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The Crescent

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

KAT HYLTON: SHE'S KIND OF A BIG DEAL

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ARMSTRONG LEGACY LIVES ON

By Abby Baker
Guest Contributor

A member of the Armstrong family, the original owners and occupants of George Fox University's Armstrong House, passed away on Sept. 5.

The Armstrong House, which stands on the corner of Center St. and Sheridan St., has been a part of George Fox University (GFU) since the school purchased it in 1995.

Ward Armstrong and his two surviving brothers, Hugh and Rich Armstrong, the grandsons of the house's builder, were the last family members to live in the house before it was sold to a new owner in the early 1950s.

Today the two-story house serves as a residence for students.

Built in 1923 by Ward Webster Silver, the house was passed down to Hubert Armstrong and Elizabeth (Silver) Armstrong.

The Armstrong family fondly remembers their years of living in the house. Rich Armstrong recalled how the house was heated with sawdust.

"The whole basement was full of it," he said. "And the smell percolated up through the house, giving it a fresh scent we all loved."

The Armstrongs also shared the story of how middle brother, Hugh, used to climb into the attic and send flashlight Morse code signals to his neighborhood friend who lived in the Minthorn House several blocks away.

Donna Armstrong, Ward Armstrong's wife, remembered how the family visited the Armstrong House one last time in the early 1990s before the owners sold it to GFU. During some remodeling, the owners found a book in the wall with the name Ward Armstrong in the cover.



PHOTO CREDIT: John Burgess

"They telephoned us and invited us to come get the book and tour the house," she said. She and her husband returned to Newberg with his mother and aunt.

"We went from the attic to the basement. It was really nice for them to get to see their home one last time," she said.

The Armstrongs are thrilled the house has become a part of GFU housing, but they believe the university misnamed it.

"We don't know who decided that,"

said Rich Armstrong, "but it was built by the Silvers, not the Armstrongs."

Although the Armstrong family has long since left Newberg, their connection to the house lives on. Ward Armstrong's last look at his childhood home occurred in 2014 during a brief stop in Newberg.

As he stood outside the house on the curb, several students entered the house. His eyes twinkled as he said with a laugh, "Maybe one of them sleeps in my old bedroom!"

The Crescent

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The Voice of the Students

The Crescent is George Fox University's student newspaper, a publication that has been part of the university and the Associated Student Community since 1891. The opinions and ideas presented in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of George Fox University.

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Issues can be found in the Student Union Building and are available upon request.

Letters to the editor

Letters are welcomed and will be printed on a first-received basis. They must include the author's signature, academic major, class standing or job title, department name and phone number. Letters are subject to editing for space and clarity.

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GFU GOES VIRAL

By Jordan Whitney
Crescent Staff

Two major stories going viral have catapulted George Fox University (GFU) into the center of attention.

The first of these came in late July with the iWheel gaining over 200,000 views on YouTube.

In mid-August, current psychology student Bekah Miles' Facebook post about her tattoo and its connection to her struggles with depression was shared over 350,000 times and circulated on major websites, including BuzzFeed and Huffington Post.

The iWheel first made its appearance online on July 31 upon its completion by Systems Manager Mike Compadore. Later that day, one of Apple's earliest members and the number eight employee of the company, Chris Espinosa, made a post on Twitter sharing Compadore's creation.

On Aug. 4, a video of students and staff rolling around in the iWheel was posted to YouTube and accumulated over 45,000 views within 24 hours.

The story soon found its way onto local news sites, including The Oregonian. The story also circulated through a large number of websites, including TMZ.

Megan Clark, the creator of the video, said, "Nothing surprised me too terribly much till the buzz died down in North America and we caught a huge wave over in Japan. There were some news stations doing 3D renderings of the iWheel and super long seven-minute reports. It was insane."

By Adrienne Speer
Crescent Staff

The Associated Student Community (ASC) presented the student body with tentative plans for the construction of a new fireplace, and the students responded, overwhelmingly, in favor.

Of the 633 voters, 584 voted for the project. Just 49 votes were tallied against.

The fireplace will be built in the new dining facility café, and will be open to students 24 hours a day. Funding for construction of the fireplace comes from ASC's reserve fund.

ASC vice president Erika Lopez, said Brad Lau, the vice president for student life, and the project contractor approached ASC to ask if they would be willing to fund the fireplace project, since GFU's administration wouldn't be able to fund it.

