


higher divides > the natural science division's take on intelligent design

magazine

pepperdine university • issue 86 • march 2006



uh-oh, liberals loose?

Uclaprofs.com founder
Andrew Jones sets
straight his mission to
expose 'radical'
professors after media
muddle the message

**church of
christ rules**
pep's sister schools
and how the
standards match up

**outside of
the norm**
how is life as a
non-christian
on campus?

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editor's NOTE

Dear Readers,

With this month's issue, the Currents staff introduces you to a reimagined, reinvented magazine designed to serve the immediate and extended Pepperdine community. We may be at issue no. 86 in Currents history, but we present you with the first edition of this kind. We've conducted surveys and formed focus groups to find out what you want to read. We've talked to you and asked for your submissions.

What's new? Currents will come out twice this spring, as opposed to once a semester, and we've broadened our range of coverage and defined recurring sections. Discuss law and society in our politics section through March's cover story, "Uh-oh, liberals loose?" and TalkPolitick, featuring viewpoints from across the spectrum on key issues. Explore diverse dimensions of faith through our religion coverage, which features "Higher Divides" this month, a local twist on the intelligent design debate. When you need a breather, glance through the Humor Me page for student-generated comedy.

Our staff members share a vision of taking this publication to a level that provokes thought, promotes community and encourages discussion, all the while evoking laughter and connection. Of course, Currents magazine is a work in progress. Look out for future issues, and thank you for your continued support of student publications.

Cheers,

crystal h. luong ('06)

studentportraiture

photo editor benjamin young presents senior Karl Kalinkewicz in a new light ... see page 11



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Efforts against classroom political indoctrination take centerstage. Pepperdine professors reaffirm their instruction is balanced.

[cover photo by benjamin young]



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"I sting those who rattle me.
Don't mess with me, Condoleeza."

Hugo Chavez, Venezuelan President, lashing out at U.S. Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice after she stated that Venezuela had become a "challenge to democracy."

there are ...

120 men in their 20's who have never been married, widowed or divorced for every 100 women in the same category, across all races or ethnicities.

153 Hispanic men for every 100 single Hispanic women in their 20's.

132 Asian men for every 100 single Asian women in their 20's.

92 Black men for every 100 single black women in their 20's.

albumofthepast



The Beatles
“The Beatles”
(The White Album)
[Apple/Capitol]

The Beatles died briefly in 1968, producing offspring – “The Beatles.” That is, the album, more affectionately known as “The White Album.” Ringo walked out during the recording of what would become their most disparate record, only to hesitantly return days later. The product of this separation became “The White Album” – the first double-disc effort from the biggest band in the world disguised as four solo artists. (Think Outkast’s *Speakerboxxx* and *The Love Below*, except white.)

It must not be easy being bigger than Jesus. Some historians have said the album’s “Back in the U.S.S.R.” helped bring down the Soviet government when the song earned the Beatles a nationwide ban (considered as Western decadence and propaganda) – effectively riling the youth who wanted their Beatles fix.

Is this 38-year-old album any good? It’s incredible. The magic of the Beatles is that all of their records are their best. Tastes change, but the Beatles won’t. People live for the Beatles, and the Beatles outlive them. No matter that the band died once in 1968 and again in 1969; one harsh truth is for sure – the Beatles will still live longer than you.

>> by michael alahouzos

local artist feature >> by anna webber

‘Joni Mitchell meets Billie Holiday’ with Jessie Baylin

Singer and poet Jessie Baylin’s style is organic and pure, uncontaminated by the music industry, mainstream artists, vocal lessons or theory. Her singing transcends all words and categories. Her luck is uncanny.

Baylin, 21, has been performing locally and recording less than a year. Already she has signed a publishing contract with Sony, befriended big talent in the industry and enamored thousands of listeners across the world. Many of these aficionados have formed, by themselves, a street team to spread her music.

“She’s an unsigned artist, only been playing for the last year or so, but has managed to capture the elusive ‘industry buzz,’” said singer/songwriter Zack Hexum.

Her music is timeless, leaving a glimmer of hope in the fate of jazz, soul, blues and rock n’ roll.

“It’s like Joni Mitchell meets Billie Holiday meets Stevie Nicks,” Baylin said. “It brings people together, bridges generation gaps.”

Baylin is a deep breath of fresh air from mainstream pop singers. She offers insight into

her beautifully constructed reality, one of pleasure spiked with pain.

“I had a rough summer, but if I could have done it over again, I would have spent the whole year black and blue,” she said during a performance at Hotel Café in Hollywood on Jan. 16.

Her friend, Grammy-winning artist John Mayer, was there in support.

“John said that this year, my music was the soundtrack to his life; it painted the year,” Baylin said. “Regardless of who it is, it’s a gift to hear that.”

Her powerful spirit rings true through her songs, deterring her extraordinary looks with a soft, yet hypnotizing voice.

“I write my songs so deep in me,” she said. “It’s almost like I’m completely disconnected ... the song just flows through me.”

Her performances are a warm blend of rootsy sass, aching uncertainty with an after-hours jazz club atmosphere. She has a captivating lyrical bite, evoking heartfelt melodies and sings of enduring values.

Baylin offers a rare intensi-



[photos by anna webber]

Local artist Jessie Baylin performs at Hotel Café in Hollywood. At 21, she has already signed a publishing contract with Sony.

ty that can emotionally connect an audience to her soul.

“If you know how to feel, you can enjoy this. Sometimes it doesn’t matter what music

+ jessie: continued on p.20

songofthemoment | LCD Soundsystem “Daft Punk Is Playing at My House” [DFA/EMI]



It’s been said that memories are often better off sung, which is why James Murphy’s 2005 staple for house parties everywhere thumps so close to home. LCD Soundsystem’s synth and cowbell opus offers listeners the once-in-a-lifetime chance to watch the famous Parisian duo perform at his house — but only if you set them up. Regulars who frequent UC frat

parties have no qualms recalling the memories Murphy belts out: moving the furniture into the garage, dragging the loaned PA systems to the house, getting 15 cases and leaving Sarah’s girlfriend to work the door.

Murphy’s single works best when recalling the events that Pepperdine students hardly see as often as those at UCLA, but make

no mistake – though LCD Soundsystem’s 2006 Grammy nominee may have been conceived in New York, this track is all about the cars parked on the lawns, the peeing in bushes, the elderly neighbors phoning the police, and hot and sweaty suburban kids dancing like feral children who know they’ll never grow too old for this s***.

>> by michael alahouzos

smartsaving | **Start investing now to reap real rewards later**

Welcome to the real world. It is a refrain heard all too often by the undergrad student. After the initial stress of finding a job and becoming independent, learning to manage and save money can be a scary proposition. Yet with preparation, it is one that can be very rewarding for both the bank account and peace of mind.

Whether you plan to be a hands-on or hands-off investor, here are two tips to start an easy and solid savings plan.

- Check out your employer's 401(k) plan. Many employers match a certain percentage of your contributions, and withholding is turning down free money.
- To save for the more immediate future, research the Roth IRA.

While the 401(k) is built with pre-tax contributions, the Roth IRA is built with after-tax money. With both pre- and post-tax investments, money is better protected from the dangers of a changing tax bracket. It also allows savers to withdraw the amount contributed without the tax penalties of the 401(k) and traditional IRA before retirement age. This is a great advantage for those saving for a down payment on a house or a rainy day.

The best investment to make in the near future is to spend time determining what kind of saver you will be and plan accordingly. Welcome to the real world, in a good way.

>> nicole peterson



Free Web tools support life on-the-go

Not too long ago, 12 units meant full-time and a diploma in four years. Today, that is simply not the case.

With ever-increasing general education and major requirements, most students find themselves taking 15 to 18 units a semester. Add to this the need for part-time work to pay for the skyrocketing costs of education (books alone), and it doesn't take a genius to

realize that students are busier



With ever-increasing general education and major requirements, most students find themselves taking 15 to 18 units a semester ... It doesn't take a genius to realize that students are busier than ever.

short on time
short on money

>> scott motte

Scott Motte ('06) is an international business major. He is a freelance Web developer at designmotte.com.

than ever. What are students doing to make every second count? They are using new and free technologies like Writely, Del.icio.us and HipCal.

Most of today's university classes require a great deal of group work in which collaboration is key. Anything to speed the collaboration process along is warmly welcomed.

