

2015

## "The Crescent" Student Newspaper, November 25, 2015

George Fox University Archives

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/the\\_crescent](https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/the_crescent)

---

### Recommended Citation

George Fox University Archives, ""The Crescent" Student Newspaper, November 25, 2015" (2015). *"The Crescent" Student Newspaper*. 1466.  
[https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/the\\_crescent/1466](https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/the_crescent/1466)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Museum at Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in "The Crescent" Student Newspaper by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact [arolfe@georgefox.edu](mailto:arolfe@georgefox.edu).



# *The Crescent*

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

***CRITTER CABANA:  
A STORY OF FURRY FRIENDS  
AND NEW BEGINNINGS***

***PAGE 4***



# A FALLEN GIANT

By Adrienne Speer  
Crescent Staff

No one was harmed Nov. 9 when an Oregon White Oak on the George Fox University (GFU) campus came crashing down near Minthorn Hall.

Kathy Harris, the administrative assistant for the departments of Communication, Journalism, and Cinematic Arts in Minthorn Hall, said she thought the sound of the tree falling was just a window shutting upstairs, but when she looked out the window, the fallen oak's branches were still trembling from the impact.

"I'm glad nobody got hurt," she said. "We could have had a whole different day."

Harris and other staff members who work in Minthorn Hall have some concern over the safety of the building.

"When there's a big breeze out there...you

stand here and watch the trees waver, and there's a lot of movement in them, so yes, we worry about them." Harris said.

GFU Plant Services hired certified arborist David Hunter to survey the campus trees after the

## "I'M GLAD NOBODY GOT HURT"

event. He and several staff members did a walk-through of the campus to examine the grove of White Oaks.

The roots of the tree that fell had been infected by Armillaria root disease.

Hunter, who has been a consultant for over 20 years, looked at every tree in the Quad's arbor and made notes on each. If he found anything troubling,

further testing might be necessary.

"Testing will give the risk managers, the staff, a better idea of what the stability of some of these are...I'm looking at what the canopy looks like, what the branch attachments look like, what the base attachments look like; if I find any defects I write notes down and then I will submit that as part of my report," he said.

Hunter sees wisdom in checking up on the trees.

"I'm glad they're being proactive, because in my industry I've seen where things have happened and I've had to go back and do forensics later as to why the tree failed," he said.

According to Plant Services, two trees in the Minthorn grove are scheduled to come down in the future. The wood from the fallen tree will be donated.

PHOTO: KOSETTE ISAKSON

*The Crescent*

NOVEMBER 25, 2015 | ISSUE V VOLUME CXLII

#### Editors-in-Chief

Ryan Lackey  
Julia Howell

#### Finance Manager & Social Media

Izzy Anderson

#### News Editor

Joshua Cayetano

#### Sports Editor

Jessica Rivera

#### Arts & Culture Editor

Denny Muia

#### Opinions Editor

Jade Becker

#### Copy Editors

Emily Lund  
Amy Sickler

#### Photographers

Mick Hangland-Skill  
Kosette Isakson  
Hayden Mercurio  
Joel Rurik

#### Reporters

Mikaela Bray  
Heather Harney  
Rory Phillips  
Adrienne Speer  
John Weinert  
Jordan Whitney

#### Webmaster

James Hines

#### Interns

John Burgess  
Madison Caldwell  
Justin Fuentes  
Evangeline Montelongo  
Maidina Tuohuti  
Cassidy Scott  
Kelsey Herschberger

#### Faculty Advisor

Melanie Mock

#### Financial Advisor

Sam Engleman

#### 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.

#### Distribution

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.

#### Contact

Reach us with any comments or questions at [georgefoxcrescent@gmail.com](mailto:georgefoxcrescent@gmail.com) or online at [gfucrescent.com](http://gfucrescent.com)

COVER PHOTO: JOHN BURGESS

# COMMUTER LIFE AT GFU

By Kosette Isakson  
Crescent Staff

The Associated Student Committee (ASC) at George Fox University (GFU) created a new position this year, the Vice President of Commuter Life, due to the growing commuter population.

ASC is working to accommodate off-campus students with programs like free commuter lunch and the remodeling of the FoxHole.

