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The Crescent

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS



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Polar Bear Plunge

By Evangelina Montelongo

Photo by Katie Culbertson



The Polar Bear Plunge took place on Feb. 4 at Camp Tilikum and was coordinated by Alexandria Falkner, Blue Zone director at the Associated Student Community (ASC).

Falkner began organizing the event a month ago, with the help of her coordinators Miranda Atwood, Emily Arellanes, and the ASC cen-

tral committee. The Polar Bear Plunge is held annually, and each year the event attendance has grown.

“There’s just something about jumping into cold water that brings people together,” said Falkner. “It’s a really cool, special moment and I think the Polar Bear [Plunge] fits really well with ASC’s goal of building a community.”

There were three shifts of shuttles that brought students from the Stevens Center at George Fox University (GFU) to the Tilikum Camp grounds. After the 15 minute bus ride, the students were directed to where they would be making their plunge.

In pairs, students jumped into the fairly shallow water and swam to the nearby dock. After that they would be able

to use the restrooms and put on warmer clothes before gathering around a campfire and receiving their free Polar Bear Plunge sweatshirts.

The design of these sweatshirts varies from year to year.

“Once you got out of the water there was an instant rush, it was a mixture of nerves and excitement,”

“
There’s just something about jumping into cold water that brings people together.
”

said Kestrel Ray, sophomore at GFU. “Afterwards everyone was congratulating each other around the fire and everyone was laughing, taking photos, and getting marshmallows all over their hands.”

Last year Ray was unable to attend the event. This year, urged by her friends, she decided to jump on the bus last minute and see what the experience was about, Ray said.

The Polar Bear Plunge was well-attended on Feb. 4, and the event coordinators hope that it will continue to grow as a community tradition.

SCORR Conference Talks Diversity to Universities

By Mckenzie Young

Last weekend, George Fox University’s (GFU) newly appointed ASC central committee, cultural life ambassadors, and SPIL interns traveled to Biola University in California for the Student Congress on Racial Reconciliation, or SCORR.

Biola University describes the conference as “a national two-day conference during which students, staff, and faculty from various Christian colleges and universities join together to celebrate and learn of the diversity within the body of Christ,” according to their website. There were thirty people representing GFU at the conference.

The event itself was comprised of workshops and a series of keynote speakers, all with the theme of racial reconciliation as seen in Isaiah 58:12: “Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins/and will raise up the age-old foundations/you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,/Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.” Students conversed not only within the community of GFU, but also with communities from other universities.

This was the 21st year that the conference has been held. On the website for the confer-

ence, the director of Biola’s Student Congress on Racial Reconciliation, Glen Kinoshita, said, “With the racial strife that has plagued our nation in recent years, the message of Isaiah 58 is as timely as ever. As we embark on the 21st annual SCORR conference, let us focus our hearts and minds on honoring God by caring for the afflicted soul.”

“It was very humbling for me and inspired me to continue listening and being an advocate and ally,” said Bailey Sauls, a GFU student who attended the conference. “I’m really trying to listen and not be at the center or forefront of this conversation because that’s not my role.”

For other students who are looking to join the conversation of race within the university, the Office of Intercultural Life can be contacted. Jenny Elsey and her cultural ambassadors work hard to make sure that this conversation is one that can be had on campus.