Group meetings and Word documents e-mailed as attachments are grossly inefficient and cost students precious time. Trying to find a time to meet can be downright hectic, and updating a Word document via e-mail attachments usually results in the group waiting for one person to update their part of the document so the rest of the work can continue. Writely (www.writely.com) solves this issue by providing a means to collaborate on

a group project on each person's time.

Writely works like Microsoft Word, but because it is based online, allows multiple authors to edit the document — from any computer in the world, at different times or at the same time. Plus, it keeps track of all the changes made to the document and who made those changes.

Senior Michael Nevarez says he uses it in group projects because it "speeds up the amount of time needed to get everyone's

ideas out on the table and get everyone on the same page." He added that Writely has saved him tons of time that he would otherwise have spent in unproductive group meetings.

Although Writely improves the ability to collaborate on group projects, it does not address the need for large amounts of research. A site called Del.icio.us makes it much easier.

Keeping track of researched Web pages on paper often results in the paper getting lost. Bookmarking the links of those pages via a browser is better than paper because it allows you to save them in a permanent manner, but it quickly turns into a labyrinth of links and folders — practically unsearchable.

Del.icio.us takes the idea of bookmarking to the next level — making it easy to find researched Web pages at a later date. When a page is bookmarked using Del.icio.us, the link is uploaded to the section of the data-

base where it is stored indefinitely for later searching. Plus, links can be "tagged" — a highly efficient way to organize them without the hassle of creating folders.

While Writely and Del.icio.us can help save students time, they cannot organize that time.

In the past, students marked future appointments and assignments in a personal appointment book. In the recent past, students have used programs like Microsoft Outlook and iCal because of the added integration with e-mail and searchability.

However, because Outlook and iCal store information on the computer hard drive, the information is not always accessible. This is a problem in students' on-the-go lifestyles. As a result, they have turned to online calendars and to-do lists like HipCal (www.hipcal.com).

HipCal works like Outlook and iCal storing the information online and thus allowing students to view their appointments and upcoming events from any computer with an internet connection. Furthermore, HipCal has added support to share calendars, and most significantly it includes e-mail and text message appointment reminders — an invaluable tool considering that students carry their cell phones wherever they go.

TJ Laubacher, a second year law student, uses HipCal to manage his appointments outside of law school. He said that without HipCal's text message reminders, he would have missed more than a few very important appointments.

Taken altogether, Writely, Del.icio.us and HipCal are invaluable tools to help students save the extra free time they deserve and save money because the tools are free. And if there is one thing that students are short on even less than free time, it's money.

Andrew Jones doesn't exactly resemble Sen. Joseph McCarthy or seem like Hitler although he has been compared to both. Despite creating a national firestorm by questioning the teaching methods of university professors, the 23-year-old UCLA alumnus acts more like the ex-frat boy that he is, and not so much like a dangerous madman. "I'm not trying to get anyone fired and I haven't killed anyone yet," he said recently before ordering an In-N-Out double-double near the UCLA campus.

Jones, founder of uclaprofs.com, recently offered students \$100 to help him expose radical professors who over-politicize their classrooms and indoctrinate unsuspecting students. While his efforts landed him in the doghouse with national media such as CNN and other critics, his actions are part of a growing trend to force accountability for professors who use the classroom as a pulpit for their own, often extreme political viewpoints. It's an issue that has attracted mainstream attention and reactions from the academic community — Pepperdine not excluded.

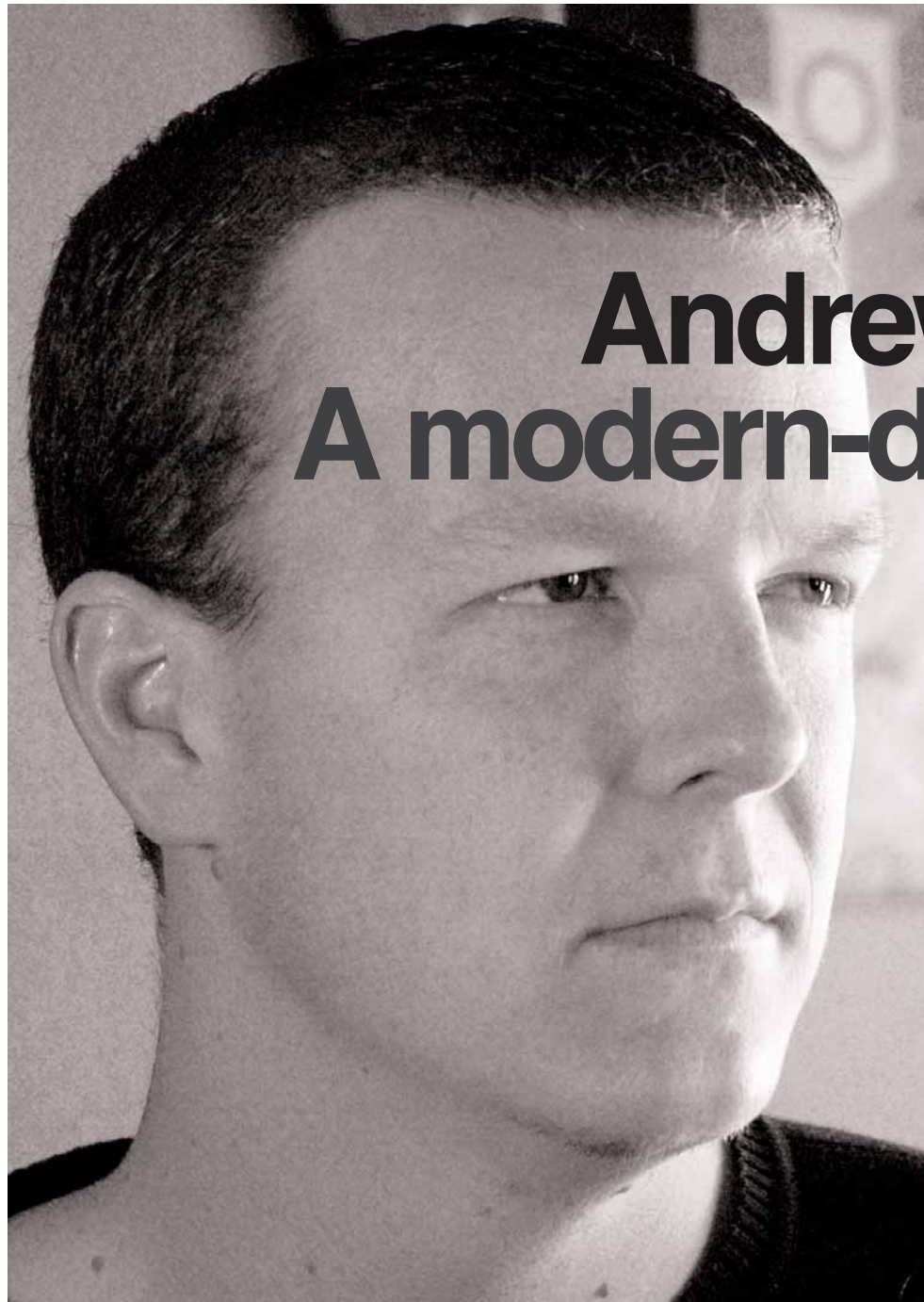
Uclaprofs.com hits headlines

Jones says he experienced a one-sided, extreme liberal atmosphere at UCLA and endured one professor whose class partly inspired him to establish the Bruin Alumni Association, a non-profit aimed at offsetting unprofessional classroom politicization.

The organization's first project, uclaprofs.com, launched early January and initially profiled 31 UCLA professors, who Jones found extreme in their politics and who he thought had overwhelming tendencies to put advocating ahead of educating.

Jones says the media and others criticized him for many aspects of the site such as insufficient evidence of indoctrination and for offering \$100 to students to record class lectures and take detailed notes of politicking professors.

The purpose of the site, according to Jones, was to pres-



Andrew Jones A modern-day

ent a primary list of possible indoctrinators and then to encourage students to help confirm whether some of the listed professors were actually inappropriately pushing politics in class.

"I don't think anybody realized that I want this site and profiles to continue to expand," Jones said. "But apparently because the news coverage picked up on the \$100, people focused on that and thought the profiles would already have information about indoctrinating. I wish I could have some-

how explained to people that I launched this thing on Jan. 9 and the story broke Jan. 17," he said. "If you're making serious charges of professional misconduct, you've got to do better than just claiming indoctrination. Those first profiles were just what I could get from the information I could collect on my own."