The cost of the fireplace, approximately \$36,000, will be about 9% of what is in ASC's reserve fund at the moment. Lopez says that 9% could possibly be replaced with the excess from this year's budget.

Voting for the project closed on Sept. 22, and the results were released last Saturday.

In light of the conflict last year over the plan for an ASC-funded bronze Bruin statue, this year's leadership team is working to communicate with the



"AUGUST WILL BE REMEMBERED AS THE MONTH GFU TOOK THE INTERNET BY STORM"

A few weeks later, On Aug. 23, Miles made a Facebook post describing her tattoo and its symbolic meaning of her struggle with depression.

From everyone else's perspective the tattoo reads "I'm fine," but from her perspective the tattoo reads "save me."

The post was meant to only reach those that she knew but it soon spread as people began to share her post rapidly.

"I posted it on a Sunday but say on Wednesday it hit 230 shares," Miles said. "In less than 48 hours after that it more than increased 1,000 times that amount."

Within a week her post had been shared over 250,000 times. Some of these shares came from big name celebrities such as Zooey Deschanel and Ashton Kutcher.

Similar to the iWheel, Miles story soon reached international audiences.

"I can't believe I was on BBC radio, live!" she said. "I'm still amazed at it reaching across the whole world."

While GFU has had its share of publicity in recent years, this August will be remembered as the month GFU took the internet by storm.

STUDENT FIREPLACE APPROVED

student body with potentially similar projects.

"This year what we've been trying to be really intentional about is having transparency with the

students and getting the students more involved in what's happening," Lopez said.

PHOTO CREDIT: ASC



DEPRESSION: THE REAL STORY

PHOTO CREDIT: Julia Howell

DEPRESSION IS A CONSIDERABLE ISSUE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES. ARE WE DOING ENOUGH?

By Mikaela Bray
Crescent Staff

Over the summer, the Internet exploded with stories and articles featuring George Fox University's own Bekah Miles; websites like BuzzFeed, the Huffington Post, and People Magazine all ran her story. Her tattoo, which reads "I'm Fine" from an onlooker's perspective but "Save Me" from her own, was met with widespread support and praise. But it could have a lasting impact on campus, too.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, impaired mental health affects 18.5% of the adult population in the United States; roughly 43.8 million people. Major depression and anxiety disorders are among the most common.

Despite these numbers, mental health is rarely a subject of discussion. A stigma permeates it,

circulated with language like "crazy" or "retarded" in order to dismiss or ridicule a person. Frequently, mental health comes up in discussion when violent crimes are committed, although individuals with mental health issues are ten times more likely to be the victims of violent crimes than the general population, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

But with Miles's story acquiring such popularity, the question of depression and mental

"WE ALWAYS HAVE ROOM FOR MORE DISCUSSION"

health is brought to the public eye of the community. Having a conversation about psychological health is a crucial step toward dismantling the stigmatization surrounding mental health issues.

"We always have room for more discussion," said Kristina Kays, associate professor of psychology.

According to Bill Buhrow, the director of Health and Counseling Services, 238 students received counseling from GFU services in the 2014-15 school year. This number has grown steadily over the years, generally staying proportionate to the number of enrolled students. So, students are taking advantage of services available through the

university, but what about on a community or even individual level?

First of all, Kays cautions against self-diagnosis or trying to diagnose others. "It is common for all of us to have some symptoms covered in the Diagnostic Manual," she said. However, she suggests that students who think friends or family are struggling should simply talk to them as a peer and listen carefully.

Health and Counseling Services are also freely available to students.

"What we do is work hard to make sure that we can provide what the students need within the time resources that we have available," Buhrow said. University programs and resources are important to have available to those who need them, but they will not solve problems or affect change; that is a matter of individual relationships.

"The most potent impact is going to be you and I caring enough to be in a relationship with someone, being a person who steps into the lives of others," Kays said.

The widespread impact of Bekah Miles's story suggests that the subject of depression and struggles that cannot be seen has touched a nerve in our society. The only way we can change the perception of mental health is by listening and caring amongst our immediate circles of influence. We are ready to have a conversation about mental health, and we are ready to listen to and care for those who might be struggling.

By Denny Muia
Crescent Staff

If you've been on the George Fox University website or Facebook page, you've most likely seen one of the many videos the university produces. These videos serve to promote the school, cover events, and share unique aspects of the college's culture, and for the last few years, most (if not all) of these videos were made by a single student.