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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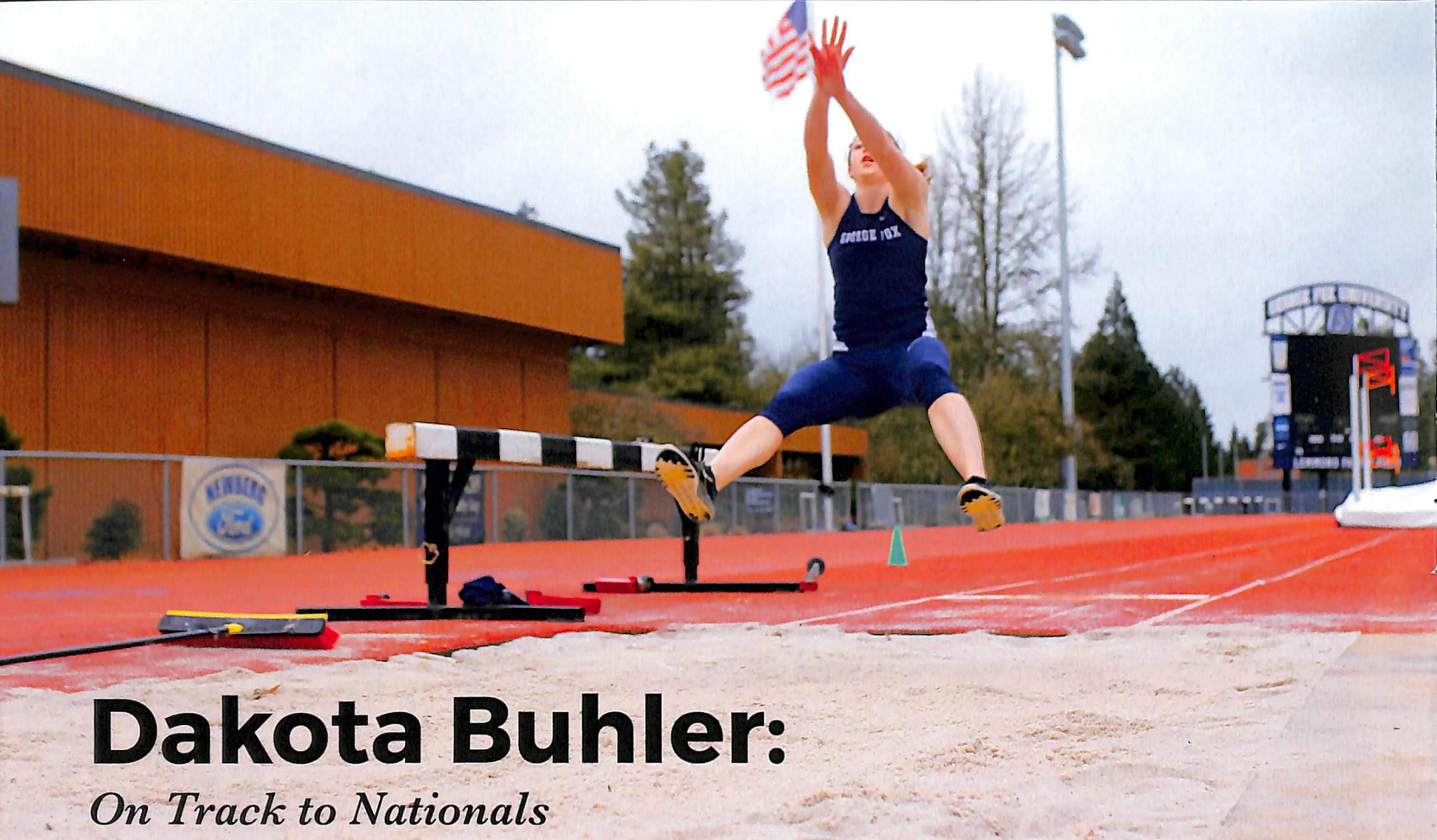
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COVER PHOTO: KATIE CULBERTSON



Dakota Buhler: On Track to Nationals

By Megan Beam

Photo by Katie Culbertson

Dakota Buhler, a junior at George Fox University (GFU), goes through the same routine most days as she practices to compete for GFU's indoor and outdoor track and field team. Indoor track is currently in season, and Buhler competes in the long jump, the triple jump, and the 60-meter hurdle.

Currently ranked at number nine in the nation for the NCAA Division III triple jump, Buhler looks forward to what will come of her great start to the indoor season and what it will mean for the outdoor season. With her competitive standing she looks to be one of the top 17 women in the nation invited to compete in the NCAA Division III National Finals.

Last year Buhler's outdoor record was 38' 9" for the triple

jump, ranking her at 16th. She made it to the National Finals, where she finished 12th. This year she is already close to last year's record with an indoor personal record at 38' 2.75".

