



the clocktower

NO GIRL FOR SALE WALK

OCT 8TH
10AM

TOWER
SQUARE
13TH & P ST
LINCOLN, NE

No Girl for Sale Walk banner | PC: Paul Yates

LOCAL NONPROFIT SEEKS HELP TO FIGHT SEX TRAFFICKING IN LINCOLN



For many of us reigning from large cities like Denver, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas and even Kansas City, Lincoln is a quiet college town with little to worry about except Husker game night traffic. However, for activists such as Paul Yates, this type of city is perfect for hiding human sex trafficking pimps and victims.

Yates is the first executive director of I've Got a Name, a statewide, faith-based nonprofit organization based in Lincoln, Neb. Yates, who just entered his position this spring, comes with eight years of experience working for Tiny Hands International.

I've Got a Name was founded as a 2010 awareness event by Bob Burton, senior associate athletic director for the University of Nebraska. After learning about the One Girl Prayer Initiative Yates was running through Tiny Hands International, Burton paired with Yates to raise awareness and resources to fight sex trafficking in Southeast Asia through Tiny Hands International.

According to the I've Got a Name website, "The event was repeated again the following year, and the combination of these two events resulted in raising funds to rescue more than 2400 girls ..."

In 2012, I've Got a Name transformed into a nonprofit organization.

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FIGHT SEX TRAFFICKING

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Statistics, shares Yates, are difficult to pin down because not everyone reports what they do or what happens to them, usually out of shame and embarrassment.

“On the Estimation of Sex Trafficking Victims in Nebraska,” a 2015 feasibility study report by Dr. Ron Hampton and Dr. Dwayne Ball for the University of Nebraska, reported “the known number of Nebraska school girls who become victims of sex trafficking is at least 45 per year.”

Burton, Yates and the rest of the I’ve Got a Name staff work to fight this hidden issue in our city through prayer and awareness events, such as the annual No Girl for Sale Walk. Held Oct. 8 at Tower Square, registration costs \$15. Yates explains, “You can register as late as the day of the walk, but Sept. 23 is the last day to register to ensure a guaranteed shirt size.”

In addition to No Girl for Sale, Burton also initiated DecemBeard, which is intended to help raise funds for fighting sex trafficking, involving protecting girls and stopping the demand.

“That’s where prayer comes in, in an incredible way,” passionately enthuses Yates. “I [alone] can’t do anything about this, but I know a God who can. He can use me, and He can use you in mighty ways.”

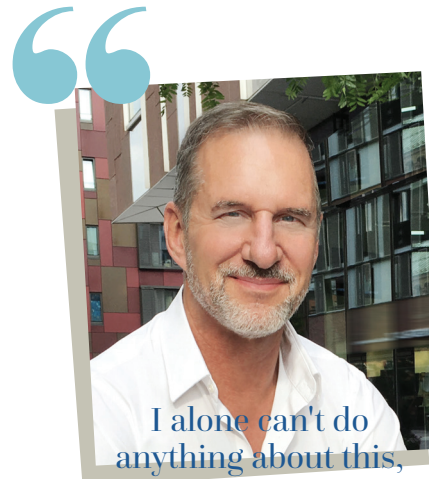
Yates just spoke to the Tiny Hands/Amnesty International Club at Union, sponsored by associate professor of English and communication Chris Blake and led by junior international relations major Latifer James, who will promote and seek sponsorships for the No Girl for Sale Walk.

Additionally, expert flamenco guitarist and adjunct instructor, Daniel Martinez will host an I Got a Name benefit at the Berean Church on Dec. 1. This benefit will illustrate the realities of the city and state, focusing on three key themes: chaos, rescue/protection and hope.

“It’s a celebration of what God has done with I’ve Got a Name and what we can do to make a difference,” Yates concludes. You don’t need to be a

Christian to be involved.”

For more information about the organization, or how you can be involved—whether through donations, volunteer assistance or hosting events—visit <http://ivegotaname.org/> or contact Yates at iganinfo@gmail.com.



I alone can't do anything about this, but I know a God who can.

He can use me, and He can use you in mighty ways.

| Paul Yates |

Executive director of I've Got a Name
PC: Paul Yates



Stefani Leeper is a senior studying communication.

CHRIS BLAKE RETIRES AFTER 24 YEARS AT UNION

Blake retires this May, but don't think that means you won't see him. | PC: Zach Morrison



To say 2016-2017 is an eventful year would be the understatement of the century, largely due to the fact that, aside from Kobe Bryant's retirement, Chris Blake, associate professor of English and communication, will retire from Union on May 31 after 24 years.

