

2017

## "The Crescent" Student Newspaper, October 18, 2017

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# The Crescent

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

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A RECOVERY TO LAST YEARS

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FIND OUT THE BEST, NEW FOOD  
SOON TO HIT NEWBERG

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# Letter from the Editors

Dear GFU students,

Journalism has taken quite the bruising in the past year. The concept of any kind of trust in mainstream media can be hard to fathom for some people. The general response of differing people across the country has been overwhelmingly “The news has chosen what I should care about for too long, even to the point of misinformation or spin-doctoring.” As incoming editors-in-chief for a small college newspaper, this was somewhat disheartening for us.

The Crescent is hardly a mainstream news source, but nonetheless these criticisms are held in the back of our minds. Imagine our surprise when we opened applications for staff positions and received the most overwhelming response from students in recent history. Like never before, college students are engaged with news sources and are looking for opportunities to contribute to and improve them. In a world where print media is often passed over in favor of digital outlets, we want to create something beautiful, bold, and very much physical. So in that spirit, we are looking forward to a year of fascinating stories and decisive opinions. Our goal of representing “the voice of the students” rings truer every day, and we couldn’t do it without any of you.

Send us the names of your friends who are doing great things – we want to talk to them. Send us the stories that make you laugh, cry, or get angry – we want to learn about them. Send us your thoughts on something happening on campus – we want you to write for us!

We can’t wait to hear from you.

All the best,

Hannah Dugan and Kelsey Herschberger

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OCTOBER 18, 2017 | ISSUE XI VOLUME CXLVI

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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 most academic or residential buildings on campus.

### 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  
ascrescent@georgefox.edu



COVER PHOTO: OLIVIA BERGLUND



# Quaker Church Splits Over Disputes on LGBT Issues

PHOTO: JESSICA HOLDER

By Megan Creighton

Through the past several years, the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends (NWYM) has struggled with where to stand on LGBT issues, which has led to the formation of a new yearly meeting—the Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends (SCYM).

As LGBT culture and acceptance has grown, the NWYM has been in discussion about their stance. The NWYM Faith and Practice states, “[T]he practice of sexual perversion in any form is sinful and contrary to the God-ordained purposes in sexual relationships. These perversions include sexual violence, homosexual acts, transvestism, incest, and sex acts with animals.”

A growing number of members have viewed the grouping of homosexuality and transsexuality with sexual violence and bestiality to be a problem. West Hills Friends Church in Portland was the first church in the NWYM to challenge the NWYM on its faith and practice statement on human sexuality. In 2008, the West Hills Friends Church adopted a welcoming and affirming stance toward LGBT members. This sparked many other churches in the area to discuss these matters, leading to in-church disputes for the last few years.

In 2012, George Fox University (GFU) joined the discussion when an alumni group called OneGeorgeFox wrote an open letter to the school administrators and the NWYM, challenging them to be accepting of LGBT students. GFU has said, “We believe that God has intended sexual relations to be reserved for marriage between a man and a woman. We recognize that this belief may be in conflict with the practice or vision of the larger culture, as Christian beliefs have been in other times and places. Yet we hold to the historic Christian position on this topic while being respectful of those who disagree with us.”

*“Bigotry is never kind.”*

Disagreement to GFU’s stance led to the formation of Common Ground, a student-run organization for LGBT students and allies. Common Ground has been denied recognition as an official GFU club from the Associated Student Community (ASC), but has been allowed a table at the club fair for the past several years.

Eric Muhr, a former youth pastor a Newberg Friends Church and new co-clerk of the SCYM, explained some of the repercussions GFU still feels as a result of the OneGeorgeFox letter: “This has meant that students who

have confided in professors who have a reputation for being safe have sometimes found that those professors aren’t actually safe now the way that they were even just a year ago.” Muhr chose to become a part of the SCYM because, he says, “Bigotry is never kind.”

As a result of the disagreements over LGBT acceptance, several churches have decided to leave the NWYM, effective June 2018. One of the churches in the discussion, Newberg Friends Church, has divided. Newberg Friends Church will remain in the NWYM, while Newberg Emerging Friends Church will become a member of the SCYM.

