”



GUSTAVO ZAVALA/TheThreefoldAdvocate

or literally anything else other than that. Is it so hard to just say no to such things? An example that will hit closer to our guilt centers, (where all of our grandmothers sit, perpetually sewing awful sweaters that we will all have to wear), is a volunteer fair, or the booths in Walker. How many times will we walk straight past people who ask us if we want to work for Camp War Eagle? Or volunteer for the Pregnancy Center? Avoid eye contact is my advice. If you make eye contact, social contract kicks in and you have to hear their spiel.

“Are you interested in working with Camp War Eagle?” someone might ask, and then we will say something about how we may be, but we are not really sure. Yes we are. In truth, we never really had any intention from the beginning to fill out an application or hear them talk about how we could help. We walk up, grab a brochure and step away for the sake of being polite. I would argue that this behavior, this false interest, is actually more frustrating than just saying “no.” I will be honest: I am not

interested in working at the Pregnancy Center. I am not interested in being a camp counselor. Does that make me a bad person? Absolutely not. It just means that my passion is in a different area. If my heart is not in the middle of the issue, if my blood and bones are not given to the matter, what am I really doing to help? I’d argue that I’d just be in the way. I’d argue that I was taking the place of someone far more interested in the matter. Let’s not mince words, please. Please. There is no point in feigning interest in a cause

when our hearts are not in it. Furthermore, there is no guilt in admitting that a cause does not interest you. Tell me this: were we all made with the same heart? Are you as interested in poetry as I am? Am I as interested in mathematics as you? What, then, is the point in pretending we are committed to these things if we are not? Our passions are central: our passions push us to our goals and all passions are different. So let’s be honest, let’s commit to what is in our hearts, just as no member of the body is the same, neither is every person. As Jesus said, “Let your yes be yes and your no be no.” Say what you feel and think because at the end of things, the truth WILL work its way to the surface. Even more important, “the truth will set you free.”

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Student responds to pain and suffering through art



LIDANIA CERDA
CONTRIBUTOR

There she was, a typical white girl with her tall white mocha latte sitting in Starbucks at the break of dawn reading. Her nails were just as flawless as her makeup, so perfect yet so intimidating. She flipped through every page so finely and delicately. That was her appearance, but inside she was frightened of her future. Many of us have the ability to put what we think of someone in a box and not move it from where it is, but come to find out. these people are



GUSTAVO ZAVALA/TheThreefoldAdvocate

just like everyone else. Being a college student can sometimes be a little frightening, but being from a different culture and being a pastor’s kid is even more frightening. I am personally not like most people since I have seen firsthand how struggles affect people and how sometimes the weakest are actually the strongest. I am not going to spill the beans about how hard my life is

because everyone has their own struggles to break through. But just like that typical white girl, I am frightened. Being frightened has made me stronger in the way I demonstrate my art because no one will judge me. I enjoy doing art because where words fail, art speaks, and that is the ultimate cure for me. When I was a little girl, I grew up in a Christian home with a pastor for a dad and

accepted God at the young age of six. I was really athletic until I turned 12 and I was in a bus accident which caused my world to flip and change drastically. I remember the bus accident I couldn’t move my body to get myself out of the situation I was in. Once the firefighters got there and took me out of the situation, they rushed me to the hospital. The doctors took me to surgery pretty fast only to realized that my pelvis had shifted/moved up, my bladder had erupted and several of my ribs were broken. I was in a bad shape. I spent several months in the hospital fighting depression and blaming God for my suffering. At that moment, My mom encouraged me to read Job. “Honey, read it and you’ll see how lucky you truly are for surviving the accident,” she said. I remember being mad at her and God, but I still read Job and realized that what she said was right. Reading Job made me realize how short life is and how I should live in the moment. I also realized that small details of life matter, like how the displacement of a small

bone effects the whole body. This new discovery of God’s grace and the significance of even small details changed me. I don’t know how to explain this change. It was almost as if I had become someone new with new eyes. I started seeing life in a different way and since I couldn’t necessarily say it or write it, I just drew it. I would draw the pain I went through, and even the encounter with God that I had. Art helped me process and confront the small bits of myself to become a stronger person. There are so many more details to the story and they are all very important, but when it comes down to it, my passion is art. Art is not just a way to express emotions, it is also a way to demonstrate a story, and mine is just beginning at JBU.