Jones has since eliminated the \$100 incentive because he says he now realizes that it sent the wrong message and gave the media something to derail the

real purpose of uclaprofs.com.

"The only reason I offered money is because until 2003, I was a college student myself and I realize that sometimes they need an incentive to attend every single class session," Jones said. He said the only way he could legitimately prove indoctrination was to have someone attend and record each lecture.

Jones continues to work full-time on his project and says that although he feels the media has "poisoned the well" by misconstruing the purpose of



>> by shannon kelly

ones: McCarthy?

Mainstream media spotlights classroom politicking with Uclaprofs.com founder — but he’s among many who are trying to expose ‘radical’ professors.

uclaprofs.com, he is not disheartened and will remain dedicated to giving alumni and students an outlet to investigate professors before donating money or taking classes.

Another UCLA alumnus exposes extreme professors

Like Jones, UCLA alumnus Ben Shapiro says he experienced unfair one-sidedness and irrelevant political discussions in many of his classes. He began taking detailed lecture notes, which later served as evidence

of unwarranted classroom politicking in his 2003 book “Brainwashed.”

Shapiro, a member of Jones’ Bruin Alumni Association’s Board of Directors, said he focuses much of his argument on how he thinks many professors shortchange students.

“Most of these professors are indoctrinating through omission,” he said. For example, it’s most damaging for a professor to give a strong case for Marxism and not give the same focus or support for capitalism.”

Shapiro says he noticed that people are trying to make this another liberal-versus-conservative issue, especially in reaction to uclaprofs.com, but stresses the major threat isn’t to liberal or conservative students.

“The conservatives are actually going to come out of the

“My problem is with students only hearing one side and my campaign is not on behalf of conservatives. It is viewpoint neutral.”

David Horowitz, author of “The Professors”

class more conservative since they’re forced to take up the gauntlet,” Shapiro said. “The only reason liberal students are damaged is because they aren’t hearing anything new and they don’t get the other side so their ideas are just being reinforced.

“It’s the apathetic students who are hurt the worst because they are just going to take in what they’re hearing in class. They aren’t going to bother to go home and research the other side on their own.”

David Horowitz launches Academic Freedom Movement and releases “The Professors”

David Horowitz, an admitted ex-Marxist, was one-time a member of the 1960s American New Left Movement. Now as a leading conservative advocate, his thinking has since changed. His projects include promoting the “Academic Freedom Movement,” running conservative Web mag, “Frontpagemagazine.com,” and his most recent statement “The Professors,” a book that profiles 101 radical professors from various national universities.

Although his book is similar to Jones and Shapiro’s projects, Horowitz stresses the importance of acknowledging the differences in these related undertakings.

“Uclaprofs.com is targeting professors because of their point of views and Andrew Jones has confused the problem as being the liberal bias, but it’s quite illegitimate to guess that people who have liberal viewpoints are indoctrinating,” he

said.

“My problem is with students only hearing one side and my campaign is not on behalf of conservatives. It is viewpoint neutral.”

Horowitz said indoctrination does not occur outside or inside classrooms where political discussion is appropriate; rather it becomes an issue in classes where professors’ politics are irrelevant.

“Professors are hired to teach their expertise, not to use class to vent inept political ideas,” he said. “Any professor who takes an aggressive point of view on the war or on the president in a course that is not about war or the presidency has violated academic freedom.”

Pepperdine teachers react to “radical professor” idea

Pepperdine professors may not be on anyone’s “Radical Professors” list, but they are not shy about their opinions on the growing trend to expose extreme professors.

Political science professor Joel Fetzer compared uclaprofs.com to Chile’s murderous regime circa 1980 and his Chilean friend’s experience:

“Such efforts to spy on faculty members remind me of Pinochet’s Chile ... The secret police would hire undergrads to try to find out what students or professors opposed the regime. Students or faculty whom these spies suspected of being closet Democrats or human rights advocates would then disappear. Sometimes their families would later find the corpses and sometimes the bodies were never recovered. When the spies would talk to my friend to try to discern his political views, he would tell them he was apolitical ... he was allowed to live.”

Some of Fetzer’s colleagues also denounced the project.

“I look at this as going back to McCarthy. It’s just modern day McCarthyism,” said political science professor Dan

+radical: continued on p.4

+radical: from p. 7

Caldwell, who recently co-authored “Seeking Security in an Insecure World” with Political Science Professor Robert Williams.

“I don’t think it is McCarthyism at all,” said communication Professor John Jones about uclaprofs.com. “If a student can choose classes based on the time of day, ease or rigor, type of exams given, or ratings on ratemyprofessor.com, why shouldn’t he or she be able to choose a class based on the ideology of the professor?”

John Jones also says he sees validity in the site because parents who are investing their tax dollars and tuition money have a right to know who is instructing their sons and daughters.

Other professors defend their rights to express personal viewpoints in class.

“Provocation is hugely important in the educational process,” said Williams, who has been criticized by some students for assigning the seemingly politically charged book, “Blood and Oil.”

“I can definitely see how assigning that

“Provocation is hugely important in the educational process.”

dr. robert williams, professor of political science

book would be regarded as a political statement for a student who may be wedded to the idea that being dependent on oil is not a problem,” Williams said. “But it’s also a problem if you’d regard a presentation of facts as a political statement.” These Pepperdine professors are unlikely candidates for a spot on Jones’ site, a chapter in Horowitz’s book or an appearance in one of Maloney’s documentaries. Although many professors are admittedly politically passionate, they say they are primarily dedicated to fairness in the classroom.

“I try to be as balanced as possible even though outside of class I am a partisan and politically active.” Caldwell said. “One time a couple of students came up to me at the end of the semester and asked if I’d be the adviser for their College Republicans group,” he said. “That was the best compliment I’ve ever received.”

Williams also said he aims for fair presentation of controversial ideas.

“Sometimes it is appropriate to challenge students and make them feel a little uncomfortable since it encourages them to get passionate about their views,” he said. “But some constraints are good in order to promote dignity for everyone in the room. Professors shouldn’t ever dehumanize students.”

John Jones says he also believes most professors try to cover all sides of the issue

and do not allow their biases to affect how they grade. “There will always be some who abuse the system however. I had a professor who said, in class, that it would make his day if President Reagan were to have a massive stroke. At another university I had a professor who equated being a Republican with being a Christian. Both of these extremes are wrong.”

Political science professor Chris Soper says he thinks movements like Jones’s Web site are educating people, especially professors, about student perceptions of faculty members. Although he acknowledges professor’s rights to express their views without being penalized, he also recognizes students’ rights to share theirs. “I’d hope professors would be professional enough that they wouldn’t let students’ opinions affect how they view them or how they grade.”

“Although there is not a single model for effective teaching, my own style is neutral,” Soper said. “But I do think it’s good for students to be exposed to professors who are passionate about particular issues as long as the entire faculty isn’t singing from the same choir book.”

Provost Daryl Tippens says he agrees that a majority of Pepperdine professors conduct themselves professionally while appropriately holding their own points of view. “The very word ‘professor’ implies that the teacher professes some view,” he said. “The professor should also be very aware of his power over students and not abuse that power. If the teacher is ever perceived as coercive or domineering or ‘indoctrinating,’ then he loses credibility.”

Tippens also stresses the importance of giving students the respect he says they deserve. “The overly forceful teacher actually diminishes his power to persuade. Students are smart, and they can tell if they’re being worked or manipulated,” he said. “The wise professor deeply respects the views of the student who holds a different pint of view ... a good teacher knows that learning is dialogical, not monological.”

It seems Pepperdine students can sleep soundly knowing that indoctrination and one-sidedness are unlikely obstructions in their educational careers. But at other colleges, students can’t rest as well. As Jones points out, “It is true that in academia there is an imbalance that needs to be corrected.”

Students who are awake to the situation and troubled by the thought of unchecked indoctrination might follow Jones, Shapiro, and Horowitz’s leads by spending their sleepless nights sketching the latest means to alert the mainstream of this growing university trend.

Andrew Jones responds to ...