Blake currently teaches writing, along with public speaking/editing classes, as well as several Union Scholars classes.

During his time at Union, Blake created the Conflict and Peacemaking, Critiquing Film in a Global Context (with Dr. Robison) and Local Literary Wonders classes, the Amnesty/Tiny Hands Club, the Blake Family Peace and Social Justice Award and the Peace Sculpture Garden.

He's also helped sponsor senior class gifts such as the gazebo and the electronic student missionary display in the Everett Dick Building lobby. Blake has enabled scores of students to get published in magazines, and for some even a book or two.

If you're asking yourself, "Why is Blake retiring? He looks so young," you're not alone.

Believe it or not, Blake will be pushing 66 years in May, at which point he will

have completed 40 years of working, 24 at Union College. One may conclude he served his time.

Blake goes on to say retirement is a misnomer. He speaks of plans to step aside from classroom teaching and concentrate full-time on writing books.

He believes, "The process of writing is somewhat agonizing ... The good kind of writing is difficult, but the bad kind is easy."

In the past, he's written hundreds of articles and several books, including "Searching for a God to Love" (published in five languages) and "Swimming Against the Current."

If you haven't gotten to know him yet, plan to. He's happily married (celebrating 40 years this summer with a trip to Europe), has two sons, two daughters-in-law and three grandchildren. A few of his activities include lifting free weights, elliptical and ab workouts, disc golfing and mountain biking the precipitous peaks of Lincoln.

Did I mention he's a pun master?

When asked what he will miss about teaching he responds, "I will miss a lot of aspects of teaching. I will not miss grading. You know what? I don't like grading. In fact, I loathe grading. However, as a wise person has noted,

"The one sign of maturity is doing what you need to do when you don't feel like doing it."

Although the grading leaves much to be desired, he will miss "the students and my colleagues."

When asked what his most memorable experience was within the last 24 years in Lincoln he speaks of the time when training for a team triathlon six years ago.

He fell from his bicycle onto the concrete bike path, broke his femur and nearly died from pulmonary emboli 11 days later. Although not quite the experience most would see as enjoyable, it certainly is memorable.

As he prepares to start a new journey as a full-time writer, he would like students to keep three things in mind: "Go with God; enjoy the journey. The journey is much more enjoyable with God, read 'It's the cracked ones that let the light through' by Paul Moore, and remember communication is the key to life."

Although Blake is retiring from teaching, don't fret. He plans to stay in Lincoln for at least a year afterward, so we will still see his smiling face around.

Sean Hendrix is a senior studying biomedical science.

TEAMWORK BRINGS WARRIORS TO VICTORY



Cheers filled the Thunderdome after the Warriors volleyball team won the match against the Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU)

Knights Saturday night. Fans were at the edge of their seats throughout all five sets, erupting in encouraging chants every couple plays.

Although the Knights started out with a lead in the first set, the Warriors resiliently fought back and won with an 11 point lead. The following two sets were neck and neck, both won by the SWAU Knights. In the fourth set the Warriors maintained a steady lead, which brought them to victory.

For the tiebreaker a 15 point set was played—opposed to the normal 25 point sets. Adrenaline was rushing as both teams gave it their all. The enthralled crowd followed the ball with rapt attention, cheering wildly after each point made by the home team.

A defining cry arose in the Thunderdome upon the well-deserved triumph by the Warriors.

After cheering until slightly hoarse, I asked the excited audience what their reaction was to our team’s success:

“I jumped off the bleachers!”

“The adrenaline was pumping the second to last game. We were ready, we were on our feet.”



Lady Warriors took victory 3-2 over SWAU through hard teamwork. | PC: Grace Vande Gutche

“I think we had a great comeback!”

“It was quite a game! I get bragging rights ... [we] beat my girlfriend’s team. I’m digging it deep right now ... You can definitely quote me on that. Don’t deny me the privilege of putting that in her face.”

Autumn Mott is a sophomore studying communication.

OLYMPIC MEDALIST JOINS “DANCING WITH THE STARS”



1 2-time Olympic medalist Ryan Lochte has officially been revealed to be one of the celebrity contestants to appear on the 23rd season of “Dancing with the Stars.” Lochte, who just finished his last run at the 2016 Rio Games, grabbed a gold medal in the men’s freestyle relay at Rio this summer. But before returning home, he made another splash in newspaper headlines that wasn’t as worthy to write home about.