Matthew Staples, a senior at GFU and recording clerk for the SCYM, said in an interview, “The fundamental conviction of Quakerism is that the light of Christ is in everyone; that the Holy Spirit is living and active and works through everyone, so I think that honoring that conviction ... is the most important thing we can do and is the thing that would be most pleasing to God.” Staples grew up going to Newberg Friends Church, but began attending Newberg Emerging Friends Church after the separation because of his faith and personal beliefs regarding equality and acceptance.

For those interested, Newberg Emerging Friends Church is holding meetings at 5 p.m. Sundays at the Joyful Servant Lutheran Church.





# the Food Truck Pod

By Emma Lindberg

George Fox University (GFU) students can anticipate the arrival of a new food truck block in downtown Newberg which is to be completed in the next month or two. The new pod of food trucks will be located on 1st St., near the 99W commuter parking lot. There are currently only two trucks on the property, to be joined by at least six more in the near future.

"The idea for this pod is that it will create a wider variation of food that isn't just fast food in Newberg, and it can be a community building tool," said Rick Condon, owner of All About Decks, Docks and More, the company sponsoring this project. He is hoping that the new lot will be a spot for community gatherings and events such as street fairs, which will complement this addition.

Condon said that the process of creating the block has been more complicated than one might think. The permit process is very complex and jobs such as repaving the area has added an extra \$11,000 to the cost of the project, without even accounting for the \$32,000 in permit fees. There are lots of hidden challenges that were not seen when the project was first taken over.

However, when the lot is complete, it has good chance of proving itself worth the work. The block will house eight food trucks of various types of cuisine. Other features that will be included are a large covered area with a central eating area, a gas fire pit and heat lamps, making the pod a viable option even in the winter cold, as well as a great place to gather with friends.

Bangkok Noi Thai, which serves Thai food, and Wiki Wiki Weenie, a Hawaiian hotdog stand, currently reside on the block; and the rest of the project is scheduled to come together in the next few months. Condon does not know exactly when everything will be done, as there are more permits needed from the state government regarding Highway 99.

"College students are going to thrive off of the food trucks," said GFU junior Kaili Tugman, "We need good, inexpensive food that isn't [the university cafeteria]." The food truck pod will be a valuable addition to the attractions in Newberg, and will bring variety and create a community gathering place just a few minutes' walk from the GFU campus.

Photos by Olivia Berglund





# Why I Stand

By Robert Joseph Mitchell

When I turned the television on Sunday morning, my heart was broken. I saw team after team lock arms and kneel before the American flag.

As a member of the George Fox Uni-

versity (GFU) football team, I want the student body to know I am proud to wear the American flag on my helmet. I'm proud that every Saturday my team charges the field behind two American flags.

When it's time to sing the national anthem, I stand with pride as I put my hand over my heart. When I listen to the lyrics, I am reminded that I have the freedom to play a football game because somewhere halfway around the world—someone who does not know me—stands ready to defend my freedom with their life.

The flag should unite us. The flag represents an idea that many brave men and women have fought and died for. When we sing the national anthem, I'm standing next to my brothers. Some of my brothers are black, some are white, and some are Asian. But we are all Americans. The flag reminds us of this. The flag should make everyone feel pride.

Is our country flawed? Of course! Can we do better? Absolutely! However, the responsibility of fixing social injustice begins with us. A millionaire professional athlete kneeling will not change anything. A hostile statement from a president will not

change anything.

You and I are responsible for how we treat one another. Jesus commands us to love, so love! Do not let celebrities and politicians make you pick a side so they can score social and political points.

Dr. Ben Carson said it best, "Our strength as a nation comes in our unity. We are the United States of America, not the divided states. [Those] who want to divide us are trying to divide us, and we shouldn't let them do it."

I hope and pray sporting events can once again be a unifying factor in our society. When I look at players on my team, I don't define them by the color of their skin. I see them as my brothers, friends, teammates, and GFU Bruins.

\* This is a guest submitted op-ed and does not represent the stance of the George Fox University football team or athletic department.

Photos by David Green



# THE OUTDOORS CLUB

By Jacks Whitehurst

The Outdoors Club at George Fox University (GFU) is a community that hopes to get students to learn new technical skills in different environments, become aware of the things happening in and around Newberg, and get involved in the great outdoors.