Buhler is well on her way to the indoor National Finals for Division III in March.

"By making indoor nationals this year, it's putting me that much closer to an improvement on my last year's marks," Buhler said.

At the start of the 2015-2016 outdoor track season, Buhler's average distance was about 34' for the triple jump and towards the end of the season she reached the 38' mark. Starting off strong near the 38' mark at the start of this indoor season puts Buhler in a promising position for admittance to the Outdoor National Finals, if she maintains her personal records and improves upon them.

Buhler competes in many other events: the long jump, the 100-meter hurdles, and the heptathlon, which includes the two prior events as well as shot put, triple jump, javelin, 200-meter race, and an 800-meter race.

Buhler has participated in track and field for 12 years. Since fourth grade she has competed in everything from distance running to shot put.

"Triple jump is my one true love," Buhler said.

In a way, Buhler has spent most of her life on the track: her mother is a track coach who coached high jump while pregnant with Buhler. She grew up building sandcastles in the jumpers' sandpits and watching high jumpers from underneath their mat.

Other members of the GFU women's indoor track and field team prepare to compete in the National Championship as well.

Rachel Kraske is ranked 5th in the 60-meter hurdles. Annie Wright stands at 5th in the pentathlon. Asia Greene is 5th in the long jump. Sarah King holds the place of 2nd in the 400-meter race.



Stepping up to the Plate

By Adrienne Speer

Photo Courtesy of GFU Athletics

Senior Jalen Drath, a player on George Fox University's (GFU) baseball team, has plenty of praise to dole out for his teammates. "It's a good community of guys," Drath says, "We're all a family. That's what we preach and what we live for."

Drath, who plays second base or designated hitter, said getting into conference and then moving toward a championship would be a dream come true with these men he has come to consider his brothers.

Head coach Marty Hunter, who has coached GFU baseball for ten years, is excited about the possibilities this season holds for the team.

"The guys lift at six in the morning all winter," Hunter said. "From a team standpoint, the guys are very motivated to do well."

A passionate team can only do so much without adequate facilities, however. Last summer the baseball field was turfed, an update that was long-awaited and raised the team's amount of practice time significantly.

"Ours has been a long time coming. You want to be in competition with your peers, and you want the experience to be good for your athletes too," said Hunter.

"
From a team standpoint, the guys are very motivated to do well."
"

Before the field had turf, Hunter had to watch the skies scrupulously to determine when the team could practice, and the dirt on the field was often covered with tarps to keep the rain off. Now that the turf has been installed, the team can practice at any time, in any weather.

Recruiting potential team members is a better experience with the better facility, said Hunter. "It comes into it whether you like it or not."

Next on the agenda for updates are bleachers and restrooms.

Hunter's goals for the season are to get into conference, then into postseason and on to regionals. As a player, Drath's goals are similar, but when asked if there are particular games he's looking forward to, Drath is dedicated to stepping up to the plate (pun intended) no matter the situation.

"All games are important because it could lead to something down the line," he said.

Drath encourages students to come to games and get to know the team; he says



they're good men who love it when there's a crowd cheering them on.

"Come out to games!" he said. "It's fun to come out. It's a good atmosphere."

When asked what he thinks about the team's presence on campus, Drath notes that there tend to be stereotypes associated with athletic teams, and he notices lines drawn between athletes and non-athletes at GFU.

"There's a huge disconnect between athletes and non-athletes on campus. I want to bridge that gap," he said. "Just being able to be friends with people, finding a common ground between the two--my heart goes out to that."

SHOPPING LOCAL

Pulp & Circumstance

By Hannah Dugan

Photo by Shelby Bauer

Tucked away on the corner of 2nd St. and College St. in a purple Victorian house is Pulp & Circumstance, a treasure trove of artisanal goods and gifts. Owners Jennifer Sitter and Ashley Lippard founded the store as a way to bring high quality goods to Newberg and showcase some local creators in the process.