As the games came to an end, Lochte and a few of his teammates stirred up some trouble on a night out on the town that ended with a vandalized bathroom, the group being held at gunpoint and detainment by authorities. Further investigations concluded the stories given from Lochte and his teammates had been greatly exaggerated.

Authorities in Rio declared a press conference over allegedly fabricated reports, which resulted in Lochte losing four sponsor deals and gaining bad publicity.

Before announcing his position on the reality show, Lochte again apologized for the incident he caused in Rio, and he urges America to move on from the subject.



Lochte raises questions on reputation and actions with his recent announcements. | PC: bostonglobe.com

Nevertheless, some wonder if he’s using this opportunity to regain the trust of America and his teammates and rebuild his now tarnished reputation.

A few students on Union campus are unaware of this development. Alyssa Luna, a sophomore biomedical science major, seemed confused when asked how she felt about the situation. “If he’s going to be on the show then why not? He still messed up and this probably won’t change it that much,” she shares.

Lochte’s appearance on “Dancing with the Stars” is putting him back into the public, but in a new limelight. There’s no room for errors or goofing off, and if he can play his cards right, he might even be able to come back looking even better than before.

With this new opportunity to redevelop a positive image for himself, he might have the chance to put all the rumors behind him.

Caroline Guchu is a sophomore studying communication.

SABBATH TRADITIONS AMONG STUDENTS



Everyone has their own way to make Sabbath special.

While some students bring traditions they have grown up with to college, others have started their own while on campus. All of these traditions range in size from lighting the vespers Sabbath candle to sharing a more personal moment with God as the sun sets.

For junior Francine Eulizier, Friday nights are a time for fellowship and song. She and several other girls get together for a Sabbath tea party with warm drinks and snacks. Their gathering starts with prayer to invite the Holy Spirit in and ask for a blessed evening. Then, after everyone has gotten their snacks and tea, five hymns are chosen and sung with laughter and light chatter between each song.

The tea party then continues with each girl sharing about her highs and lows of the week and how God has impacted her life.

Their worship ends with taking prayer requests to close in prayer.

While about ten girls now gather for this Sabbath tea party, it started out much smaller. Eulizier describes how they began meeting biweekly between four girls last year.

Now, due to the business of the week, they only meet on Fridays and have more girls participate.

Eulizier says, “God used me to be a leader for this group. I’m so blessed to see it continue another year at Union. Without God, this wouldn’t exist.”

Sophomores Kaitlin McArthur and Cheyenne Manley wanted to make the Sabbath a special time when they roomed together freshman year. After they cleaned their room for the

Sabbath, they would head to a natural foods store to buy wildflowers on sale to brighten up the place.

“It was something to look forward to at the end of the week. Once you had those Friday flowers sitting on the desk, it was a reminder that Sabbath was there, and you could just stop and rest,” Manley recalls.



Senior Debbie Pinto lights Union’s Sabbath candle. | PC: Marketing Communications

Although it’s nice to welcome the Sabbath with others, Sabbath traditions can also be a time to simply recharge and spend a few minutes with only yourself and God.

Sophomore Hailey Hornbeck takes a quieter approach to the Sabbath and ends her Fridays by dimming the lights, putting on Christian music, and coloring on the floor. She says this helps her unwind from the week and start her restful Sabbath.

“I do it to relax myself,” Hornbeck says. “It gets my mind on God.”

Despite differences in size and activity in all of these Sabbath traditions, each one has its own way

of bringing people closer to God and making their Sabbath special.

Taking time to make Sabbath a special time for yourself can be the perfect way to have peace after a long and stressful week. Just as Francine’s tradition grew in the last year, many other traditions can grow and touch more people than ever expected.

Amanda McCarter is a sophomore studying biomedical science.

HOU C



“My sophomore year in college I took a shorthand course in partial fulfillment of a certification program to become a secretary. I’m left-handed and can hardly read my own notes, so you can imagine how difficult a class like this was for me. For the final exam you had to write the names of people, in shorthand, on 4x5 index cards and then file the cards in a little wooden box, in correct alpha order.

I failed the exam.

It was a devastating blow to my career plans. My roommate, who is still a dear friend, suggested I make my declared major in communication my career plan. I’d like to say I never looked back, but there was a time when I tried my hand (no pun intended) at secretarial work again. I had to file off the union numbers imprinted on the back of 1,000 alumni pens and nearly lost a finger.