Michael Peterson, a junior mechanical engineering major from Newberg, Ore., holds the position of Vice President of Commuter Life and was one of the commuter representatives last year.

According to Peterson, there are roughly 2,300 students at GFU, and nearly half of them are

commuters.

Until this year there were no defined advocates for commuters, Peterson said.

"I think when we added this branch the dream was to give the commuters more of a voice," he said, "and obviously we do a couple of events. But the main goal of this branch is not events; the main goal is making the voice heard and representing."

One of these events is the free commuter lunch offered every other Thursday, an event started last year under Mitzi Martinez.

Helping Peterson accomplish this goal are Commuter Representatives Emily Russell, Ricky Miguel-Sixto, and Tiffany Nguyen.

Over this past summer ASC remodeled the FoxHole, a student lounge open only to commuters during the day and to all students in the evenings.

"Commuter lunches are great, but I'm the

happiest about the FoxHole," Peterson said. "We've had a lot of positive things come out of that. It gives us a place to interact with commuters."

GFU has accepted large freshman classes over the past few years, adding to the number of students living off-campus.

"When you have growth, you have change," said Peterson. "It definitely changes the student experience."

Peterson said ASC is striving to work with the administration to maintain the university's "Be Known" promise, even as the student population rises.

"When we started this commuter branch, that was a big part of our vision," said Peterson. "Being known, being heard, feeling that this place is home and you have say in what's going on, that you have ownership in what's happening."

PHOTO: ASC

# NEWBERG PAPER MILL CLOSES

By John Weinert  
Crescent Staff

The Newberg, Ore. paper mill closed its doors earlier this month, resulting in the layoff of over 200 employees.

The closure came after the acquisition of SP Fiber Technologies, the previous owner of the mill, by WestRock, one of the largest paper and packaging companies in the world.

The sale was finalized on Oct. 1, and WestRock announced in mid-October its intention to cease production at the mill.

Members of the community are hopeful, however.

Rather than close the mill forever, WestRock has decided to shut it down indefinitely but in a state in which the facility will still be maintained and capable of reopening, a status called "idling."

While the plant has closed before, workers say that this time has a different feel.

"We knew when we were going to come back," said Tim Eide, a pipe fitter, in an interview with the Newberg Graphic. "This time they really haven't given us any indication that there would be a startup date down the road, if any at all."



The closing of the mill, which has produced newsprint since 1968, is related to the declining demand for paper and newsprint in general, as news outlets move increasingly to online formats.

Workers are hopeful that the mill can be converted to produce kraft paper, a type of brown wrapping paper.

The mill closure will also have a significant impact in Portland, Ore., which supplied the mill

with a large majority of its scrap wood for fuel. With the mill now gone, the city will have to find a new, and potentially more expensive, way to deal with excess scrap wood.

A Facebook page, titled "Friends of Newberg Mill Support," has been formed to provide assistance to the former mill employees. It is open to the community.

PHOTO: JOHN BURGESS



## CRITTER CABANA: A STORY OF SEEMINGLY IMPAUSIBLE RECOVERY



By Mikaela Bray  
Crescent Staff

Critter Cabana has been sitting in the heart of downtown Newberg for more than a decade. Walking inside, the interior is brightly lit, illuminating the rows of bubbling fish tanks and shelves of supplies on the ground floor. The air is filled with the noise of finches chirping and puppy claws clicking upstairs, where a dog training course is being held.

In a corner of one of the two lofts, Sydney the cockatoo quietly preens while Winston, Rocky, and Tortilla the Sulcata tortoises bask under their heat lamp. From this clean, lively atmosphere, the average onlooker can't tell that the store has only been reopened for two years, after a fire almost destroyed the business.

Brittani Johnson, the store manager and one of Critter Cabana's founders, remembers the fire all too well. It began in the basement, where a quarantine fish tank overloaded the breaker.

"The breaker box didn't do its job by cutting it off, so it just kept getting hotter and hotter," she said. The fire didn't spread up into the ground floor, but smoke and heat filled the building, and many of the animals died.