A quick perusal of the store reveals cards, paintings, jewelry and leather goods. The more you look, the more you will find — bright bouquets of flowers are displayed on the porch, and a small room near the back has a counter of unique candies. One wall is completely devoted to greeting cards; another sunlit corner features glass terrariums hanging from the ceiling. Almost all of their products are made in the USA. Cards come from Etsy sellers, about 40 of which are local consignments. “We

started by looking for people at the Mississippi Street Market, but now people come to us. We still go to buying shows, though,” said Sitter.

The stage is set for a unique relationship between the store and the students of George Fox University (GFU). Pulp & Circumstance partners with several students in selling their work in the form of prints, cards, or art. Sitter, whose favorite part of the job is buying, encouraged students to submit photos of their work via e-mail to be considered for consignment.

Sitter, whose background is in marketing, relocated from Seattle to Dundee with her family. A mutual friend put her in contact with Lippard, and the two began a partnership. Lippard is a graphic design professor at GFU, and she also owns and operates the store.

The store has been constantly evolving since its inception. “We thought it was going to be more modern, and it’s completely not. I would describe the aesthetic as more vintage, Anthropologie-esque. Being in this old house we felt it needed some old fashioned charm,” said Sitter. “You learn what sells.” Pulp & Circumstance adds “a place to find locally made products and a fun shopping atmosphere” to the Newberg community, in Sitter’s words.

The store offers a 5% discount for all GFU students and will send students exclusive offers if they opt-in for their newsletter. Additionally, Pulp & Circumstance can be found at a booth at the First Friday Market in Newberg.



For The Love of Literature

By Evangelina Montelongo

Photo by Mick Hangland-Skill

Sigma Tau Delta (STD) is a club for English Majors or Minors who have completed three semesters of coursework. The club has been active at George Fox University (GFU) for 8 years and has brought together not only a community of students sharing their passion for the written word, but a community of people who enjoy the company of other intellectuals.

Each year STD hosts several events, including the Love Poetry Reading and Date With A Book. This club highlights literature and writing through social events and their new radio show Bears & Beatniks, thanks to coordinator Rory Phillips.

"Poetry can be read in so many ways and the way you read it gives it a different meaning every time," Phillips said. "That's why we wanted to go on the radio and talk about it. When you're done reading there's this feeling of elation and you feel set free. It's a wonderful experience."

The radio show airs every Tuesday night at 8pm on KFOX and hosts guest speakers as well as members of STD reading their own personal works.

Members of STD come together and embrace their diverse interests in different authors. The community not only gives national recognition for students developing their resumes, it also provides personal recognition within a group united by a shared love.

"We want to create a space for literature at George Fox," said Britta Walen, president of STD. "We see that the written word and the history of that is very important. For the more literarily inclined, introverted students who want to reach out but don't necessarily want to go to a dance every week, you can come and read poetry or come watch a movie. We want to create a space for the book lovers and for the introverts."

In recent years, STD has been trying to welcome literature lovers outside their usual membership to their on-campus events.

"We're really not interested in the popularity aspect," said Phillips. "We're not interested in being the most liked, we just like being resourceful. If people are interested and want to broaden their horizons we'd like to be there for them."

"For a lot of the people involved [literature] influences every aspect of our lives," said Walen. "It influences our conversation, how we interact, our references--if you read a book and fall in love with it, it comes out. At Sigma Tau Delta we want to celebrate that and create more outlets for the books that are inside of people, whether they wrote them or someone else has, to come out in a space we provide."

To join STD, students can reach out to Walen or the faculty advisor, Gary Tandy.



Christian Dating Culture

By McKenzie Young

In light of Valentine's Day, I want to start an honest conversation about Christian dating culture at George Fox University (GFU). On February 14th, I sat in an apartment with seven other girls and a guy. My Life - Group leader had brought her significant other; we were going to talk about love. We were captivated as we drank tea on the couch and they answered our deluge of tough questions about relationships and marriage with poise and wisdom. I, for one, came in with a million questions and even more doubts. What if their answers were uncomfortable? What if it turned out that I had no idea what love is? They gave practical advice that I had never once heard from a pastor. And this is the great irony: in a of room six college students who had grown up in the Christian faith, a religion that is supposed to be characterized by love, not one of us knew what to make of the Christian portrayal of romance.