That’s another story.”

Patricia Maxwell, associate professor of communication, sponsor for *The Clocktower*.

Senior business major Ryan Grentz sweeps his new fiancée, Rachel Peppel, senior nursing major, quite literally off her feet. | PC: Zach Morrison



A TALE OF TWO LOVE BIRDS: ENGAGEMENT STORY



Looking around this college campus at all the couples forming, it's hard to imagine any of them being ready for marriage. We're kids!

Still, a select few are ready and mature enough to take the plunge. One such couple is Ryan Grentz and Rachel Peppel, both seniors graduating in May. Not only is this couple engaged but it happened in the most romantic fairytale way ever.

Once upon a time, the summer before high school, a boy and a girl met for the first time. Fast forward to college, this same boy and girl have somehow become best friends in the span of one semester. This alone was something special.

"It takes me a really long time to connect," says Rachel, a shy nursing student. "The fact we became so close so fast was not normal for me."

They dated for two years before Ryan, a strategic business major, decided to pop the question.

Once he asked for permission to propose, the planning began!

"We make random little videos together all the time so I wanted to record steps of the whole process," Ryan says. "I left school this summer already taking videos of me planning."

The plan was simple: surprise Rachel with a trip to her dream destination

(New York City) and propose at the top of the Rockefeller Center. Easy right?!

Ryan planned out each detail to the T. He wrote cheesy dramatic letters outlining each step of the surprise, reminiscent of their first date. The first letter, delivered by a friend at work and containing a plane ticket to NYC, instantly tipped Rachel off to the enormity of the day.



Following their engagement, the couple documented the treasured moment. | PC: Rachel Peppel

It read, "Today is a special day. You're about to embark on what I hope is the best day of your life."

Ryan placed QR codes in some letters for Rachel to scan at certain points of her trip. The codes led to a song and also helped him know where she was in the process. He also set up a fake phone number and texted her all day as "Steven," Ryan's friend from work who would be her liaison.

Upon arriving in NYC, Rachel quickly curled her hair in the airport bathroom and was whisked away to the Rockefeller Center. She was escorted like royalty to the top of the building, where Ryan waited alone on a balcony cleared just for them.

With the sunset on one side and crazy tourists taking their picture on the other, Ryan proposed.

Rachel didn't think she would cry during the proposal. She was wrong.

"He was so nervous. I barely remember anything he said," she recalls. "All I remember him saying is 'You're my best friend.'"

She said yes.

"I honestly think they're a good fit," says Isaac Griffith, a good friend of the couple. "Becoming best friends in less than six months? That kind of proves it was meant to be."

Another friend, Dimas Waaran, shares similar opinions. "Couple goals," he says. "I wish I could be in a relationship like them. Or with them. A relationship with them."

Ryan and Rachel plan to get married in May 2017, don't like using the word 'fiancé' and worry Rachel Grentz doesn't sound good. But it's safe to assume the wedding, like their proposal, will be a fairytale.

Katie Morrison is a senior studying business administration.

COUNTRY SONGS SHARE THEME OF TRUE LOVE



“So, baby, pull me closer / In the back seat of your Rover / That I know you can't afford / Bite that tattoo on your shoulder.”

You might recognize these lyrics from the Billboard Hot 100's number one song “Closer” by the Chainsmokers. Similar songs include “One Dance” by Drake and “Into You” by Ariana Grande. A common theme among these and other trending songs today is how they sing about infatuation rather than real love.

Country, on the other hand, can be seen as a genre more focused on ideals.

“H.O.L.Y.” by Florida Georgia Line, “From the Ground Up” by Dan + Shay and “I Met a Girl” by William Michael Morgan are country love songs popular enough to make the Hot 100.

“H.O.L.Y.,” the highest ranking country song, was only rated number 30. Common themes among these songs is to speak of a higher form of love—an enduring love.

For example, Tyler Hubbard and Brian Kelley, members of Florida Georgia Line, believe in the power of their music. According to their website, “They're always ready to get the party started and keep it going all night, but as married men with legacies beginning to take shape, it's now time to dig deep into the things that really matter.”

The group's newest album, “Dig Your Roots” (2016), features songs about family and love, the roots that made them into the men they are today.