Ludicrous Comparisons

“I actually had my number posted on the site at one point and every now and then I’d have a professor call and accuse me of McCarthyism. They’d start in kind of aggressive and I’d eventually talk them off the ledge and say ‘you know what, this isn’t McCarthyism. I don’t want their jobs.’ Then I’d tell them an example of a really abusive professor and give them the disclaimers. Once I was done talking to a lot of them, they agreed that what I was doing was actually pretty reasonable.”

“Eventually I’m going to put up all of the thousands of hate mail on the Web site ... It’s going to be absolutely wonderful ... I’m going to break it down in to categories: Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Brown Shirts, McCarthy. I’ll be able to put at least 50 in each category.”

Whether he’s out to get all UCLA professors

“I actually don’t think there is a vast percentage of UCLA professors that are really that bad in the classroom, but UCLA for some reason, seems to have no interest in even confronting that smaller number of bad apples. That’s what irritates me the most about the whole thing; they won’t conceive anything I say. I’m just crazy Andy Jones who knows nothing and has no credibility. They just want to beat me to the ground by using this to show what a crazy I am.”

What really tears him down

“I don’t care if I get called this or that, but don’t accuse me of not being thoughtful or say that I’m making things up. Personal insults don’t bother me, but stuff about the substance and truth of my work offends me the most.”

“I’ve been called a ‘Brown Shirt,’ and a fascist and compared to McCarthy, but the worst is that people portray me as not being thoughtful, which is actually what’s upsetting to me because I pride myself in being a thoughtful person ... McCarthyism?”



[photo illustration by anela holck]

religious diversity, tolerance or ignorance

>>by *sabrina jendly*

Pepperdine does not hide its Church of Christ affiliation. A week rarely passes without Christian discussion on campus. However, for the nearly nine percent of students who claim a non-Christian faith, there exists a reality of which Christian students might be oblivious.

Senior Stacey Corben, who claims a Jewish faith, said her freshman experience contrasted with that of a “typical” Pepperdine student.

“The first week of my freshman year, I was introduced to many people as the ‘Jewish girl,’” Corben said. “I even had one senior at the time say, as if I were an object of show and tell, ‘You’re Jewish? That’s so cool. How do you feel being different here?’ That did-

n’t exactly make me feel welcome.”

Senior Ekta Sem, who is Hindu, said she had to adjust to the Christian customs on campus.

“It’s awkward to pray before class begins, and I usually just bow my head out of respect, but it’s still kind of strange to see all these people learning in classes through the lens of the Bible or Jesus,” Sem said.

Convocation, with its mission, “dedicated to help students build Christian faith, affirm Christian values, and address the moral and ethical dimensions of current issues,” is one of the most present and controversial Christian forces on campus, particularly to non-Christian students.

Corben argued that Convocation,



as a required program should be more inclusive of its non-Christian minority.

“Being a private institution, Pepperdine has the right to advocate Church of Christ as much as they want,” Corben said. “However, the Convocation Board must take into consideration that if they want to diversify their student body, they may have to make adjustments to their program.”

Other non-Christian students like Reena Doshi do not protest Convocation’s Christian focus.

“At first I found it a little overwhelming considering that the religion is all around us, but other than that I realized that nothing is really forced upon you,” Doshi, a senior psychology major, said. “No doubt, religion is there. You have to learn to accept that Convo is required, that classes are required, (but) you don’t have to let it bother you if you can be open about these things.”

It is a struggle for Pepperdine to incorporate the Christian mission while attempting to be spiritually inclusive, yet Christians and non-Christians argued that having religious diversity brings a definite richness to the Pepperdine community.

“They (non-Christians on campus) help us to examine more honestly our own (Christian) beliefs, and keep us – I hope – from being judgmental, stereotypical and narrow-minded in our assumptions and language,” University Church of Christ minister Kenneth Durham said.

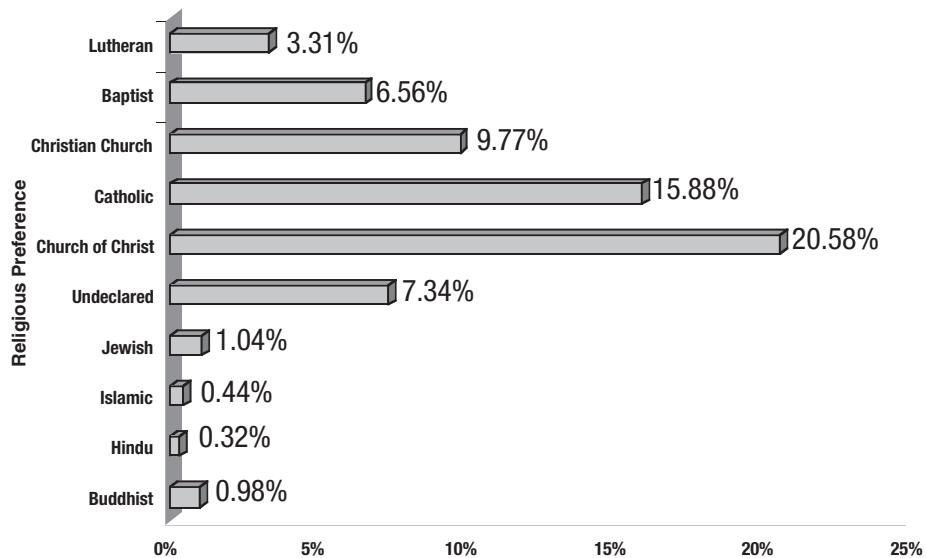
Spiritual Life Coordinator, Savannah Overton agreed.

“You can never know enough about your own faith,” Overton, a junior, said. “(Interaction with non-Christian faiths) offers a different experience. Jesus spent time with people who were unlike him and that is who he gave his heart to. For Christians to believe that they can’t spend time with people who are unlike them are against Christ’s teachings.”

While being non-Christian does not inherently indicate a lack of spirituality, Overton pointed out that non-Christians are being ostracized spiritually.

“Here, because it’s religiously affiliated, you have people who

students by religious preferences seaver college [2005]



[source: P.A.I.R. Enrollment Profile]

Percentages are based out of a total student population of 3,173. Only the top five Christian-affiliated reported religious preferences are included above, in addition to non-Christian and undeclared recorded preferences.

are really left out,” Overton said. “Non-Christians needs are not being as met.”

She added that such limitations may hinder students of other faiths from enjoying a complete college experience and suggested that more inclusive faith programs be introduced.

Some comments by classmates have ostracized students like Selin Karli, a senior communication major of Islamic faith.

“In the classroom, I have encountered conflict of ideas and discrimination,” Karli said. “I was once asked by a student: ‘Why did Muslims kill innocent people on Sept. 11?’”

Arguments have also been made that ignoring other faiths can bring disadvantages to Christian students.

“We’re supposed to learn how to be people in the real world,” Doshi said. “We’re going to come in contact with non-Christians in the real world so we should know how to deal with others who have different beliefs and be

open about them.”

Dr. Jeff Banks, a Social Action and Justice professor who is Jewish, has had a different experience from non-Christian students because faculty are not obligated to attend Convocation or be educated on Christian theology in classes. While he said he felt accepted by the Pepperdine faculty, he mentioned rare occasions when students remain

“We always talk through it and come to a place of understanding.”
dr. jeff banks, social action and justice professor

apprehensive about his faith.

“Occasionally I get students’ comments that are awkward, but we always talk through it and come to a place of understanding,” Banks said.

Banks stressed the importance of reaching a place of interreligious collaboration and understanding.

“I feel more comfortable when the term Judeo-Christian is linked together, and my recollection is that it was used at Pepperdine a

lot more than it is now,” Banks said. “I would like to see Pepperdine more diverse in terms of religion ... We can all learn from each other. I have certainly learned a lot about Christianity being here, (and I) admire our faculty despite the fact that they’re of a different faith.”

Both Corben and Karli agreed.

“It is very important for any university to have a diverse student body,” Corben said. “The Pepperdine student body can learn from their peers and focus on probably the most important aspect of Pepperdine, spiritual growth.”

Karli added that having more non-Christians on campus would provide a support group for those who do not claim a Christian faith.