Megan Clark began attending GFU in the fall of 2011. She said the school was "the best fit out of any fit I could have chosen." This was due to GFU's four-year film program and the college's attention to faith-based education. After a few independent projects in 2013, Megan was contracted by the religious studies department to produce a series of videos.

You may know these videos as "Fox Talks."

Around that time, a position in the marketing communications department opened up, and Megan's grant advisor encouraged her to apply. She initially dismissed the idea, thinking it was nothing more than a work-study position. But when she re-read the email, she knew it was something that was in her future.

MEGAN CLARK: STUDENT, VIDEOGRAPHER, ARTIST

Megan started working for marketing communications in April 2014. Since then, she has produced over 100 videos for the school. The video producer not only does the actual filming of the content, but also the coordinating of second (and sometimes third) shooters, as well as the development of the story.

"It's usually this process where I'm uncovering something outside of myself, and so it's my job to uncover it, and often times it's not what I expected it to be," Megan said. "If I try to shape it too much, it's just not what it was intended to be, and it feels off."

There are two things (among many) that make Megan something of an anomaly. First, according to her knowledge, only two percent of cinematographers are female. Second, she is both a student and a full-time employee of GFU. She says that, surprisingly, her dual roles aren't terribly difficult, and that it gives structure to her day.

Her long term goal is to find a self-sustaining job with a lot of freedom. Once that's been secured, she intends to offer her services to non-profit organizations who will let her travel the world and tell stories through video.

"Make connections while you're in college," Megan said. "How you spend your weekends in college will reflect what your life is going to look like after school. Pursue your passions and seek professional criticism; don't be scared of honest critiques."

SIGNS OF LIFE FROM SHYAMALAN

By Jordan Whitney
Crescent Staff

It's a wonder that M. Night Shyamalan still is welcome into any producer's office these days. After the releases of his last three films, anyone willing to work with him is clearly still fixated on his first three efforts as director (four, if you ignore the last half hour of "The Village").

His latest project, however, is a fresh—albeit confusing—dose of optimism for lingering fans. Shot in a documentary style, "The Visit" is told by a preteen girl, Becca, and her younger brother, Tyler, as they visit their grandparents for the first time.

The goal of their project is to investigate the reason their single mother, who is away on a cruise, hasn't visited with her parents since an incident that happened when she was 19. The grandparents start off normal enough. The young siblings soon begin to notice signs of possible dementia, as well as "behavior" you apparently don't think twice about when you're kids.

From the start, the movie shifts seamlessly between a comedic and dramatic tone. In Shyamalan's previous films, humor has always stuck out as a significant element that keeps the stories grounded in humanity. This, in effect, has brought the drama and thrills closer to home. In "The Visit," however, you find yourself laughing seconds



PHOTO CREDIT: mix1079fm.com

after being terrified.

The moments of tension and terror are gripping. The uncertainty of what is truly happening is built quite well, as the kids document what might be common behavior for old people, or something far worse. The overall creepy tone of the movie hovers over every moment in a way that sucks you in and makes you wonder what all the fuss about the oven scene shown in the previews is all about.

The most impressive feat about this film is that when the credits roll, the humor and the thrills don't seem to have canceled each other out in any way. While this certainly does not atone for "The Last Airbender," "The Visit" accomplishes something truly unique and points Shyamalan's career back in the right direction.



PHOTO CREDIT: Kosette Isakson

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

TENNIS PLAYER
CHRIS LILLEY
SHINES ON THE COURT

By Jessica Rivera
Crescent Staff

Chris Lilley recalls his first week of tennis practice at George Fox University (GFU). Quiet and reserved at first, he had no idea what to expect.

The team captain at the time, Shawn Aldrich, recognized Lilley's potential. He expected a lot from the 18-year-old freshman, and Lilley didn't disappoint.

"It was really intense when I first came here," said Lilley. "It was a big change, but [Aldrich] made me a better player. Even just within the first week."

Now, Lilley is the senior captain for the men's tennis team. The team's potential this year could lead them to a national ranking for the first time in Bruin history.

Not only is Lilley on track to be the second player to record over 100 wins, but he also has a chance to record the most number of wins for the Bruins, according to Head Coach Neal Ninteman.