Cerda is a freshman majoring in art and illustration She can be reached at CerdaL@jbu.edu.

How to carve the festive & traditional *Jack-o-lantern*

by REBEKAH HEDGES



1. Make a Lid

With your plump pumpkin, grab a large kitchen knife and make your first cut. Look at the stem of the pumpkin and make a deep circle incision around the stem. This will act as the lid of the pumpkin.

2. Remove the Guts

Remove the insides of the pumpkin with a large spoon. Scrape the pumpkin clean from all the orange mush and seeds so you can see the lighter orange skin of the pumpkin inside.



3. Sketch your Design

Pick the design or the desired features for your lantern and mark them out on your pumpkin with a sharpie. For example, draw two triangles, a circular nose and a toothy smile for the traditional look.

4. Carve the Image

Now take a smaller kitchen knife and cut along the sharpie lines. Make sure the cuts are deep enough for the shapes to be removed from the pumpkin.



5. Light your Lantern

You can place it at the center and place the lid of your pumpkin back on the top. Turn off the lights or wait till it's dark to see it light up to its fullness!

Let the
neighborhood
enjoy!



Mixed media gallery showcases alumni expertise

MEGAN CHAPIN
Staff Writer
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The newest exhibit in the art gallery features seven graduates from John Brown University's Visual Art Department. This exhibit opened Oct. 2, titled "JBU Alumni Invitational Exhibit."

The artists included in the exhibit are Kyle Armstrong, Kyle Blair, Jason Flack, John Springs, Natalie K. Nelson, Jeremy Grant and John Holcomb. The artists have all recently graduated from the University. University art gallery Director Charles Peer said, "This group of seven wonderful artists is a good representation of the quality and variety of work that our graduates are having in the world at large."

"Their work has been shown in well-respected galleries, published in national magazines and comic books, used in popular electronic games and assisted in mission efforts," Peer said.

Unique to the descriptions on the artwork, a majority of them gave credit to Joel

Armstrong, University art and illustration professor. The artists wrote little blurbs about themselves and how it was a great opportunity working and studying under Armstrong.

"I appreciated all the artists sharing their memories of their time at JBU, in addition to their work," Sarah White, senior education major, said. "It gave a glimpse of their time at JBU."

The artists used a variety of media for their artwork. Some were paintings with mixed media, acrylic and oil pastels drawn on top. There were also collages made with bits of paper, handmade paper and an image that was manipulated. Resin, a hard plastic, is also used. Others used silk screens.

Peer enjoys putting on the alumni show every once in a while. The exhibit's goal is to show off what the alumni have accomplished since they graduated. Normally they are an open-call type of invitation, where any graduate can send any piece of work. This is the first time it has been a closed-invitation event.

It was not an easy

task choosing which artists to invite for the exhibit in the gallery.

"We have had so many students who have gone out into the world using their creative gifts and having significant impact in their chosen fields," Peer said. "This is an exciting collection of work, and we are proud of the accomplishments and recognitions these graduates have received for their creative professional work."

"I enjoyed the Alumni art gallery because of the colorful, creative, and full of life vibe to it," Carlos Lopez, senior business administration and marketing major said. "A lot of the illustrations depicted retro cartoon characters, which I thought was really cool. I was impressed by the quality of the artworks that were showcased."

The exhibit will be open until Oct. 30. The gallery is free and open to everyone from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. On Sundays the gallery is open 2 p.m. through 4 p.m.



Visitors look at the gallery of alumni's artwork on display in the Windgate West building. The gallery showcases the different types of art graduates have persued.

ASHLEY BURGER/TheThreefoldAdvocate

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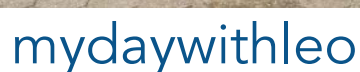
October 8, 2015
The Threefold Advocate

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This account brings together pictures of a man's best friend. You can submit pictures of your dog through the email address: dogs.instagram@gmail.com.



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Joel Strong is a satirical photographer, who challenges reality by putting celebrities' heads in random people's bodies using paper cut outs.



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Afraid of heights? Vitaliy Raskalov is a 22 year-old urban climber that takes the hashtag #OnTheRoofs to a whole new level.



128 posts **1.3m** followers

How authentic are your instagram pictures?
Sociality Barbie questions the #LiveAuthentic
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impressed... or convicted!



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♥ 2,956



Instagram Photos
Designed and written by Gustavo Zavala, Visual Art Director