One statement my leader made, I will not forget. She told us that, as Christians, we are pressured to focus on the future, especially in regards to marriage and dating. And she said to us, "You can't anticipate that future because you don't know that 'you' yet." As a collective group, we have made romance more about control than love; people try to control their future, their ability to plan and commit, and let's be honest, when they can

have sex. We no longer trust and explore. We control and "obey." And, by and large, we have been taught to do this by the Church.

Think about the last time you were given actual, practical relationship advice in a church service or chapel that wasn't based on control or obedience. It's been a while, hasn't it? Now think of the number of times you've walked out of a service feeling ashamed of your choices or having heard a message about finding the person God planned for you. If you grew up in the faith, you've probably heard this too often to count. That's a lot of pressure to put on relationships. And that's a lot of pressure to put on any person: they have to be the "one."

I have had experiences with relationships that have hurt me, as have most of us. This is a part of life — a part of growing up. But because of the messages taught in Church that link our relationships with our identity, I believe that the love hurts more often than it heals. What hurt me the most was not the actual break up but the fallout from it. There was this sort of unspoken expectation that it would work out, because, in a subversive kind of way, Christian university dating culture says, "If you date for longer than a month, you're in it for life." It was as if "no" was not an answer that was allowed; the expectations of others had already deter-

mined our future. My Life - Group leader pointed out that we often throw around phrases about love and marriage like they're nothing. "Oh so when's the wedding?" Elbow, elbow, nudge nudge. "I'm gonna talk about this at your guys' reception." It's like we don't even consider the idea that it's okay to just date to get to know someone or that dating may be just as much about getting to know yourself. Being at a small school doesn't help. With one sighting at Chapters or Coffee Cottage, everyone knows and everyone cares.

I am not against dedicated relationships. I'm in one. But we must remember that it takes a while to get there. There will be failures, setbacks, and close calls. There will be almosts and not-quites and some-days. But marriage is not for the faint of heart and divorce statistics will back that up. So, we must ask ourselves: in a culture where one date means marriage, what are we really telling our children about commitment? You may wonder why I've brought up this issue, or what the point of talking about it is. And to that I would respond, why not? Why are we more afraid to talk about dating than we are to get married after 6 months? It's time that we stop being afraid and start having these kinds of conversations. Ask someone out, go to coffee, get to know people. If you like it, you really really don't have to put a ring on it. At least not yet.

Chapel Funding Needs a New System

By Tanner Aliff
Guest Writer

“
Still, the moral issue remains that chapel technically relies on students failing to attend in order to keep the community event afloat. Also, the monetary coercion of the fine has been noted to conflict with the University’s philosophy of freely choosing God.”

Chapel, George Fox University’s (GFU) attempt to bring students into one spiritual community body, remains an area of heated controversy.

“The board of trustees intends chapel to be a place where the entire student body can come together, worship and reflect on current events as a community,” said Jamie Johnson, associate pastor at GFU.

The intention may be noble and correspond with the University’s creed to graduate well-educated and spiritually conscientious individuals, but some are skeptical about how Chapel policies figure into the institution’s budget.

“Why are there chapel fines to coerce people into going?” asked a concerned sophomore. “Aren’t people supposed to come if they are a believer?”

Like any other department on campus, Spiritual and Intercultural Life (SPIL), the department that oversees chapel, is allotted a certain amount of funding by the board of trustees to facilitate the weekly gatherings. As Johnson explained, however, the “budget does not always cover the cost of chapel” and the fines students pay for missing chapel are mostly used to make up the difference.

The significant expenses of chapel result in SPIL benefiting from students incurring fines.

When asked if the chapel program could stay alive if all students attended, Johnson said, “Yes, but changes and requests would be needed to expand the budget in order to continue chapel.” Johnson noted that the fines may be a significant source of income, “but by no means make up the bulk of the chapel budget.”