"Chris is extremely dedicated," said Ninteman. "He has goals, and he's pursued them with all of his heart. He's very gentle spirited and soft spoken, but he's ferocious on the court."

At every game, Lilley is loud when he's cheering for his team.

When it's his turn to step on the court, he stays calm and levelheaded. He's there to compete and win. Lilley started playing tennis at 12-years-old; he competed in his first tournament a year later.

"I fell in the love with the game as soon as I started," he said.

In high school, his performance only improved. He dedicated himself to the sport year-round, which is a tradition he continues today.

In 2012, his senior year of high school, his team won the state title.

Lilley went on to bring his dedication, hard work ethic and commitment to GFU.

As team captain, Lilley is adjusting to the spotlight. He would rather lead by example than with his words.

"ALL MY PASSION COMES FROM WITHIN"

"I'm not an expert, but I'm learning," he said. "I lead by working hard and keeping people motivated. That's naturally what I do. It comes easy to me."

The Bruins finished the 2014-15 season 14-8 overall and 9-3 in conference.

After years of steady growth, "the Bruins are ready to be one of the greatest tennis team in Bruin history and nationally," said Lilley.

MORE THAN A STATISTIC

OUTFIELDER KAT
HYLTON FINDS HER
WAY TO SUCCESS

By Evangelina Montelongo
Crescent Staff

Kat Hylton wanted out of Inglewood, Calif. The city, located south from Los Angeles, is known for its violence and high crime rate.

Hylton decided from an early age she would pursue academics and athletics to escape the route so many others around her took.

"Growing up where I come from, girls aren't expected to go to college," Hylton said. "Inglewood is a community you hear about in rap songs and I didn't want to be a statistic. I knew my way out was academically or athletically, so I made it a point to ensure I made it."

Hylton is now a senior at George Fox University (GFU), working towards a double major in Psychology and Spanish, all while playing varsity softball.

"My coach is a big help," Hylton said. "She is someone who holds the softball team with such high expectations that you basically have to prioritize school to come first."

Head Coach Jessica Hollen and Hylton have developed a connection that differs from other coach-athlete relationships.

"People feel comfortable going to [Hylton]," Hollen said. "She works hard and she's focused; she's awesome. That's a layer of leadership that's



pretty special about her."

The Bruins finished the 2015 season 31-13 and placed second in the Northwest Conference Tournament (NWC). In addition, Hylton received All-NWC Second Team honors.

Softball and academics provided a way out. She has established her own path and is determined to help others do the same.

"I've seen a lot more than most people have

PHOTO CREDIT: Kosette Isakson

seen," said Hylton. "I've seen a lot of violence first hand and people drop out of school. People have the potential to make something of themselves, but don't have anybody to push them. I want to be someone who can push them or at least motivate them."

"I know where I want to be in life," she said. "I want to graduate college and graduate with success."

FALL CHANGES

By Heather Harney
Crescent Staff

Last fall, George Fox University (GFU) athletic programs combined to win only 10 games.

For the first time in over 50 years, the football team stepped on the Stoffer Family Field. The women's volleyball team and the men and women's soccer team focused on rebuilding.

So far this season, GFU's teams have already won 10 games.

"Last year was more growing pains," Sports Information Director Danny Cross said. "We had a lot of younger players playing, especially on the soccer side and football. It is nice to see them start playing well together. Coaches brought fantastic recruiting classes, especially on the women's soccer side. It is fun to see them grow into a winning tradition like the spring sports."

Cross hopes the general student body uses the wins to help build a stronger community while becoming more involved with the experience and journey of all GFU athletes.



He also encourages students to visit the George Fox athletic website and @gfuathletics on Twitter and Instagram to support and learn about each team. The revamped website provides stats, recaps, records, schedules and more.

The athletic department also has a Student-Athlete Advisory Committee that seeks to further synthesize teams with the rest of the campus.

PHOTO CREDIT: Hayden Mercurio

Elise Trask, associate director of athletics said, "The committee has three areas of focus: athletes supporting other athletes, athletes supporting other extra circular activities on campus, and athletes supporting the community."

CAMPUS SEX-CURITY

By Mikaela Bray
Crescent Staff

What does campus security have to do with how much sex you're having?

Apparently, enough to warrant a chart pinned in the George Fox University Security Office detailing sexual exposure based on your number of partners. Sexual exposure refers to the number of people you've been sexually exposed to if all your partners have had the same number of partners as you; if you have had three sexual partners, you're actually being exposed to seven people, four partners means exposure to 15 people, and so on.