“You would join Weight Watchers to lose weight, prayer groups to overcome difficulties, and (a support group with) other non-Christians to survive in a Christian school when you are looked down upon,” Karli said.

studentportraiture

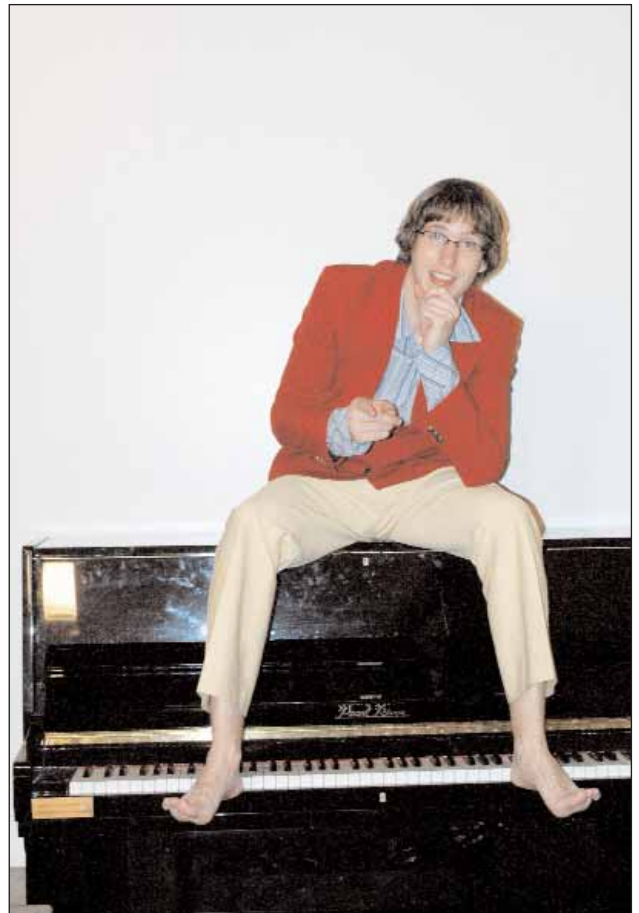
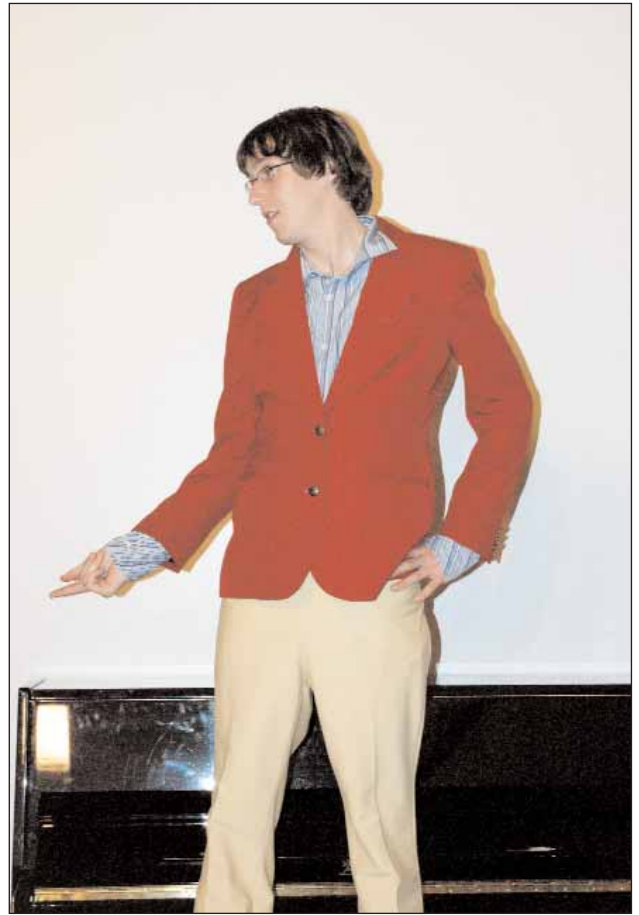
>> all photos by benjamin young

In a graduating class full of strong personalities, **Karl Kalinkewicz** has carved out a niche of his own. Perhaps it's his throwback, thrift-store-savvy style or that he's been involved in just about everything possible during his four years at Pepperdine. Or maybe it's because of his dead-ringer impression of Sir Elton John. I don't know exactly. I do know, though, that he is the perfect person to kick off the Currents Student Portraiture Gallery. Enjoy the photos. Enjoy seeing a side of this very public person that you might not have seen before. In the end, this is a celebration of uniqueness.

benjamin young
currents photo editor









>> michael alahouzos

HIGHER divides

Natural Science Division takes a stand against intelligent design.

The auditorium fell silent. Three hundred of Pepperdine's students, faculty and staff bowed their heads, or thought to themselves silently, or didn't think at all, as junior Dustin Long recited the opening prayer.

"We ask you, Lord," Long prayed, "that we may be responsible with the scientific knowledge we have."

With that, Pepperdine welcomed Dr. Stephen C. Meyers of the Discovery Institute — a scientist who, Natural Science Division faculty say, uses scientific knowledge irresponsibly. The philosophical underpinnings of his presentation, and the circumstances that brought him to campus, are both sources of friction and controversy on the Pepperdine campus.

Meyers earned his doctorate in the history and philosophy of science from Cambridge University and is a leading advocate of intelligent design

(ID), the theory that the universe, in all its complexity, was created by an "intelligent designer" or god (but not necessarily the God of the Hebrew Bible).

In August 2005, President Bush endorsed the teaching of ID in public schools. Four months later, a federal judge in Dover, Penn., barred the first pro-ID school district from teaching it in biology classes, deeming the concept to be religious creationism in disguise.

To the 300 students and faculty members gathered in Elkins on Feb. 13 for the two-hour, double-credit Convocation, Meyers' presentation

+ ID: continued on p.16

+ID: from p.15

seemed accountable and respectable. Of these 300, 17 stayed for a Q & A session, a lively debate at which Pepperdine Natural Science professors attacked the assumptions and scientific veracity of what Meyers had to say.

The pro-evolution and predominantly Christian science professors say that there are truths in the world that will never be understood. They refuse to believe that those mysteries can be attributed to intelligent design, and they used the Q & A session to refute key parts of Meyers' presentation before the few remaining students.

Meyers claimed in his introduction to have the permission "of the science faculty to allow this discussion to go on." According to Natural Science Division faculty, Meyers couldn't have been more wrong. "Before the members of the press here tonight," Dr. Douglas Swartzendruber, professor of biology, said at the beginning of the Q & A session, "that's totally untrue," and begged of the speaker, "where is the science?"

Most science scholars are challenging intelligent design as bad science. Evidence of ID is faith-based and cannot be tested using the scientific method, leading all but few to the conclusion that ID is not science.

In his own defense, Meyers spoke of the Big Bang theory, which can be tested, but not proven with the scientific method. "The idea that you have to prove something to be true is not true of any scientific theory," he asserted.

Meyers and others who advocate ID widely believe the testable Big Bang theory to be obsolete and are considered anti-evolution.

When Swartzendruber pointed out that the Big Bang could be proven, Meyers replied, "Then collect the Nobel Prize for that."

Prior to Meyers' double-credit Convocation, religion professor Dr. Christopher Heard posted on his Web site an item affirming that he is "not a creationist, not so much because creationism is bad science (though it is),

Is ID science?

Intelligent design (ID) is the theory that the universe and its inhabitants are best explained as being created by an "intelligent designer" or god, and not by an unplanned progression such as natural selection. The most common evidence cited of design is the irreducible complexity of the universe — the conviction that certain aspects of nature cannot possibly have been formed by chance (i.e. the Big Bang) or the necessity to survive (i.e. Darwinian evolution).

The US National Academy of Sciences has stated that intelligent design is not science because the evidence is faith-based and cannot be tested or hypothesized. Historically, scientists and Christians, Nicholas Copernicus, Galileo Galilei and Albert Einstein each found unique ways to retain their personal beliefs in God. Galileo explicitly said that the Bible cannot err, and that he saw his discoveries as purely interpretation of biblical texts.





as because creationism is bad biblical interpretation.”

Dr. Heard followed up the essay, titled, “Why I Am Not a Creationist,” by arguing that “if creationism were good exegesis, it would still need to also be good science (which it isn’t) to be credible (which it isn’t).”

Meyers, however, does not bother himself with the religious aspect of ID.

“Intelligent design is not theocracy in schools,” he said during his presentation.