Even considering all the destruction of the fire, Johnson is still aware it could have been much worse. Many animals were able to escape their cages when the heat warped the glass, and in the days after the fire, survivors were recovered from the rubble. "A week later, we found an aquatic turtle

wandering around in the soot ... they need to be able to get back in a pond to stay moist, but he was totally fine," she said. Out of 138 animals in the store, 89 survived the fire.

The path to recovery wasn't easy. Not only did insurance complications make rebuilding financially strenuous, but the ordeal was also emotionally taxing.

"Were we good enough stewards to these animals, that their lives were lost? Should we even be doing this?" Johnson remembers wondering. She wasn't sure she could handle returning to the same building, a constant reminder of how many animals' lives were lost.

But Critter Cabana's community refused to let them give up. "[The community] was the emotional support through that," Johnson said, "saying, 'No, we trust you, we want you back, we need you back, you're part of our town.'" Newberg raised money through a number of fundraisers, volunteered individuals to help clean up the building, and provided encouragement both in person and through social media.

"Critter Cabana is more like a community" compared to other pet stores, according to Bekah Miles, a George Fox University student and Critter Cabana patron.

The Johnsons appreciate having students come by, despite how little profit they bring. "Having students in the store gives it a really good energy," Johnson said, and she loves finding students' pictures of the store and its animals on Facebook or Instagram.

Even after reopening, the fire left its mark on

the business. Aside from the renovations to bring the building up to code, a pet store has additional needs. Shortly after the reopening, Critter Cabana needed to have its heating elements approved by the fire marshal. The heating elements are a crucial part of care for many of the reptiles that Critter Cabana carries. Unable to properly heat the animals right away, they desperately tried to adopt out the affected reptiles until the new under tank heating was approved.

Their changes also included a new HVAC system to keep odors down. "I really like to hear from people ... about how clean it smells in here," Johnson said.

Critter Cabana actively participates in the Newberg community, providing prizes for Oktoberfest's wiener dog races and, more simply, by its presence as a welcoming neighborhood shop. Getting off campus and playing with the animals relieves stress for many students.

"It's like therapy," said Miles.

Still, the Critter Cabana team is still recovering in many ways. Johnson and the other owners are on alert 24/7 in case of emergencies, responding immediately if another alarm goes off. With a satellite location in Wilsonville, they make regular trips back and forth. But watching their animals being loved by visitors and eventually taken to good homes makes it all worth the effort. They dedicate everything to building and improving relationships between humans and pets, and the fire was only a setback.

PHOTO: JOHN BURGESS

## KATIE WIGHT A DRAMATIC SENIOR



By Heather Harney  
Crescent Staff

Imagine, if you will, an empty stage. Shadows outline the minimal set design, and one spotlight illuminates a woman. She appears to have stepped straight out of a black and white film. There is a transcendent sophistication to her slight smile. Her clothes are elegant.

The spotlight shuts off, just for a minute. When it turns its bright eye back to the stage, you notice the woman is gone but standing in her place is a young girl. Her eyes are wide and full of awe. She speaks with her entire body, with arms stretched wide and a voice that carries. The light shuts off again.

Senior Katelin (Katie) Wight has played both figures among her various other roles. In total, Wight has performed in seven plays at George Fox University (GFU). She has been the ingénue and the protagonist. She often steals the show with her intuitive movement between dialogue and action. There is something intrinsic within Wight that allows her to breathe meaningful life into a character.

Professor Kathy Heininge said, "[Katie] has great empathy. She can see multiple sides to a story, and this contributes to her ability to step inside these characters in a compelling way, even characters who are wholly unlikable."

Wight has learned a lot about drama and the examination of character, setting, action, and words from Heininge's and Professor Abigail Favale's

classes. She believes both women have helped her grow as an artist, a writer, and a storyteller. Wight believes a lot can be found in the in-between, and both professors have continually challenged her to do so.

In particular, Heininge and Favale stress, in Heininge's words, "the ambiguity of language, thinking about what we bring to the reading that colors our interpretation of a character or

### ***"THE URGE TO STORY-TELL, TO PERFORM, AND TO SING HAS ALWAYS BEEN THERE"***

situation."