Conceived by Club President Nathaniel Shiiki at the end of last school year, the club hopes to do all this while enjoying quality time with other students. It is already clear the club is a success, because over 150 students are taking advantage of this opportunity.

Even though it has been about three years since GFU has seen an outdoors club on campus, Shiiki isn't surprised. Shiiki said, "People just love to be outside."

"A lot of people here come to George Fox and may not be from around here and they have never really seen the area, and also might not have the chance to

really get outside of Newberg," Shiiki said. "So I think this is a good opportunity for students to be more aware of what is going on around them. The Outdoors Club creates a community within itself where people love nature."

Despite the vast spectrum of activities that can be done in the outdoors, most of the club's events do not require a lot of gear. All you really need are good shoes, and transportation is arranged. "We want to make this a club that is as available as possible, so anybody can come on the trips that we will be doing," Shiiki said.

The Outdoors Club's past events include a hiking trip on the Oregon Coast with over 40 students, a Planet Earth movie night, and a birding outing. Along with other big plans for the school year, Shiiki said, "We want to get students involved with conservation projects in the Newberg area; for example, the community gardens, and the Yamhill Watershed Council."

Shiiki has brought several others onto the club staff, including Vice President Elliot Shannon, Social Media Manager and

Photographer Ben Shannon, Backpacking Specialist Michael Seigneur, and Financial Manager Wesley Seigneur, to assist in planning and programming events.

Most of the planned events will be oriented around the changing seasons. News regarding upcoming events will be released once the club committee comes up with some new ideas for outings.

Students who feel they have great ideas for a club trip or a new way to get involved can attend club meetings in the next few weeks to suggest their ideas for future events. For more information about the Outdoors Club, check out the club's Facebook site or Snapchat at GFU Outdoors Club. If you would like to join, Shiiki can be reached at [nshiiki16@georgefox.edu](mailto:nshiiki16@georgefox.edu).

Photo by Nathan Reichlin





# Anna Sovereign

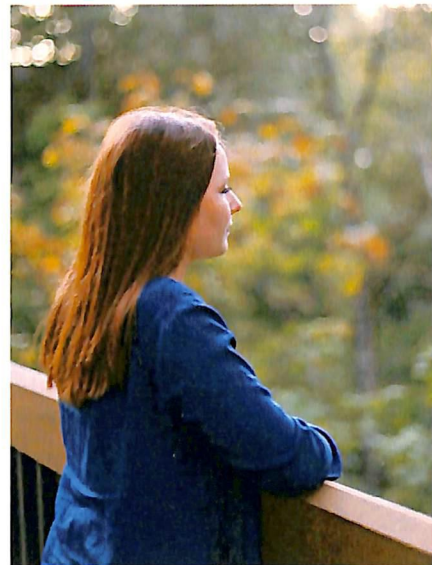
## HELPING IN HOUSTON

By Emma Lindberg

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness,” Anna Sovereign, a sophomore political science major at George Fox University (GFU), said, citing

Mark Twain in reference to her recent trip to Houston to help with hurricane relief.

Her eight-person team worked in East Houston in a city called Dixon. Ekklesia, their host church, sent them to various houses to gut out any furniture, carpet and in-



sulation that was submerged by the flood waters. This work was done to dry out the houses and prepare them for contractors.

Sovereign was at a church service when she heard the announcement for the trip and said she felt a “tug on her heart.” After Sovereign applied and was accepted on the team, she had two days to fundraise in order to be able to go, and a week to prepare before they took off.

“You couldn’t set a ‘one size fits all’ preparation on every team, and have it work,” Sovereign said of the training. “I think I was prepared in the sense of our posture, and how we were interacting with people, but once we got down there, we figured

it out as we went along,” she said.

The team was encouraged to fill the emotional and spiritual needs of the people they were serving in addition to physical service. If they felt they were supposed to pray for someone - that took priority.

Sovereign said the city felt like it was at a standstill with people gradually trying to return to their normal lives. There was debris left on lawns and a water line left on the houses and trees was eight feet high in some places. Many people had to throw out everything touched by then contaminated waters.

One house the team worked at belonged to the McGees family who affected Sovereign the most. The McGees were a low-income African-American family of three living in a house that Sovereign said “felt like it was in the third world.”