Still, the moral issue remains that chapel technically relies on students failing to attend in order to keep the community event afloat. Also, the monetary coercion of the fine has been noted to conflict with

the University’s philosophy of freely choosing God.

Johnson acknowledged this and said, “I have advocated for change, but it is the only compromise we have so far to keep students committed to chapel.”

Alternative solutions were proposed to get rid of the questionable morality of the policy and shift the responsibility of the budget back onto the board of trustees. This would take the pressure off SPIL to require a chapel fine.

One sophomore proposed creating an educational incentive to replace the fine.

The idea was to change the fine into an educational grade where points are lost for absences, which would appease SPIL by ensuring students are still given an incentive to come. This would still support the board of trustees’ wish to have a required community chapel and it would free students, who are already paying for their education, from paying chapel fines. The responsibility of funding the budget would be put back on the shoulders of the board.

However, the student withdrew the proposal after receiving statistics from SPIL that suggested students may not be all that enthralled with the notion of making chapel a graded activity.

According to SPIL, the average amount of students that failed to meet the fifteen required chapels for the last five semesters was 361, which is usually 28% of the student body required to attend. Johnson said that out of the average, “About half of those students (180),” said Johnson, “payed the full 200 dollars for missing all required chapel sessions.”

Statistics like these reflect that a significant portion of student body is apathetic and willing to just pay their way through chapel.

The chapel program is technically stable, and, as Johnson said, the fine provides the only working compromise so far.

However, the question of the fine’s rightness makes this compromise less than ideal.

Are students satisfied supporting such a system? or might we be able to find a better solution?



Walking the Green Line

By Joshua Cayetano

The past two weeks, I have been traveling through Israel/Palestine, quite literally living in the midst of today’s most difficult political problem. My head and my heart feel ripped in two directions, and only two Aspirins seem to numb my pounding headaches.

We’ve heard many voices, but one speaker’s words have stayed with me. He told a condensed version of a story in the Talmud in which a man asked a rabbi where exactly God was present in a Jewish household.

Summarizing the rabbi, the speaker said, “God’s dwelling is in the space that exists between the husband and wife, in that tension of struggling to understand the other.”

As a student studying abroad in the Middle East, I don’t know if I’ve ever found a more accurate statement. For the past two weeks, and plenty earlier, I have had Israeli

advocates whispering in one ear and Palestinian advocates whispering in the other.

It’s a bit maddening because the moment I turn to listen to one, the opposite side becomes the other that I am called to understand.

The internal back and forth can easily lead to paralysis and inaction, and it has on many occasions. How do I prevent this?

I’m still struggling with that question, but I believe the yeshiva-style of learning has something to say about my current predicament.

In the Orthodox Jewish tradition, young men can study the Bible and the Talmud at a yeshiva for two years. The rabbis encourage the students to find no resting place, and only seek the harder question until they arrive at the tension between two conflicting truths.

The head rabbi of the yeshiva we visited told us the Talmud offered no final words,

only suggestions for interpretation. “If there is a final word, it’s not part of the Talmud,” he said.

I found this philosophy interesting, as the historic Christian church has placed a high premium on maintaining orthodoxy and expelling the heretic. I thought if there was no creed, any extremist could bend the scripture to his interest, and no rabbi could protest. I asked the rabbi what prevented extreme, heretical sects of Judaism from popping up, much like in Islam or historic Christianity.

Without missing a beat, he said “the democracy of knowledge” prevents any one person from having a monopoly on the truth. The culture of questioning “forces you to always identify with the other.”

Those words resonated with me. In the United States, we view democracy as valuable because it brings people closer to the center. Similarly, entertaining a multiplicity of

voices in my head has allowed me to remain humble and continue to seek to identify with the other.

As I walk the Green Line separating Israel from the West Bank, I walk the space between two conflicting truths that somehow contain a truth greater than either side. In this space, no immediate political solutions arise, only the struggle to understand the other remains. And, as a foreigner in a foreign land, walking that thin line is my only priority.



Katie Culbertson