Wight first fell in love with the theatre when she saw Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" in Chicago. Her family lived in Naperville, Ill., between Katie's fifth-grade year and her entry into high school. Wight was able to pursue more opportunities in theatre when living in Naperville, even doing some summer community theater.

"The urge to story-tell, to perform, and to sing has always been there. I arrived on the scene performing. According to my parents, I would jump out of the bathtub and onto the coffee table singing songs from Snow White," said Wight.

Wight loves to sing; her favorite musical is "Sunday in the Park with George." She is passionate about history, cares deeply about social justice and sharing people's journeys, and loves literature.

Wight is also obsessed with Harry Potter. "I think it is a great story because it does a really lovely job in this fun, adventuresome, magical context by handling really important issues, such as racism and corruption in government," explained Wight.

Wight is currently preparing to play Percy in "Spitfire Grill," this winter's musical. She believes Percy will be her favorite role during her time at GFU; this character is the most nuanced she has ever played.

As her time at George Fox nears its final curtain, Wight has begun to look toward her future, hopefully across the pond. The British theatre is more about creating story than featuring celebrities, which is why Wight has begun to apply for graduate musical theatre programs in the United Kingdom.

"I have loved my undergraduate training here. I believe it has been exceptional training and a beautiful department. I would like to continue that in a space that is much more about exploring the story. [UK theatre] is about serving the art," said Wight.

With graduation approaching, GFU will be losing one of its shining stars. Wight is definitely one-of-a-kind. Her contribution to GFU's theatre program has left its mark. Those of us who have been blessed to see Wight on the stage should consider ourselves lucky to have witnessed an artist convert words into a melody and action into empathy.

PHOTO: HEATHER HARNEY



# SUCCESS IS BREWING FOR THE BRUINS



## GFU FOOTBALL HAS BECOME A FEARSOME OPPONENT

By Justin Fuentes  
Crescent Staff

After an exhilarating 21-14 home victory finale against conference opponent Willamette University, the George Fox University (GFU) football team has officially ended their season.

Last year's debut season led to only one victory, but this year's Bruins improved to a 4-6 record.

Led by Head Coach Chris Casey, the program produced six All-Northwest Conference Players: senior Jesse Bresser, senior John Shaffer, senior Lenana Meekisho, junior Tanner Krahel, junior Nolan Schuler and junior Brad Lander.

A welcome change from last year, the Bruins treated their fan base to three wins from their four home games. The fans responded: for the second year in a row, the Bruins led the conference in attendance yet again.

The offense, led by running back Shaffer, who led the conference in rushing yards, improved by leaps and bounds, more than doubling their points per game to 27.

Starting quarterback Grant Schroeder took advantage of a considerably improved offensive line, throwing for 1,000 more yards than he did the year

before, and adding nine touchdowns.

The Bruin defense kept the team competitive with stalwart play by motivational leaders Dominick Fix-Gonzalez, Krahel and Justin Kruse, among others.

The scoring margin in the Bruins' losses averaged out to less than a two-touchdown deficit.

Although the game resulted in a loss, the Bruin defense held cross-county rival and perennial national title contender Linfield Wildcats to just 24 points, the Wildcats' lowest total all season.

In their a gut-wrenching loss against La Verne to open the season, the Bruins were leading in the 4th quarter but couldn't hold the advantage. They did not hang their heads in defeat, but realized their potential, and were fully assured in their abilities in the next match up at home against Redlands University.

Offensive Coordinator Coach Ken Ingram said, "[That was] the game where the Bruin football program lift[ed] off."

The Bruins took the field and put on a show for the record crowd filling Stoffer Family Stadium, eventually winning against a formidable Redlands team in the last eight seconds on a goalline touchdown run.

"From that point on we found our confidence for the season," said second-year starter Chase

Hudson. "Last year as a new program, guys were still getting their feet wet and a little hesitant on their assignments. This year we understood what we were doing a lot more and it showed out there on the field."

Brimming with confidence five games into the season, the one-win Bruins team of last year were already in the midst of a three-win season, shattering the low expectations any second-year program would have.

The Bruins would go on to face the bulk of their tough conference opponents the last five games of the season. They dropped the next four games, but they bounced back to knock out their last conference opponent, the Willamette University Bearcats, in the home finale.