One impactful aspect of the trip was witnessing the racial segregation in that region of the country. Having grown up in Oregon, Sovereign had never met people so blatantly impacted by racism.

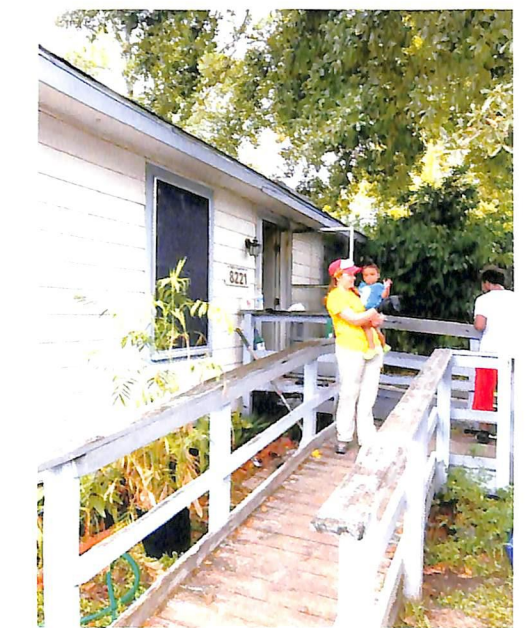
One member of the McGee family said to the team, “I’ve lived with white people my whole life, went to school, work and church with them, but I’ve never felt loved like this from a white person.” Sovereign said “It tore my heart in two.”

Sovereign accompanied her team as taking on the mission of showing Jesus’ love to people who were hurting. While working on the house, they would stop to gather, pray, and sing with the McGees family. “I didn’t want to fall in that category of just perpetually talking about a problem. I wanted to go and do something about it,” Sovereign said.



Houston will be recovering from Hurricane Harvey for years. Sovereign urged students to consider going to Houston to serve, even if it is this summer or during breaks. One resource for students who feel the call to serve in Houston is an organization called Hear the Cry sends teams to help with relief.

For students who are not able to go to these disaster-stricken places, Sovereign said, “We can give of our time to make the community we find ourselves in—far from home or right on our doorstep—brighter by sharing the wall-smashing hope of the love of Jesus. That’s what service is about, that’s what Jesus is about.”



Photos by Coleman Weimer



# Winter Blues

By Haelley Hogan

Students coming from states like Southern California may have been excited to leave their hometown for the beautiful green of Oregon. For students who have been deprived of nature and rain, especially in drought-riddled states, the move means joyful days spent indoors to the soundtrack of rain and smell of freshly brewed tea.

However, family members familiar with Oregon may have handed down some important advice before their student arrived on campus: beware the onset of seasonal depression. Also known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), seasonal depression is a subtype of depression or bipolar disorder that occurs and ends around the same time every year. Seasonal depression typically occurs when the seasons change.

Most symptoms begin in the fall and continue into the winter months. However, seasonal depression can occur in the summer or spring, although this is less common.

Although SAD and standard

depression are similar, there are ways to tell the two apart, making the issue fairly simple to self-diagnose. Symptoms that are typically more common in seasonal depression than in other forms of depression are carbohydrate craving, increased appetite, excessive sleepiness, and weight gain.

So, why exactly would students feel this way? The reduced level of sunlight in the fall and winter months may affect an individual's serotonin, a neurotransmitter that affects mood. Lower levels of serotonin have been shown to be linked

***“Carbohydrate craving, increased appetite, excessive sleepiness, and weight gain.”***

to depression.

Melatonin, which affects sleep patterns and mood, is produced at increased levels in the dark. Therefore, when the days are shorter and darker the production of this hormone increases.

For students who are wondering how they can go about this problem, there are a few methods that doctors recommend and patients say have helped. One of these methods is light box therapy. Though odd-sounding, the therapy just involves a light that mimics natural outdoor light, to make up for the sunlight that a person is missing.

Make sure to also exercise, because the product of effort is not only keeping in shape, but also in releasing feel-good chemicals. Students can also add a supplement of vitamin D, known as the sunshine vitamin, to their diet. People suffering from depression are often found to be low in this particular vitamin.

Photo by Olivia Berglund

## We Need More Political Discussion at GFU

By Claire Broling

Political discussion is a point of tension on many college campuses around the country. Yet, for George Fox University (GFU), there does not seem to be enough of it.