The Natural Science Division as a whole disagrees. “I certainly think ID is a political movement of religious intent,” said the Frank R. Seaver Chair in Natural Science, Dr. Karen Martin. “(His is) not a group that is seeking scientific or educational truth. ID is a marketing tool masquerading as science. The Discovery Institute’s documents show inconsistencies, logical fallacies ... as well as an extremely narrow definition of authentic religious belief.”

ID advocates would have students believe that Pepperdine University is unique in that its science professors are also believers in Christ. Yet the idea that scientists are opposed to religious belief is false. Nine decades of studies, most recently documented in *Scientific American* in 1999, show that about 50 percent of scientists are believers in a Supreme Being and eternal life. Scientists who believe in intelligent design are a rarer breed.

Christian biology professor Dr. Stephen Davis is also troubled by Meyers’ assertions. “I wouldn’t want to put my God in that little box,” he said, “and say, ‘Wow, look how complex it is, therefore it must be intelligent design, and that intelligence behind this is the God I believe in,’ because my god is bigger than that.”

Martin said she fears that Meyers and the Bush administration want “to tell students and the public what

to think, or better yet to stop thinking. Contrary to what the speaker implied, we respect our students enough to let them see the data and make their own decisions.”

Many students went to the lecture because they could earn two credits for attending the whole Convocation — a Convocation that was marketed as being grounded in science.

Natural Science Division members said they would have shut down the Convocation had they been given the chance, but they weren’t. The panel of faculty, staff and students that reviews Convocations was sidestepped and did not convene to approve or disapprove

“I wouldn’t want to put my God in that little box, and say, ‘Wow,’ look how complex it is, therefore it must be intelligent design, and that intelligence behind this is the God I believe in,’ because my god is bigger than that.”

dr. stephen davis, professor of biology

Meyers.

Dean of Student Affairs Mark Davis confirmed that he and others had “allowed the Convocation coordinator (Chris Collins) to approve without convening the panel” in the interest of time.

Based on concerns raised by the approval of the Convocation, Davis said his office has “revised our procedures so that all alternative Convocations are once again reviewed by the panel.”

Elizabeth Price, a junior, approached her SGA class president, Brendan Groves, with a proposal to bring Meyers and ID to Pepperdine. According to Groves, Price was “denied the ability by the Natural Science Division” to pursue the event, in which case she then contacted Groves for SGA’s support.

SGA President Leon Dixson said the Convocation “was not suppose to happen,” because department sponsorship is required to bring in

an outside speaker. Due to the setback, Meyers’ Discovery Institute resolved to financially sponsor the event if no department would.

Dixson made clear that SGA’s involvement was minimal, and that Price had planned the two-hour Convocation, “listing SGA as the sponsor without our consent.”

With or without SGA’s endorsement, Convocation coordinator Collins was the only one who was given the duty of approving the intelligent design Convocation once the panel was sidestepped. Natural Science Division professors immediately began their campaign to keep intelligent design from being endorsed as science by the

school.

“It’s easy for someone to say, ‘that is not science,’” Groves said. “I think that is really scientific shifting ... when they’re closing the doors to theories because they’re not classified as science in general.”

With a moment of deliberation, Groves also said of the Natural Science Division and intelligent design, “perhaps they can meet in the middle.”

Swartzendruber said he disagrees. “I don’t care what the intelligence is,” he said. “As soon as you’re working with something in the unnatural world, it’s not going to be science.” When observing something as complex as the creation of adenosine tri-phosphate (ATP energy) inside the cell, he said, “you can’t just say that it’s intelligent design.”

As Pepperdine’s science professors and theologians say, God works in much more mysterious ways than just “intelligent designing.”

[illustration by anela holck]

Church of Christ rules

>> by kelly davies

Pepperdine shares Church of Christ traits vary, particularly con

The sun-soaked beaches, perfect weather and friendly faces of Malibu place Pepperdine among the most distinctive schools in the nation. Seaver College also is distinct for its place as a Church of Christ university on the West among its “Bible Belt” sister schools.

While the universities — Abilene, Harding, Lipscomb, Lubbock and Pepperdine — share Church of Christ core foundations, Pepperdine’s student handbook reflects a different approach to rules and regulations.

For example, at Harding University in rural Arkansas, undergraduates are required to live on campus; Seaver students can leave after the first year. Chapel at Harding is at 9 a.m. daily; Seaver has Convocation once a week.

The rules extend to dress code as well. Lipscomb University in Tennessee enforces a dress code that bans spandex sportswear and pajama bottoms, among other clothing items. Students at Harding cannot wear shorts before 2 p.m., except on weekends. Those at Abilene Christian University and Lubbock Christian University in Texas, along with Lipscomb, have similar dress codes.

Dean of Student Affairs Mark Davis acknowledges that Pepperdine gives more freedom to students than other Church of Christ universities. Davis quoted Robert Benne’s book on Christian higher education, “Quality With Soul,” which describes a continuum of different types of Christian universities:

“Most of the other colleges affiliated with the Churches of Christ fall in the category of ‘orthodox’ schools, where all the faculty are active Christians and the vast majority of students are Christians,” Davis said. “Seaver College is more like the ‘critical mass’ school, where a core group of faculty, staff and students are Christians.”

Benne discusses how one type of school is not better than the other, but it is important for the leadership to be clear what type of Christian college it wants to be so that it doesn’t inadvertently drift.

Harding’s residential curfew — set from 11 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. — is something

handbooks at a glance

Abilene

- All first- and second-year students are required to live on campus, with few exceptions.
- No alcohol, tobacco, sexual immorality.
- Use of alcohol in any form on campus or at any university-sponsored event is prohibited.
- All faculty, staff, administrators and members of the Board of Trustees are Christians.
- Repeated cohabitation and/or sexual immorality, including homosexual behavior is prohibited.

Harding

- Single undergraduate students are required to live on campus.
- Visiting in the residence of a single member of the opposite gender, even when others are present, is prohibited.
- Tobacco, in any form is not permitted at any time.
- No shorts before 2 p.m., except on weekends.
- Tops must have at least a two-inch shoulder strap.
- No hair past the collar for men
- No body piercing, including ears for men.



Harding student Melea Scott Connet is not shy about discussing.

“I absolutely hated curfew,” Connet said. “Another rule that I hated is that guys were not allowed in the dorms ever. Only on certain nights, which were once a month.”

Students at Abilene, Harding, Lipscomb

and Lubbock are not permitted to visit members of the opposite sex at any time, except during specific hours. In addition, each school requires that undergraduates live on campus if they are under the age of 21, or under 23, in the case of Harding.

Specific social rules apply as well.

of Christ roots with “sister” schools, but as with typical siblings, concerning rules.

Lipscomb

- Students are not permitted to visit rooms of members of the opposite sex except during open houses or university approval.
- Students are not to patronize bars or other establishments or events whose principal purpose is the serving of alcohol or exotic dancing.
- The university does not support, endorse, or sponsor dances on- or off-campus, formal or informal, for any university-related group or organization.



Lubbock

- Students must live on campus if they are under 21 years of age, unless they can meet exemption requirements.
- Chapel is required Monday through Thursday.
- Shirts, tops or dresses must go over both shoulders, cover all of the abdomen, sides and back, and must not be low cut or excessively tight-fitting.
- Use of all tobacco products is prohibited on campus.
- Consumption of alcohol on- or off-campus is prohibited.



Pepperdine

- Visitation hours are between 10 a.m. and 1 a.m. for most halls .
- Fourteen Convocation credits required to earn an A per semester; eight to pass.
- It is a violation to be in possession or to consume alcohol on campus.
- Disruptive and/or disorderly behavior due to the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance is prohibited.
- Sexual relations of any kind outside the confines of marriage are inconsistent with the teaching of Scripture.



Abilene does not sponsor dancing by any on- or off-campus organizations. Alcohol use is banned at all times on or off campus at each university.

Abilene and Harding require daily chapel, while Lubbock requires chapel Monday through Thursday. Lipscomb

requires chapel Monday, Wednesday and Friday; though a class called University Bible — a mandatory time for teaching and worship — is held every Tuesday and Thursday. Seaver, meanwhile, requires chapel once a week. Students must attend 14 convocations to receive an A, eight to

pass. This requirement pales in comparison to Abilene Christian’s 55 mandatory chapels per semester.