"It was a great season, we went out there and hit a lot of teams in the mouth who were just expecting us to back down," said starting junior Caylen Clardy.

PHOTO: JOHN BURGESS

## MOVED BY THE MUSE

By Heather Harney  
Crescent Staff

Senior Asia Greene is not just a track star, nor is she only an English major. Greene is also a well-known poet.

Last year, Greene had a fabulous season, earning the NCAA Division III National Athlete of the Week for breaking George Fox University's (GFU) record in the long jump, leaping over 19 feet (19'1.5").

"Last year was my first year training before the season started, like you are supposed to do. I have seen myself become stronger," Greene said.

Greene is also earning a reputation as a strong and poignant poet. Over the last few years, she has participated in Spoken Word events hosted by the Latino Heritage Club at GFU, and she's even performed one of her pieces at the 3rd annual TEDxPortland, a division of TEDx Talks.

Her love of storytelling began at a young age.

"I started when I was eight years young. Basically it started off as little stories. Oh my gosh, they were so cheesy," said Greene. "I remember we were learning how to create catchy titles in elementary school. Some of my titles were 'Snip. Snip. That is the sound of my hair falling off' or 'Clap. Clap.'"

Soon, her stories became longer. Greene's parents encouraged her to read her pieces in church.

"The last short story before I became a poet was about the tissue boy. It was about a little boy who did not have a role in church. He would just hand out tissues to those who would cry," said Greene.

From there, Greene found spoken word to be a creative outlet for her stories and her passions.



"All my poems have a message for me but also for everyone else," she said.

Her first spoken word poem of this year, titled "Don't Turn the News Off," is about a young woman who tells Greene to turn off the news because she does not want her day ruined. Greene's response to this young woman emphasizes that she needs to hear what goes on; otherwise, she's in danger of growing comfortable and complacent with atrocities.

Greene does not write her poems down for others to read. Her storytelling is personal and meant to be heard aloud.

Greene does not want to compete at spoken word events, but instead hopes to continue to share with the community on campus.

"The spoken word nights are packed. You are surrounded by family. They will encourage you if

you pause. They will tell you how your poem affects them," said Greene.

"For the longest time I did not watch others do spoken word because I did not know that was what I was doing for a while," said Greene.

Two of Greene's spoken word role models are Propaganda (his "G.O.S.P.E.L." is one of her favorite poem) and Jacky Hill Perry ("Jig-a-boo" is Greene's favorite).

Greene is a performer, jumper, writer, poet, and much more. After this year, if all works out, she plans to attend GFU's Master of Arts and Teaching program after graduation.

PHOTO: HAYDEN MERCURIO

## NICOLE BLIZZARD COMES IN LIKE A HURRICANE

By Madison Caldwell  
Crescent Staff

Senior Nicole Blizzard loved everything about basketball the minute she began playing.

Her father, a swimmer, and her mother, a volleyball player, connected with friends who knew about a basketball league in their community for children. Blizzard joined the team in second grade.

Growing up, her favorite activity was playing basketball at recess with the guys. She loved to play any chance she got.

"One Christmas I convinced my parents to get an outdoor basketball hoop. I would go outside after school and play until the streetlights came on," Blizzard said.

By seventh grade Blizzard knew she wanted to play in college. She worked hard to improve and hone her skills.

Blizzard went on to play varsity all four years at Lakeridge High School in Lake Oswego, Ore. Her

team did not perform well in the league, so success was a key factor for her in deciding on a college.

Blizzard chose George Fox University (GFU) solely for its women's basketball team. During her senior year of high school, the GFU women's team lost in the national championship game, and Blizzard was ready to play for a good team.

"I was sold after I saw that. I didn't look at any of the rest of GFU. The first time I came to visit was the day I told my coach that I was playing," she said.

She feels lucky that GFU has been a great school and experience for her, but playing basketball exceeded her expectations in many ways.

"My favorite part of playing in college is all the people I have met. All four years we've had completely different teams and I'm still close with some of the girls from my freshman year team," Blizzard said.

Looking back on her experience as a Bruin, she feels honored to have played for such a successful team and is heading into her current season with personal goals.