Politics are an important part of the world we live in, and effect affect our lives in many ways. For GFU, this meant many new clubs based in political movements have been established.

Among these clubs are the Students for Life Club and Turning Point USA. Both of these clubs are based in conservative politics, which seem to be lacking on too many college campuses.

Yet GFU has the opposite problem—on GFU it seems to be the opposite. There are many conservative clubs on campus, but there is a lack of clubs deriving their views from more liberal standpoints. It is difficult to have fulfilling political conversations when everyone agrees.

There is a diverse amount of political opinions within the student body of GFU, but the clubs on campus do not fully represent this diversity. However, it is important to note that we should not represent hateful and discriminatory viewpoints, but rather those who that have validity within society.

While not all political conversation must be facilitated through university clubs, these clubs do help grant a better platform for ideas.

There are many clubs on campus that, while based in conservative ideals, are willing to converse with those who would disagree with the platform of the club.

Hannah Thom, the president of the Students for Life Club, has expressed that while her club is more than just politics, she is willing to engage in conversations with people who disagree with the pro-life stance.

The Students for Life Club also recently held an event in the quad, which caused a reaction both for and against the public display of such a touchy issue as that of

supporting for the pro-life movement.

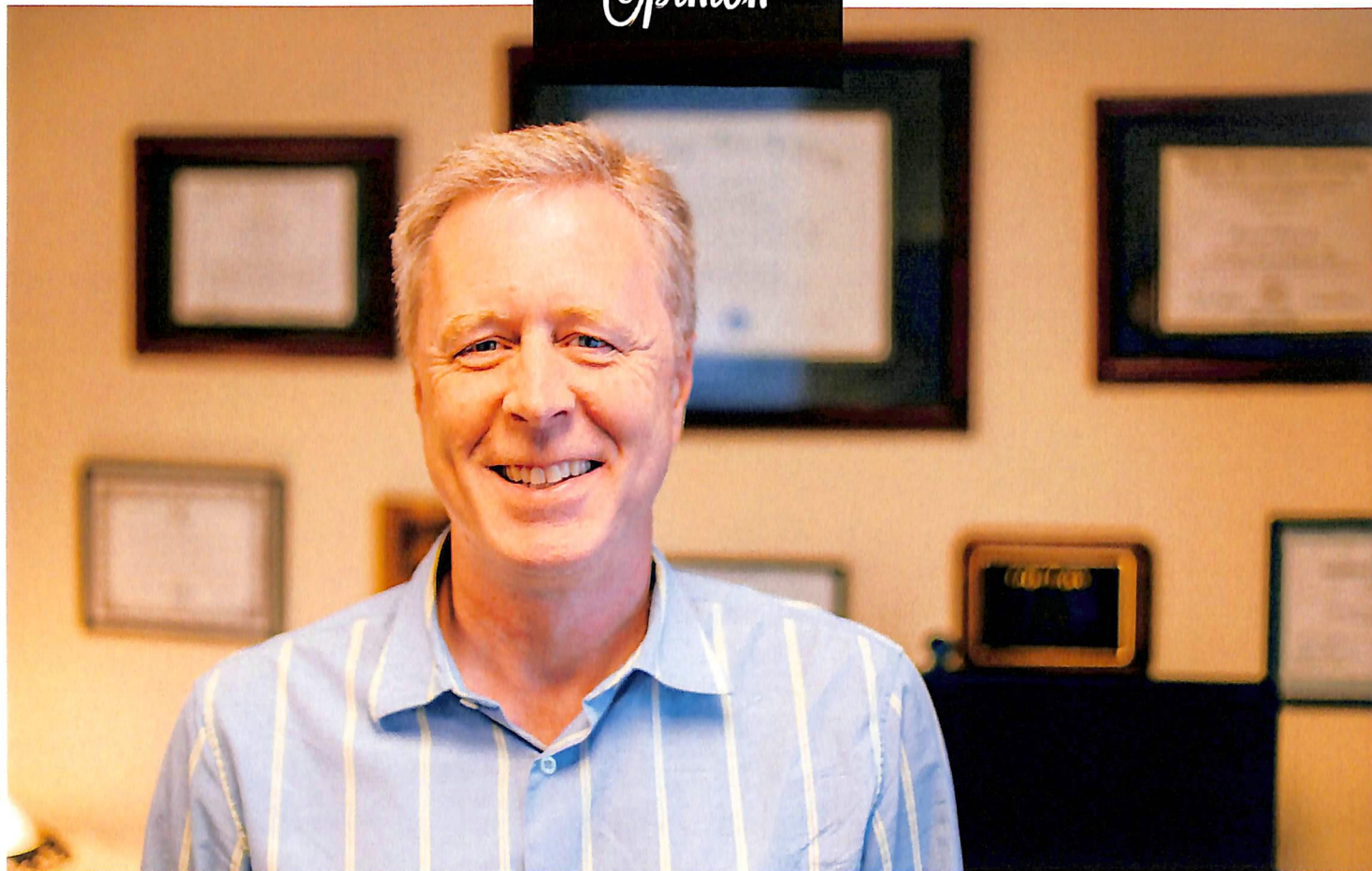
These events may seem contentious, yet they provide a catalyst for healthy discussion about political issues.