“Lifer” from the album is about the love these two men have for their wives. The chorus contains the lyrics, “I'm your man and you my lady / Baby I'm a lifer I ain't goin' nowhere / Told you since day one I had to wife ya / Show the world that I just wanna love ya.”

On the other hand, Taylor Swift started out as a country artist and strategically made the transition from country to pop music. She started out with love songs like “You Belong With Me,” “Love Story” and “Our Song.” As she drew closer to pop music, her love songs turned into tragic



We all have different music tastes, but sometimes lyrics are hard to ignore. PC: Zach Morrison

break up stories and eventually culminated into the songs “Blank Space” and “Style.” In her transition into pop music, Taylor Swift caught popular demand to maintain her stardom. Keeping in fashion, she stopped singing about love and started singing about dating around.

Kaylin Thurber, a senior English and linguistics major, says, “I like indie and singer/songwriter genres more than pop because I feel like a lot of pop songs, especially club music, focus on the physical side and the infatuation with the girl across the dance floor, whereas in indie music, I see a lot more emphasis on quality, emotional depthvwvw and the realistic, gritty, sometimes unsuccessful side of love.” Country music could be seen as similar in style.

What's popular in media right now is not an ideal for true love, instead it's an ideal for meaningless relationships. Pop music may lay claim to some popular love songs like “Treat You Better” by Shawn Mendes, but the majority of songs are saying the opposite.

Country is by no means perfect as a genre, but the argument can be made that country has a higher majority of songs that uphold a positive picture of love.

Sara Roberts is a junior studying business administration.

WHAT DID I GET MYSELF INTO?



It hasn't really hit me I'm currently living in Chuuk, Micronesia even though I've been living here for a month.

A year ago, I didn't even know Micronesia was a country. I would have laughed if you told me I'd be teaching kindergarten and second graders. I probably never would have learned how to flush a toilet without a handle or how to cook a mean loaf of fresh banana bread.

But God has a funny way of throwing curve balls in my life and at this point, I've learned to embrace them rather than stress.

My decision to be an international volunteer was unexpected, but after hearing former volunteers tell me their testimonies of their experiences, I knew I had to be part of this type of ministry.

I went on a two week mission trip to Peru in 2007 and was deeply affected by the need I saw in the world.

Not just the physical needs the people had, but the spiritual food missing from their lives. I promised myself when I was 13 I would do more mission work when I was older, but as I went through high school, I never had the opportunity to go on another mission trip.

I've always had a heart for mission work, so now I'm sitting here reflecting, I'm not surprised at all of how quickly I came to the decision this past January to set a year of school aside and just go back to the basics of serving.

Here I am, six months later, a month into teaching and let me tell you: It's the hardest thing I've ever done.

I didn't like teaching at all the first two weeks; it was draining.

I felt incompetent and unqualified, and I since I wasn't in full control of my



Ashley Pinto poses for a shot with her students. | PC: Ashley Pinto

surroundings I felt I couldn't do my job well. I was being stretched early on and that made me nervous.

I constantly was thinking to myself, "How in the world am I supposed to teach for an entire ten months? What am I doing?" But being in this type of position made me really lean on God.

I slowly realized the lack of confidence I felt in my work was directly linked to the lack of trust I was placing in God's hands.

I, alone, can't do much in God's work here in Chuuk.

If I'm independent of Him, the work I do here will be purely superficial in that at the end of the day, one of my students will be able to identify the lifecycle of a plant—maybe.

But through the power, wisdom, patience and most of all, love, The Father gracefully gives me, I can help grow The Kingdom. Even if it grows only by one student this is much more powerful than what I could ever do.

And even then, God would've been the one who brought that student into a new life; I would've been a vessel He used.

Still, there's nothing more exhilarating than talking with someone who is excited about learning more about Jesus. I can literally feel my heart getting ripped out of my chest when one of my kindergartners recites the memory verse of the week and the rest of the class erupts in cheers to celebrate their accomplishment or when a student taps me and asks if they can pray today since someone else prayed yesterday.

These experiences are what keep me going everyday.

The mission here is hefty. There's a lot of students to show God's love to and even though I'm relying on God more than I ever have before, it doesn't change the fact that it's hard.

I'm still adjusting to the climate (I literally sweat buckets every day), the people, the culture and just living on my own. But man, I'm so excited to be here and be part of something good.

Ashley Pinto is a sophomore international volunteer in Chuuk.