Blizzard has never been hugely concerned with her own stat line. Instead her goal for this season is to become a good leader. She believes this skill will help her in her life after basketball.

She wants her team to reach their full potential – and have fun doing it – and live up to the GFU women's basketball legacy.

As a senior, the looming life after college can be stressful and harried, but Blizzard already has a job lined up for next year as an audit associate at KPMG, an accounting firm in Portland, Ore.

"I came to love accounting my sophomore year. I put my love of basketball into accounting, which is really weird to think that you can put any passion into accounting," Blizzard said.

She plans on making basketball a part of her life after college and plans on coaching in the future.

"I've loved every minute I've had at GFU. From my professors that I've had to administration to my coaches, I have nothing bad to say about this school. I'm very happy with where I am," she said.



# HOW IS GFU TREATING ITS ADJUNCTS?

By John Weinert  
Crescent Staff

It has been said before that entering the world of academia must, above all, be an act of love: love of learning, love of teaching, and love of the discipline to which one has committed. Little else can sustain a student through the hard work of graduate school or the late nights of grading as a professor.

Yet this love of learning may not be enough for the many adjunct professors currently holding uncertain teaching positions across America. These adjuncts, whose positions are temporary and relatively low-paid, are faced with many of the difficulties of teaching higher education while receiving few of its benefits.

In fact, a study by the UC Berkeley Labor Center determined that a quarter of all adjuncts are on government assistance of some sort. According to another study, put out by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), more than 60% of adjunct professors work more than one job.

Despite the financial untenability of adjunct positions, however, such positions are on the rise. According to the AAUP, part-time adjunct positions have risen from less than 25% of all higher education staff in 1975 to more than 40% in 2011. The report continues on to state that while tenure-track positions have grown 26% since 1975, adjunct positions have increased by 300% in the same period.

It's a problem in higher education everywhere, including George Fox University (GFU). Dr. Laura Gifford taught at GFU as an adjunct in the history department from 2007 through the spring of 2015, working off and on as teaching positions were made available to her.

Gifford was well-respected by her students and co-workers and by any metric deserved full-time employment. She earned a Ph.D. from UCLA in 2006 and has published a respectable body of scholarly work, including a 2008 book on the pivotal 1960 presidential election. Still, despite these qualifications, she remained an adjunct during her time at GFU.

Ultimately, Gifford was forced to leave GFU after a move from Newberg to Portland made her commute unreasonably long for what she was getting. "Much as I would have enjoyed continuing to teach at GFU," wrote Gifford in an email interview, "it was not financially feasible to pay for the gas, child care, etc. that would have been involved while earning adjunct pay."

Isolated from the system that makes tenure-track professors so difficult to remove, adjuncts are nothing less than exploited. According to NPR, an adjunct typically makes between \$20,000 and \$25,000 in a year; only slightly higher than the \$19,240 a person working a full-time minimum-wage job in Oregon would earn in that same time.

Relying on adjuncts is academically damaging, as they are not placed in a position that is most conducive to effective teaching. Besides being paid significantly less than full time professors, adjuncts

have limited access to school resources. In addition, their ability to plan their lessons is curtailed by the uncertain nature of their position, as adjuncts are often given short notice regarding the classes they will teach in a given semester, or if they will even be teaching at all.

There are several basic realities that make hiring adjuncts particularly appealing to universities: they are much cheaper to employ than full-time faculty, since they are paid less and do not receive benefits; and they provide a great deal of flexibility, since they are part-time and can be hired to fill in any gaps in the course offerings.

Still, universities, as places of higher learning, should prioritize people and education over the bottom line. While a reliance on adjuncts saves a school money, it provides the students with a poorer education and supports a hiring process that is, in its present form, nothing short of predatory. A Christian institution such as GFU should be all the more committed to doing the right thing and treating its employees correctly, even if it costs more money.

PHOTO: MICK HANGLAND-SKILL

# YIK-YAK OR YIK-YUK?

By Adrienne Speer  
Crescent Staff

In recent months, the popular app Yik Yak has quickly become George Fox University's (GFU's) favorite platform for passive-aggression.