On the back of the chart, statistics are listed for annual cases of STDs, but the risk of disease isn't mentioned once on the same side as the chart, which makes it misleading at best. The numbers, it should be noted, are statistics from 1997. The

Center for Disease Control reported 1.4 million cases of chlamydia, the most commonly reported disease, in 2013. That's a far cry from the sexual exposure chart's four million.

The biggest problem with this chart, however, is the idea behind it. This approach to reaching out to students about sex is nothing short of fear-mongering. Fear tactics are nothing new to evangelistic circles; the focus on sin and guilt as the primary motivation for following the church's rules is a recurring theme within Christianity. The evangelical slant of the poster may be masked, but it most definitely plays a role in the underlying agenda.

Of course, a message of abstinence isn't inherently wrong or dangerous; and fidelity within committed romantic relationships is a valuable ideal to teach. If individuals choose to remain abstinent until after marriage, that is their prerogative. The trouble arises when abstinence and religious biases replace comprehensive sex education.

Abstinence-only approaches to sex education

just don't work. According to Advocates for Youth, abstinence-only programs don't delay individuals' sexual debuts. Plus, in abstinence-only, those who are sexually active aren't typically taught the responsible methods by which to have safe sex. Even if two people wait until after they're married to have sex, they will be entirely ignorant of how to reduce the risks of unwanted pregnancy or STDs. "The only safe sex is faithful married sex," according to the pamphlet, but how does marriage immediately make sex safe?

Sexually mature people have a right to be informed about their health and make their own decisions regarding what to do with their bodies. When they are informed, they are better equipped to handle the responsibility that comes with adulthood, in all aspects of life. Trying to stop unmarried people from having sex altogether through the use of posters like the one found in the security office, while well-meaning, is misguided and doomed to fail.

PHOTO CREDIT: Julia Howell

HAS HIGH ATTENDANCE KILLED ACADEMICS?

By John Weinert
Crescent Staff

Over the past several years, George Fox University has undergone some of the most rapid growth in recent memory. Some students and faculty have expressed concern over this growth, citing fears that it has come at the price of reduced academic standards.

However, this fear is largely based on a common misconception about GFU's admission process. In pool admitting, in which a school only admits the top percentage of applicants, rapid growth is facilitated by the admission of a higher percentage of applicants. This process, however, is only used by the most selective universities in the nation.

In contrast, George Fox, like most colleges and universities in the United States, uses a rolling admission system, in which each applicant is weighed individually and admitted if he or she meets the required academic standard. This means

that growth is based on more students deciding to attend, not on more students being admitted.

This means that, if GFU had decided to sacrifice academic standards for growth, it would need to do more than just admit more applicants: it would have to reduce admission standards across the board.

However, according to Lindsay Knox, director of undergraduate admissions, George Fox University has not changed its admission standards in the ten years she has worked here.

Ultimately, says Knox, growth at GFU results from more students choosing to attend. In fact, the growth spurt experienced in fall 2013 was marked by an increase of 42.8% in number of accepted first year students who chose to attend George Fox University, compared to the previous year. This is compared to a 9.2% gain in number of students admitted: a change that Knox states falls within normal year-to-year fluctuations.

According to Knox, this increase in students choosing George Fox is tied to the university's strong "value in the marketplace": the school has done an especially good job at offering programs

that are valuable and attractive to college-bound students.

"We're at the most diverse place in our entire history," said Knox. "It's a really good thing that students are choosing us. I want that to be seen as a positive."

Dr. Linda Samek, GFU's provost, shares this sentiment, observing that more first-generation and Pell Grant-eligible students are attending George Fox than ever before.

"I want George Fox to remain relevant in the world we live [in]," said Samek.

In response to concerns about attendance growth at GFU, Samek stated that academic admission standards have not declined, nor has she seen a drop in SAT scores.

George Fox, Samek assures, is not going to become an online university.

"We've figured out who we are, and we're not going to be someone else," she said.

HAVING TO BREAK THE BANK TO PARK YOUR CAR?

PHOTO CREDIT: Julia Howell

DOES GFU HAVE ENOUGH PARKING? THE SIMPLE ANSWER IS YES.

By Heather Harney
Crescent Staff

The cost of living is expensive. Private school is expensive. I am broke.