Another club that engages in discussion without a particular dominant viewpoint is the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. This club is funded and run by conservative and libertarian organizations, but when it comes to discussion in the chapter on at GFU, the club does not shy away from bringing in the validity of every viewpoint.

Polite political discussion is critical to shaping our view of the world and our nation. The clubs at GFU do provide some political discussion but we need more diversity in viewpoints within our political clubs.

Photo by Jessica Holder





# Mental Health

## at GFU

By Emma Lindberg

Mental health needs to be addressed more openly at George Fox University (GFU). College is hard.

Students going into freshman year are told college is fun, carefree and the best four years of their life. While this isn't necessarily false, those who provide advice may have forgotten what it's like adjusting to a radical life change wherein everything is unfamiliar and uncomfortable.

Some people thrive in that environment. But for others, it takes some time to adjust. Some students are ill-equipped to deal with all the new and difficult things being hurled at them.

According to Bill Buhrow, dean of Student Services and director of Health and Counseling Services, one-third of the students who talk to counselors at the Health and Counseling Center deal with anxiety and depression.

Last fall, the center had a waitlist for the first time in the history of Buhrow's 23 years at GFU. The waitlist forced the department to hire more people and rearrange their system to accommodate more students.

Students seeking help with their mental health at GFU increased from a yearly average of around 250 to 325 people in the 2016 - 2017 school year. The Health and Counseling Center doesn't know why this sudden jump occurred.

A possibility that Buhrow consid-

ered is the 2016 presidential election and the political turmoil that followed. But if the election was the issue, one would expect the number would have gradually declined.

However, during one week in September, 17 students had already contacted the Health and Counseling Center by Tuesday. These are just the students who have chosen to reach out for help; I am sure there are numerous students experiencing anxiety or depression that are staying quiet and trying to deal with this on their own.

"The biggest one is stress and anxiety, that's the one that's growing. Depression is staying about the same, both for us and nationally," said Buhrow, on the most common themes of students coming in to the center.

This trend makes sense. Students are trying to juggle a myriad of different responsibilities and assignments while maintaining and making meaningful connections and friendships. They are dealing with issues from home, figuring out what they want to do for the rest of their working lives and learning to be

independent at the same time.

If so many fellow students are struggling with these issues and utilizing this resource, why don't we talk about it?

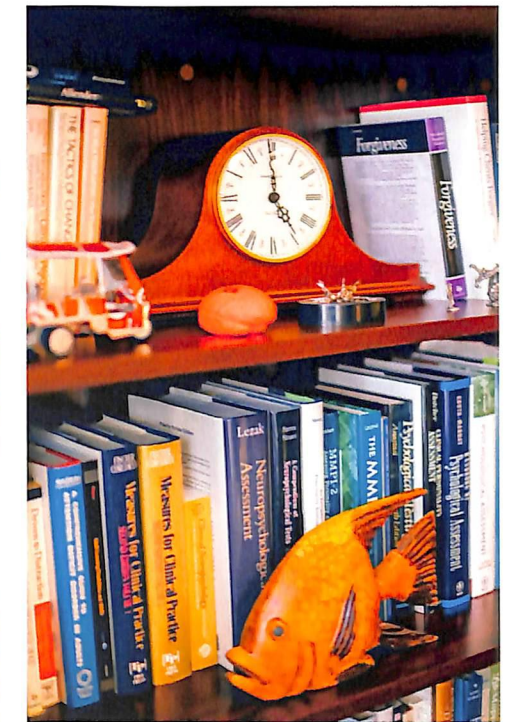
An acquaintance last year told mutual friends she was going to "a meeting," when she was really going to a counseling session to talk about her depression. A friend struggled with anxiety for months without making it known.