For the non-techies among us (or those who have neither time nor interest to devote to Yik Yak), Yik Yak is an application downloaded onto a mobile device that allows users to post and comment anonymously to a public "feed," visible to any other user within a five mile radius.

The app's purpose is presumably to entertain and facilitate venting. Wednesday nights, one can open the app to find an entertaining and diverse commentary on the weekly chapel proceedings. At other times, posts are about "the cute guy at the library" or the cupcakes served in the cafeteria.

While some "yaks" are relatively benign, too many fall into categories of disrespect, foul language, or outright harassment. With the protection of anonymity, users are free to gossip at will, and insults range from tame to outright violent:

In a recent post, a user commented that a specific student would "disappear if we lynched him."

Think about that for a minute.

Since the fall semester began, Yik Yak users have targeted one GFU student in particular. Much commentary has been centered on the clothing choices and freely speculated "lifestyle" of GFU's Benjamin Zeeb, a freshman fashion design major.

Zeeb is aware that he garners attention with his outfits, which incorporate garments like dresses, fur vests, and wigs, but says he has a thick skin for negativity: "It doesn't bother me at all, but it falls under the harassment category."

"George Fox is a place where you're supposed to be encouraged to be yourself, and I don't think anybody should have to use this app to either tear down people who are trying to do that, or promote an outlet to channel a different self," Zeeb said.

Thankfully, Zeeb has a supportive community surrounding him. The issue, however, is beginning to irk many.

"From the standpoint of a student, it's really tiring and frustrating. It exhausts me to have to

read these posts because it makes me lose a little bit of faith in the community," said student Chloe Cordero.

The covert bullying that Zeeb and other students experience on Yik Yak troubles me, as does the common thread of degradation that runs through my Yik Yak feed. When I defended Zeeb several weeks ago on the app, I was told by another user to "go stick my head in a pile of [expletive]." The fact that this was an anonymous comment makes no difference; add a name to that message and I would have had myself a case of blatant harassment. Why is it excused just because it's anonymous?

What does this say about our standards at GFU? I find the claim that we hold our students to high standards hard to believe, when in the safety of interwebs anonymity, our students are harassed and made fun of. I invite my community to join in an open and honest discussion over the issue, with the hopes that we can come to a solution that is inclusive, practical, and gracious.

# GOD'S STILL NOT DEAD

By Kelsey Herschberger  
Crescent Staff

In recent weeks, something I thought was impossible actually happened. "God's Not Dead 2" is coming, and a trailer has been dropped, heralding its springtime release.

The film is directed by Harold Cronk and written by Chuck Konzelman and Cary Solomon: the same dream team from the previous film. Even more B-list actors have been drawn into the ranks, including Melissa Joan Hart and Ernie Hudson.

Pure Flix Entertainment clearly plans to capitalize on the success of the previous film. According to Box Office Mojo, "God's Not Dead" ended up making over three times its production cost during its theatrical run.

But don't let the company's title fool you. They profit on sensationalism and deception, like any

other Hollywood grindhouse.

The synopsis given by the film's promotional website describes the entirely fictional story of Grace Wesley. She is a high school teacher, played by Hart, who is asked a basic content question about Jesus' view on nonviolence. She responds affirmatively, quoting Matthew 5:43-44.

This event spirals into an insane rabbit hole of plot contrivances, which lead to a fictional ACLU lawsuit against Wesley. However, the film's synopsis describes it as "an epic court case that could cost her the career she loves and expel God from the classroom—and the public square—once and for all!"

Somehow the film manages to embody both a perceived victimization and self-satisfaction I find wholly unconscionable.

Never mind the Constitution and Supreme Court precedents like the Lemon Test that would ensure this lawsuit remains fictional. Don't think

about recent Supreme Court cases like *Mitchell v. Helms* and *Zobrest v. Catalina Foothills School District*, which have provided more state aid for religious schools.

Instead, the filmmakers choose to spin a narrative of fear and paranoia out of thin air. They display no commitment to create art that glorifies the Lord. There is no message of love or kindness or any of Christ's teachings.

I am only reminded of a genre referred to as "exploitation films." This is an informal term referring to a "low budget film attempting to be successful by exploiting a current trend or nice genre."