DON'T BE QUIET— BE SMART

EMOTION IS THE DEATH OF REASON



I must admit, as a Packers fan, I may be a bit predisposed to negativity when thinking about Colin Kaepernick. I also must admit I may be a bit predisposed to negativity when thinking about someone who disrespects something I hold in the highest esteem, such as the American flag.

But isn't that the point of America?

Just like religion, just because we think something is holy, special or set apart doesn't make it so for everyone. Individuality and the right to disagree are paramount to the American experience.

Now, I may comment on Kaepernick's laughable claims of oppression or the irony that he disrespects the country that has given him the opportunity to make millions of dollars per year for doing virtually nothing, but his right to do so must remain absolute, otherwise he's right.

As previously stated, I dislike Colin Kaepernick. And some of the things he's said I find to be baseless and nonsensical arguments. But I have to admit he's right about other things.

Police brutality, even in a single case, is an issue. But over the last few years we've seen multiple cases, such as Walter Scott, Eric Garner and Philando Castille, that demonstrate a need for change.

Is it oppression? No. Is it a problem that needs to be fixed? Absolutely.

We're witnessing a presidential campaign between an inflammatory egomaniac and a reckless compulsive liar. Kaepernick is right. People have faced consequences for much less than

what Clinton did, and if anyone else not named Hillary Clinton had done what Hillary Clinton did, they would be in jail for a very long time.

To my surprise, I found I actually believe in much of what Kaepernick is saying. And if that's the case, then I feel compelled to tell him, "Colin, you're doing it wrong."

If his goal is uniting Americans and bringing to the forefront of society these issues he sees as important, the best method of doing so is not taking part in something that upsets the majority of Americans.



Kaepernick sitting down during the national anthem. | PC: nbnews.com

Sure, it gets people talking about it, but there's a marked difference between talking about something and resolving it.

The first time I saw his protest, my stomach churned. I imagine many Americans had my same reaction, not just because they love their country, but because for many people, the flag represents the thousands upon thousands of men and women who paid the ultimate price for their freedom.

His actions have, so far, proven to do nothing other than make people everywhere angry, some for what he did, and others for the reaction of those who became angry for what he did.

I know he's made many statements expressing his support for our military, but it's important to remember it doesn't matter how you mean it, it matters how people take it. His method simply isn't effective. Rather, it's destructive because of its divisiveness.

Also, ditch the socks. If he wants to paint most police officers as good, decent people and only highlight those who abuse their power, it's probably not best to wear socks that picture pigs dressed in police uniforms. It just doesn't look good.

Certainly, Colin's method of protest is far superior to those utilized in recent months, namely the rioting and murder of police officers. But still, if he's sincere in his goal of effecting change, he should find a more compelling way to protest.

In short, I understand and support why he's doing it—just not how he's doing it.

In interviews, he's said plenty of good things about America. He supports our armed forces. He recognizes the fact he lives in a country that affords him the opportunity to speak ill of it. He denies the accusation that he's "anti-American."

So if he wants people to take him seriously and believe in his sincerity, ditch the socks, associate the flag with all the good things you've said you see in America and use as a vehicle for change something that brings us together as Americans, not something that tears us apart.

Don't be quiet—be smart.

Jonathan Deemer is a sophomore studying biomedical science.

MY GOD IS A CONSERVATIVE LIBERAL

FOLLOWING THE CALL



Liberal.
Conservative.

Does controversy ever cease within the church? We bicker and judge, label and split. We drive people out of the church on one side, and promote an “anything goes” attitude on the other.

We forget there might be a third point of view: Middle ground.

God is explicit on many things, and spells them out in no uncertain terms in His word: Sabbath, lying, premarital sex. In other instances however, He’s vague.

Have you ever tried to look up modesty in the Bible? There isn’t much there! Other controversial topics are similar: music styles, jewelry. Not much, if anything at all, is written about them.

Perhaps it was a mistake.

Or—could it be that some things don’t matter as much as we think they do?

A tiny cinderblock church has no access to musical instruments other than a drum and a guitar. Does it offend God when guitar brings music to the Sabbath? Does it anger Him when the drum is used to bring rhythm and joy into worship?

The people on a remote Pacific island live on rice and fish. Vegetables don’t grow well because of the rocky soil, and imported perishables are unaffordable.

Does it frustrate God that His people won’t eat a vegan diet?

The climate is humid and hot year-round. There’s no air conditioning, so people wear shorts and t-shirts or tank tops. Young children don’t wear any clothes at all. Is God offended by the exposed skin?