“They had to keep with the traditions of the school,” said Jeri Tidmore, an Abilene alumna and administrative coordinator in

+ rules: continued on p. 20

+rules: from p.19

the Seaver Dean's Office. "It was a part of the university and a part of who they are."

While Seaver has kept with traditions, the dynamic of the university has changed over the years. The Seaver Student Guide lists that exposure to intellectual, social and cultural diversity is essential in the process of education. According to the guide, the student body should represent religious heritages both Christian and non-Christian while reflecting Christian character.

Division and a 1981 Harding graduate, says that while both Harding and Pepperdine foster Christian communities, "Harding seems to be more of Christian 'service,' with student constituency of predominately members of the church or their children," Chandler said, "and Pepperdine seems to be more of a Christian 'missionary' with more diverse members who come from other religious traditions or no church tradition whatsoever."

Pepperdine professor Lorie

guy escorted the girls safely back to their dorms and therefore needed extra time to make their own curfew, despite the fact that their dorm was next to the women's dorm. While still relatively strict, Pepperdine's rules seem more in line with gender equity and common sense."

Though Seaver's rules may be more lenient, Lipscomb student Julia Osburn-Biagi said students from her school do not think of Pepperdine as any kind of outsider. Students interviewed from the other three universities all agreed.

"Many students are jealous of what they have idealized Pepperdine to be," Osburn-Biagi said. "Pepperdine is perceived as having more lax rules, but we all know that you have the same problems we do."

Those problems, according to Seaver Resident Director Chris Farris, are most frequently alcohol abuse and visitation rules. The answer to students' frustration, Farris said, lies in the university mission statement.

"That's the bread and butter right there ... you have to know that every program is measured against that," Farris said.

Ultimately, Chandler says that while there are differences, "Given the range of types of universities and colleges that are out there on the landscape, we are probably more like our sister schools than we are different from them."

"The vast benefits of this diversity come together with a decrease in unity of thought that Pepperdine must negotiate."

dr. lorie goodman, associate professor of english

"Just in general, it's fair to say you'd find, historically, far less diversity in the South than there has been in the West Coast," said Seaver Associate Dean and 1973 Abilene Christian graduate Rick Marrs.

A Harding transfer student and 2005 Seaver graduate, Carly Dyas, agrees.

"There was no diversity," Dyas said. "There was hardly any religious diversity and compared to Pepperdine or state schools there really wasn't that much racial diversity," says Dyas. "The school was predominantly middle-class, suburban kids."

Dr. Robert Chandler, chair of the Seaver Communication

Goodman, who attended Lipscomb from 1977 to 1980, said she appreciates Pepperdine's diversity. However, that diversity may come with other complaints.

"The vast benefits of this diversity come together with a decrease in unity of thought that Pepperdine must negotiate," Goodman said. "The other schools 'enjoy' the simplicity that comes from a single dominant ideology."

Goodman added that some of the rules were a bit impractical. "For example, guys' curfew was an hour later than the girls'," Goodman said. "The justification for this that we heard most often was that on dates,

California as a move of independence and finding, or creating, herself.

"I came out to California with my parents in a U-haul when I was 18," she said. "They brought me here, set me up and let me go. It was the best soul searching experience in my life."

Initially a poet, Baylin always had something to say, but no idea how to say it.

"I had to express myself. I was waiting for something to smack me between the eyes," she said. "I love poetry, but it wasn't enough. I needed people to hear my voice coming through on it, with my expression attached to it."

Her eyes tell the whole story. One look, one song, one smile, and it's love.

+ jessie: from p.3

you like, if you can feel," Baylin said. "Many artists let their ego drive their music. I don't want people listening to that."

Though heavily influenced by the classic women of American roots music like Ella Fitzgerald and Nina Simone, Baylin has a fresh sound.

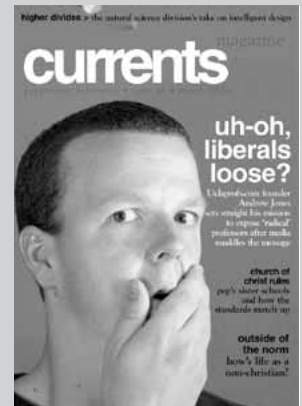
Live performances are rarely the same set. She is backed by a trio of seasoned musicians: bassist Paul Eckman, electric guitarist Pete Snell and female percussionist, Debra Dobkin.

"I can trust these people," Baylin said. "I can stand up there, just me and my voice, and feel safe."

Born and raised in New Jersey, Baylin came to

**"in america,
the president
reigns for
four years,
and
journalism
governs
for ever
and ever."**

oscar wilde, 1854-1900



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Love handles weighing down?

Advice to help you shed unwanted pounds — the healthy way

Life has a tendency to carry with it a little excess baggage. Finding ways to maintain balance in a world that is consistently chaotic can be difficult, and hanging on to that svelte figure can at times seem near impossible. Student life is no exception. Below are tips for losing weight and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, with testimonies from three students.



[photo by benjamin young]

Senior Shiloh Walton uses the treadmill at the Pepperdine gym. Walton works out an average of five days a week and eats balanced meals.

THE BASICS. The universal rule of weight loss is simple. Burn more than you consume. The minimum amount of suggested exercise is the equivalent of walking two miles per day, or its equivalent.

BALANCE IS KEY. Be selective about choosing foods from each food group, especially whole grains, fiber, vegetables and one serving of protein with each meal. Senior Shiloh Walton, who worked at Spectrum Gym, warned against reacting to stress by eating. She said her diet contains a balance of carbohydrates, lean protein, and lots of leafy vegetables. Graduate student Jess Steele eats healthy despite domestic deficiencies. “I try to eat healthy, but I’m not a very good cook,” Steele said. He relies on his George Foreman grill to make lunches and dinners, usually chicken, rice, and vegetables. Breakfast is always four pieces of whole wheat toast with spray butter. “It’s something I learned from my girlfriend,” he said.

PILL POPPIN’. While the body absorbs vitamins best through food, taking a multivitamin daily ensures you get the nutrients you need.

DRINK UP! Staying hydrated allows the body to lose the water it stores when it is dehydrated. Plus, it improves complexion. Drink at least one glass of water with every meal, and cut out soda, which only increases dehydration. Jennifer DeHaan, a professional dancer, knows the value of water. “I drink the required amount of water every day,” DeHaan said, “and I limit my soda intake.”

GOT MILK? Calcium enables the body to lose weight by stopping hormones that promote fat storage. In short, that glass of non-fat milk will

work wonders on your waistline. The body cannot absorb much at once, so consume three servings intermittently throughout the day. DeHaan snacks on yogurt to keep her metabolism up.

FLEXIBILITY. This often over-looked aspect of health not only prevents injuries, it helps shape the body, making muscles longer and leaner. DeHaan stays in shape not only by maintaining a consistent routine including running, dancing and lifting weights. She also stretches 30 minutes everyday to maintain her flexibility.

STRENGTH. Muscle burns calories. Developing lean muscle will allow you to burn calories even while sitting. Many people tend to concentrate only on certain areas of the body, making for an unbalanced figure. Avoid this faux pas by strength training every area of the body with low weights and high repetitions. Steele focuses on exercise as the main aspect of his health. He lifts weights four days a week, and rides the bike for an hour three days a week, leaving Sunday as his rest day.

ENDURANCE. Developing a strong lung capacity will significantly improve your overall fitness. Get at least 30 minutes of cardio in three times a week or more, with exercise that is low-impact, like the elliptical machine instead of running, which is hard on knees. Break it up with an enjoyable activity that engages your mind and body like hiking or surfing. Walton, who works out an average of five days a week doing both interval and weight training, emphasizes balance. “It took me one year to get my hormones back on track after some really intensive training,” she said.

GET SOME SHUT-EYE. College students tend to forgo sleep above all else, yet sleep deprivation can have a negative impact on health. Often when tired, people will compensate by over-eating. Get as close to the recommended eight hours as possible each night.

LET THEM EAT CAKE! Depriving yourself severely will only cause you to compensate for it later. Allow yourself to indulge in a way that won’t sabotage your diet or sacrifice your health. “Don’t over-diet,” Walton said. “Exercise consistency in your life. And don’t fight your body type.”



Guy Alsentzer
Seaver '06, Progressive

Gay Rights: "I come from a fundamental Christian background, but I do believe that gay couples should be given rights and recognized as a couple by the state. The government should not be forcing one particular moral value system upon people regardless of the majority's viewpoint."