Perhaps a better title would be "Christploitation."





## FACING THE TRUTH

By Julia Howell  
Crescent Staff

When art major Nicole Williford makes a portrait, she doesn't just paint a face. She's not interested in the split-second capture of two eyes, a nose, and a mouth. Instead, she crafts oil and pigment into an icon of a person's soul.

Her work was recently on display in Brougner Hall, where viewers could see her exploration of movement and truth in her subjects' profiles. Portrait painters usually work to accurately render one perspective of a human face, but Williford was unsatisfied with this traditional method.

Her images, at first glance, are a little odd. The eyes of the person are not where they should be, or are not there at all. Faces come out from faces, eyebrows overlap noses, and the overall effect looks like a badly timed photograph with a slow shutter speed.

"We live in a world of visual manipulation and filtration," she explained in her artist statement. "A large portion of my exploration of portraiture has been an intense pursuit of honesty."

Williford believes our online portrayals of ourselves are inaccurate. With myriad editing options, filters, and the convenient "untag" button, it has become easy to lie about ourselves—and to

ourselves. To Williford, a bad photo—in which a person is caught in motion—might be more representative of the person than an edited online image.

"Oftentimes, [that kind of photo] is more real,"

### ***"A LARGE PORTION OF MY EXPLORATION OF PORTRAITURE HAS BEEN AN INTENSE PURSUIT OF HONESTY"***

she said.

Painting a true image of someone's essence is not easy, as she's found. Williford began this portrait project with a painting of her friend Grandpa Roy Heibert, but realized her large-scale image was not an accurate depiction of his character.

"Grandpa Roy is such a gentle man, and it's such an aggressive size," she said about the painting. "I want to be honorable to who the person is."

Williford often uses more than one artistic method to get closer to an accurate representation of the person. With Grandpa Roy, she first made a series of photographs, then sculpted a bust to work from before beginning to paint.

"I can feel his face, without actually holding his face," she said with a laugh. "I'm making the actual object, then going back and painting the illusion of that exploration."

Williford enjoys the kinesthetic experience of sculpting first, and she believes it helps her render the subject more accurately. She finds sculpture very fulfilling and even considers it a spiritual practice.

"There's this deep sense of 'I am doing the right thing,'" she said, "and that this is where I'm supposed to be."

With her portrait series, Williford hopes viewers see that her images are uncomfortable and even a little troubling, but also true. Her paintings may take some time for viewers to understand, and she's okay with that.

"I hope they cause enough tension ... for people to really look at something," she said. "We are so complex, and there are so many different parts of who we are, even in one moment."

## Fall Sports



Overall: 4-6, Scored: 273  
Placed 5th overall



11/14 @ NCAA West Regional  
M: 13th, W:14th overall



Overall: 6-11-3, Goals: 29  
Placed 7th overall



Overall: 5-13-2, Goals: 20  
Placed 9th overall



Overall: 8-16  
Placed 8th overall

Men

Women

## Continue Your Education Journey with Azusa Pacific

Occupations that require a master's degree are projected to grow the fastest over the next eight years, making graduate school a worthwhile investment as you prepare to impact your field. Start planning now and further your career goals with a graduate degree from Azusa Pacific University, one of the nation's top Christian universities.



Join the  
**4,200+**

graduate students  
currently advancing  
their education at APU.

Choose from:

### **Business and Leadership**

MBA, Management, Leadership, Accounting, Organizational Psychology

### **Health Care**

Athletic Training, Physical Therapy, Nursing

### **Education**

Educational Leadership, School Counseling and School Psychology, Teacher Education, Higher Education, Nursing Education

### **Helping Professions**

MFT, Psychology, Social Work

Azusa | High Desert | Inland Empire | Los Angeles  
Murrieta | Orange County | San Diego | Online

Find your program today! [apu.edu/programs](http://apu.edu/programs)



# Art & Photography

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ART TO FEATURE  
ON THE BACK PAGE OF THE CRESCENT.

SEND YOUR ART & PHOTOGRAPHY TO  
[GEORGEFOXCRESCENT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GEORGEFOXCRESCENT@GMAIL.COM)