I’m convinced many of the issues that divide liberals and conservatives are simply cultural—or even personal—preferences.

Because we live in a religious society that functions a particular way, we believe things should be that way everywhere.

Our experience is known, comfortable; therefore, anything different is wrong.

While this is an understandable part of culture shock, in religion it becomes a large problem because our perspective suddenly becomes a moral statement.

We’re convinced God thinks our way is correct. If we’re offended or uncomfortable, God is offended or uncomfortable. If we don’t approve, God doesn’t approve.

Unfortunately, this puts Him in a rather small box and limits the ways He can work. If we’re busy judging others—especially church members—because of their habits or outward appearance, how can God use us to show them love?

My God is big, and He is flexible.

What if, instead of putting up walls toward people we don’t agree with, we consider sometimes God is okay with a range of options? What if we accept culture and principle have a lot to do with whether something is wrong or right?

What if we humble ourselves to see that God desires our actions to be motivated by respect for Him rather than by manmade guidelines?

What if?



Two students pose to show contrasting styles of dress. | PC: Zach Morrison

Ginger Hany is a senior studying biomedical science.

PIZZA & LOGIC

COLUMN LIKE I SEE ‘EM



This is an open letter to the people in life governed by logic.

I was writing a completely different article this week, quite noticeably behind schedule, when I went to the caf with my roommate to get some pizza.

He went for the alfredo pizza. I mentioned in passing that without the tomato sauce, it seemed more like a triangular cheesy bread.

I marveled at that thought. How clever! Next week I could write about my thoughts on pizza!

At the cash register, I mentioned at how much I enjoyed pineapple pizza. The grilled fruit makes such a decadent topping: juicy, sweet, and sometimes sour. It couples so well with the cheesy goodness I've loved for years.

It was then brought to my attention what another patron had mentioned while I dreamed of foods drifting just outside my reach.

“Pineapple pizza is illogical.”

I was aghast. My favorite pizza? Illogical?! Blasphemy!

It's true, sweet and savoury flavors are opposite, and it doesn't exactly make sense that they go well together, but you know what? They do. It's illogical and delicious.

Chicken and waffles. Cinnamon rolls and chili. Cheesecake. None of these makes sense, but they're so, so good.

And so it is with life!

Is it logical that a man sees some lady he's never seen before, and pushes aside every instinct screaming at him to turn and run just to speak to her?

Nope. And yet babies are birthed on the reg.

Is it logical to spend an entire day ignoring responsibilities in order to enjoy a pleasant day lakeside, enjoying the company of friends and refreshing carbonated liquid heaven?

Of course not. We could be working double time, making profit for days.

We could have cured cancer already if not for paid vacation and angry birds.

Is pleasure reasonable?

In a totally logical world, yes, there would be no war, scientific progress would be exponential and we would all eat little slow release nutrient pills with the exact vitamins and calories necessary to exist.

But gone would be the spark that makes life worthwhile.

Passion, art and the beauty of thrusting headfirst towards the enjoyment of life even at the cost of efficiency and logic are what make our dreary life of work and suffering something to stick by and bleed for. It makes everything worth it.

My uncle used to tell me life is pain, and then you die.

That's true, but there's also ping pong and pineapple pizza to ease the journey.

Kevin Niederman is a junior studying nursing.

S U D O K U

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	1							

http://www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/sudoku_medium_247.html

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Great job at Project Impact!

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Project Impact 2016 | PC: Marketing Communications

COACH'S CORNER

A good routine is crucial for success. Knowing deadlines, meetings and fitting in time for yourself can become a tricky juggling act. A routine can help manage all these demands. Whatever you do, don't confuse a set routine as an inflexible way of life. Once you know demands and limitations it becomes easier to adjust your life accordingly. Not knowing these details will create stress, anxiety and feelings of being overwhelmed.

When you start experiencing these feelings, review your weekly routine and ask the following:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Lots of great tools are available to help set a schedule, send reminders and track productivity. Think Google Calendars, a planner, phone alarms.

Whatever tools you choose remember the following:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT ACADEMICS OR LIFE?

Feel free to ask a coach: tinyurl.com/uc-askacoach
 All questions are anonymous so you get insight without being in sight. We will publish answered questions here.

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The Clocktower encourages reader feedback and strives to maintain accuracy. If you have comments, please email us at clocktower@gmail.com.

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