Abortion: "I'm wholeheartedly pro-choice. I will fully support what a woman chooses to do with her body."

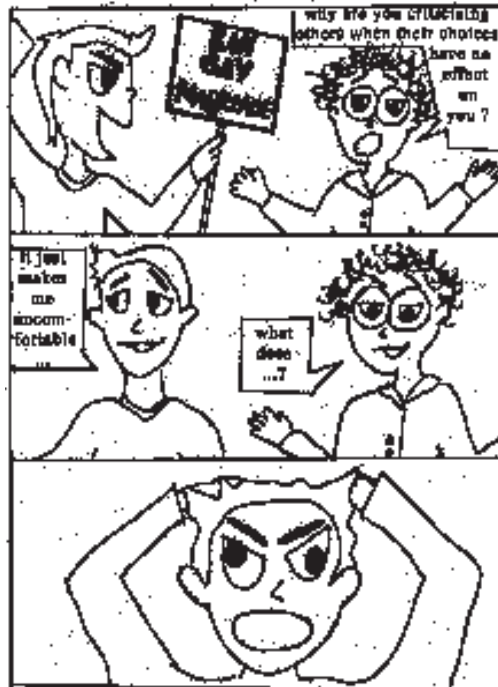


Brett Roberts
Seaver '07, Democrat

Gay Rights: "Laws on gay rights should be left up to the state, but I am opposed to gay marriage for religious and personal reasons."

Abortion: "I tend to be a little more conservative when it comes to this issue and it is especially a problem when it is used as habitual birth control."

Students from all ends of the political spectrum discuss gay rights and abortion.



[cartoon by emily simon]

Thibaut Thomas (not pictured)
International student, French Socialist Democrat Party

Gay Rights: "I think everybody should be able to live his sexuality openly and legally, may it be heterosexual, gay or bisexual. Discrimination for someone's sexual choices should be illegal."

Abortion: "I strongly support the woman's right to abortion. Since 1975 in France, it is a right for every woman to get an abortion if she wants. We don't say abortion, we say 'IVG' which stands for Voluntary Pregnancy Interruption. From a french point of view the U.S. is very archaic about abortion."



Kate Black
Seaver '06, Republican

Gay Rights: "As a Christian, I believe in the sanctity of marriage and that it is between a man and a woman. Because the Bible specifically addresses the issue, I stand by that belief."

Abortion: "An unborn child is a human life and with about 1.6 million abortions each year, it is genocide of unborn children."



John Payne
Public Policy '06, Libertarian

Gay Rights: "I am perfectly fine with two gay men or women having a civil union, but I kind of struggle with the gay adoption issue. I don't think the government should intervene in family affairs and if a family adopts then that's their own decision."

Abortion: "This question goes beyond whether you're a libertarian or not since it is so scientific. That is why I think it's problematic that people act so decided on this issue."



Aeronautical Discountenance

by Chris Graue



The next wing of our exhibit features types of students who are, sadly, not yet extinct.



An age-old question would, at long last, receive an answer.

a (clean) joke

A university creative writing class was asked to write a concise essay containing the following four elements: Religion, Royalty, Sex and Mystery.

The prize-winning essay read: "My God," said the Queen. "I'm pregnant. I wonder who did it?"

Senior-year final moments: Weird? Yes. New? No.

"It's gonna be so weird" is a phrase I don't want to hear again until people start explaining what they mean. This declaration has been heard a lot lately as graduation approaches and people have started to forget to complain about parking.

Seniors are awaiting the end — listening to Vitamin C on their iPods, running on the

some sort of genetic freak or worked at Chili's, you probably have never had this experience.

It'll be weird to meet everybody's families and finally understand why some people always raise their hands in class.

It'll definitely be weird to see what parents look like: to see the female version of the boy in your freshman seminar.

It'll be weird to see who introduces you to their family.

It'll be weird to finally see who is a senior.

It'll be weird to meet the people who we sit beside at the graduation

ceremony — perhaps some people will strike up new friendships. I can imagine all the Smiths now. But, realistically, it's too late in the game for friendship.

It'll be weird to get our diploma — psyche! — and give it back ... to be done with a career at Pepperdine forever, unless you marry a fellow graduate who is onboard to work at Onestop. Before you know it, you'll be working there too.

I can't believe how fast it's gone. But if I had to do another year, I'd kill a freshman.

It'll be weird how anticlimactic it is when we don't suddenly realize our vocations after we are finished crossing the stage. When you cross the stage, shake the president's hand and move on. This is no time to network or showcase your firm handshake.

But we are adults now — we can deal with any tense conversation with the parents about the future just as long as we get to throw something — and we do get to chuck black caps into the open blue air. It'll be weird

to drive away for the last time — and then to be pulled over by Public Safety on John Tyler.

It will definitely be weird but not in the way we mean it to be. I think that part — "growing up," change, entering the real world — will be pretty normal. We were prepared for this by "Boy Meets World."

It'll be weird to say goodbye. What should you say? "Goodbye?" I've said that to too many flight attendants for that to be right. How do you sum it up? I said goodbye to some people in high school, aware that I'd never see them again.

There are some people here I'm not OK with never seeing again, and I know I won't.

I guess that's the tragedy — people never have to come back here. People always have to go back home, even if it's just to visit. And home for a lot of people is very far away in cities as numerous as spelling errors in the Graphic.

Graduating seniors, if they don't become mascots, will come back to Pepperdine maybe once or twice in the rest of their lives.

When I come back, probably for rush next year, my kids will be kicking my seat behind me, and my husband, who has let himself go since he went to a state school, will steal my pretzels while I'm sleeping, and on my right, a girl from high school who is wearing a skirt she borrowed from me in 10th grade will be blocking my view screaming, "Look there's that school ... what's it ... Pepperdine ... didn't you go there?"

People from high school, man. I'll nod. "Have you ever been back?"

And I'll peer over and won't believe how very weird it really is that I was once there thinking it wasn't going to be that weird.



hobarhumor

>> lauren hobar

Lauren Hobar ('06) is a creative writing major.

When you cross the stage, shake the president's hand and move on. This is no time to network or showcase your firm handshake.

track, enjoying the one-in-a-million view, as they pass two little girls, and then see a mirage of Pamela Anderson.

It's not just gonna be weird, it already is. Seniors are taking out their trucker hats for one last wear — parents of students from Nebraska somehow don't understand that their daughter isn't planning to drive a big rig when she graduates.

They're reminiscing. Some are participating for the first time in four years in a SGA event. Some are sitting at Convo with their arms around each other.

We need to pull ourselves together. It's not gonna be that weird to graduate. It's kind of predictable — we all know we're going to walk — the surprise was lost when they sent out those graduate deficiency e-mails.

I tell you what will be weird — to wear the same outfit as 800-plus people. Unless you're



m. alahouzos

"When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro."
— Dr. Hunter S. Thompson



s. kelly

"Every generation needs a new revolution."
— Thomas Jefferson



n. peterson

"You don't have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body."
— C.S. Lewis



i. cumbie

"If you don't have anything nice to say about anybody, come sit next to me."



d. kim

"Perspective prides your once weighty eyes and it gives you wings."
— Incubus



e. simon

"Spread love, it's the Brooklyn way."
— Biggie



k. davies

"Love is the answer, at least for most of the questions in my heart."
— Jack Johnson



c. luong

"In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other. That time is now."
— Wangari Maathai



a. webber

"I have just discovered that the knocking on the walls of all space and time is my own heart beating."
— Alan Watts



c. graue

"GWAR
GWAR
GWAR"



s. motte

"For, as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any condition be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom — for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself."
— Declaration of Arbroath, Scotland



dr. k. waters

"I wish they could all be California girls."
— Beach Boys



i. hobar

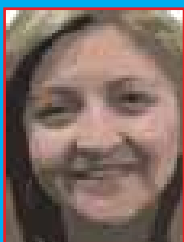
"Everyone's colored ... else you wouldn't be able to see them."
— Captain Beefheart



j. oni

"I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious."
— Albert Einstein

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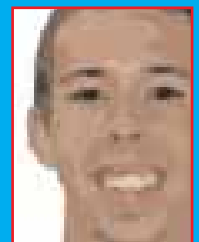
e.r. smith



a. holck



m. rodriguez



b. young