I remember opening the email from President Baker in the spring, informing me that my tuition would be increased by 2% for the 2015-16 year, and breaking into tears. So imagine my sticker shock when reading that registering my car in order to obtain a parking pass would cost \$120 this year.

Paper was thrown across the room, narrowly missing my dog, and my neighbors were awkward spectators to my rant that sounded something like this: "There is never enough parking. [Bleep. Bleep.] GFU keeps increasing the freshman class, which means more cars with nowhere to park. [Bleep.] If there are no new parking lots, then where does this money go, and why do they think we can afford a

higher price point? Why the price hike?" I know I am not the only one to have asked these questions.

Our presupposition of the lack of parking at GFU seems justified, as does our irritation on higher costs. But are we right? Trying to find parking behind Bauman is like trying to pass through a brick wall: impossible.

"GFU IS STILL ON THE LOWER END OF THE SPECTRUM"

Does GFU have enough parking? The simple answer is yes. There is usually open parking in Le Shana. But instead of going to Le Shana first, everyone heads to Bauman and proceeds to race up and down the four aisles looking for a spot.

Bill Buhrow, dean of students, pointed out that were this Oregon State, students would be thrilled to only have to walk the distance from Le Shana to Hoover. While my view of "available" parking has changed after walking around campus parking lots during peak times and after talking with Buhrow, I still needed to ask about the price increase.

Ed Gierok, director of security, said that "security has nothing to do with the increase," and the funds from the parking passes are actually used to

repair and maintain parking lots and cameras. The money does not go to the football team or ASC events.

As for the increase, it comes with the growth of the school. There needs to be a coffer for things like repaving or fixing potholes. In fact, after doing research into what some high schools and other colleges are charging for parking permits, GFU is still on the lower end of the spectrum.

Many aspects of price increases (in general) occur behind the scenes and are not shared with the student body. This can cause misconceptions about how money is allocated. Buhrow understands why students question the increase. "It is a reasonable thing for humans, not just students, to ask why there is a sudden increase," he said.

So what now?

I propose that those of us (including myself) who complain that there is no parking should instead channel that frustration into a healthy outlet, and that we continue to take the time to question why things are happening on campus. After all, this is a community whose goal is to foster fellowship and to help individuals grow in understanding. As for the administration, I would like to propose that they reach out to students to ask for feedback and stem the dissatisfaction as much as possible in all manners of price increases.

LETTER FROM The Editors



"Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

-- George Bernard Shaw

"I do things like get in a taxi and say, 'The library, and step on it.'"

-- David Foster Wallace

We – Julia and Ryan, your new co-editors-in-chief – have heard it said that new is always, or almost always, better. And so, being good American capitalists, we've introduced some changes to the Crescent this year. Perhaps you've noticed (though perhaps not) that you're not technically holding a newspaper. Well, surprise! This magazine format is one of the changes! Isn't everything nice and glossy and colorful?

But, wait, we're not done yet. You're also going to have the opportunity to hold a brand-new edition of this magazine twice a month. Or, if you prefer, once every

two weeks. We think that's pretty cool. No more reading at the end of the month something that happened at the beginning. Relevancy – this is the word of the year. We're working to be relevant for you, the student, the reader. We want to write about you, your friends, and what it is you're actually out there doing.

Along those lines, the stories themselves are changing. As much fun as are stories about new brickwork at the far corner of campus, we think that, just maybe, you'd rather hear about your floormate who's an Olympic-level Jenga player, or that swooningly attractive senior who tames wild elephants on weekends, or the professor who wrote a book about unicycling during the Cold War. These are the sort of stories we want to write – or, at least something close to them.

You, in fact, can help us. Send along article ideas. Or, even, write them yourself. We love guest work, and only partially because it's unpaid.


Look, writing is important. News is important. Journalism and the state of being informed are important. And, after the Netflix binges and empty cases of Baja Blast, we all want to do worthwhile things, the sorts of things that matter to other people, because, at the end of the day, people matter. That's a sort of modus operandi for this year: people matter. So, please, read and write and discuss and debate. That's how things get better.

We're going to give it our best shot, and we consider ourselves awfully fortunate for the opportunity. We'll give you our best, because that's exactly what you deserve. You have so much rich potential, and we hope that, given the chance, we can write about you, too.

– Julia and Ryan

The 80's Dance





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