Why do students feel the need to lie about utilizing this great, free resource in order to better their mental health? Getting help should not be a shameful thing.

To be fair, the stigma against mental illness is not as negative as it once was. But there is still a lot of work to be done in this area. It starts with conversations and choosing to listen well to people who suffer from mental illnesses.



Photos by Coleman Wiemer





# A Friendly Reminder

By Jacks Whitehurst

Recently, I read an article published in First Things Journal by Dr. Joseph Clair, entitled "The Lost Purpose of Learning." In his article, Clair displays his deep understanding of education, its roots, and the meaning behind the importance of what we might call "the college experience."

I was reminded that we all share many different reasons for wanting a college degree. But there is one thing that I wholeheartedly believe we must all walk away with, to really deem our time spent hitting the books as a success.

Students venture out into the college world for a number of different reasons: family pressure, societal norms, obligation, hope of a high-paying job, et cetera. The list goes on.

Others head out in full youthful zeal, ready to engage the world and enjoy classes to the fullest, absolutely set on making the most of the next four years.

Right before I came to George Fox University (GFU), I was somewhere in between. I liked the thought of being up for the challenge. I had been told my whole life by family and friends how proud they were of me.

The encouragement helped, but I had yet to believe in myself.

I'll admit, I was disheartened upon hearing increasingly about the state of our educational system, before actually attending GFU. From what I had observed over the course of a few years prior, college is becoming what Clair questions as "an empty routine" for those who feel the need to go, but do not really know why.

I once had it described to me as "an extremely expensive daycare system for the kids whose parents should no longer take care of them, but still have a lot of growing up to do." I am thankful that GFU strives to reduce the normalizing of these types of statements.

To be clear, I was never, nor do I claim to be, in the camp of those who attend college merely for the sake of landing a high paying job in the future.

If this is your mindset, you might want to rethink what it is exactly you are doing with your money now, because GFU is not saving you money by any means.

But don't worry: If my stubborn mind could be radically transformed through two months of reading some of the most interesting books in history, then there is still hope for those who linger on the edges of enjoying school but dreading homework. Every dime spent at GFU will be absolutely worth it.

If we as students at GFU make it to graduation day and still have a searing hatred for reading books or being exposed to ideas we may not agree with, something very serious has gone wrong.

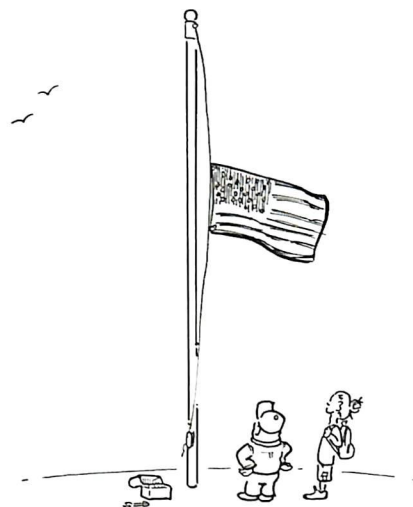
We will have missed the entire point of higher education. This time is not about simply having fun and making our family happy.

Being here is about starting a lifelong journey during which we become addicted to ideas, obsessed with innovation, and fall head over heels for learning every day.

The community at GFU does a tremendous job of recognizing that this is possible among all majors, minors, and concentrations. No matter what you love to study, we all need one another's varying interests. Just remember to love it.

So next time we might find ourselves grumbling at the next seemingly monotonous task we have to do for a class we are not particularly fond, or we have to take a class outside of our major because it is required, just remember: We are participating in an age-old tradition of learning for the sake of changing lives.

Photo by Coleman Wiemer



"SHOULD I EVEN BOTHER PUTTING IT BACK UP?"

Comic by Tyler Friesen

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