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The Crescent

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

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Our Staff

Editors-in-Chief

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Jacks Whitehurst

Art Director

Bryce Heimuller

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Danielle Brown
Ana Imes
Bianca Tarsia
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Opinions Editor

Elliot Coulter

Faculty Advisor

Melanie Mock

Copy Editor

Adrian Moons

Financial Manager

Elshadai Hailu



Facebook

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Twitter

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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 1981. The opinions and ideas presented in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of George Fox University.

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Comics

HORROR STORIES FOR THE SOCIALLY AWKWARD

Hey
✓ Read
Yesterday



What's behind the new bear?

By Jacks Whitehurst



A 10-foot-tall, 800-pound, bronze grizzly bear sculpture now stands in the middle of the new Alumni Plaza nestled in between the football field the south end of Stoffer Family stadium. At 11 p.m. on Oct. 5, George Fox University (GFU) unveiled the sculpture to the community, giving out t-shirts and stickers to commemorate the evening.

The bear is the result of a long-term conversation in GFU's administration in concert with an art initiative that aims to display more artwork on campus, but it had a rocky beginning.

The project was first initiated in 2014 by the Associated Student Community (ASC), when they approached Rob Westervelt, chief strategy officer, and asked for assistance. The plan was to use the "student reserve fund," an accumulation of unspent student fees from 10 years prior.

"If any of the student project fund money isn't used, it rolls into the next year," said current ASC President Bailey Sauls. Each year, students at GFU are required to contribute \$220 to funding annual events, activities, and projects run by ASC.

Not long after the idea got out, ASC started receiving pressure from a few in the student body because they were concerned that their money was going to be spent on a sculpture, something they didn't want on campus.

Westervelt created a video on YouTube hoping to dispel the rumor that current student money was going to be used for the bear, and that only the reserve fund from previous years was going to be used.

Sauls, who didn't hear about the project much sooner than the general student body, said that for many students, "The question becomes, 'well that money could have been used for something else, there are a lot of other issues on campus, parking, for example.'"

The idea was meant to "bring people together and unify them under a powerful symbol, which is our Bruin," Westervelt said. "We wanted to break out of the stereotype that Bruins are athletes."

ASC didn't clear up the misinformation to students, according to Westervelt, and backed out of the project after it failed

to gain any traction when a few protesters among the student body rallied behind an all-campus vote to end the campaign. At that, the funding was cut.

However, the idea was far from spent. Westervelt commented on the process from 2014: "President Baker," he said, "believed in the idea and said, 'we're going to do this eventually, but we are going to let this lie for a while.'" Four years later, the bear arrived on campus.

When asked about exactly where the idea came from and who pushed for the 2018 project, GFU President Robin Baker said, "It's one of those projects that will not have definitive answers to a lot of those questions, meaning that once it gets into my office it can take a variety of

different tracks."

He also mentioned that the idea of putting a bear sculpture on campus has been around ever since he arrived, so he wouldn't be able to pinpoint who came up with the original.

"It was dropped as an idea by the students," Baker said, "so then people asked me if I wanted to renew it and I had an interest in it."

Sarah Reid, director of Affinity Marketing at GFU, said that she first heard of the bear sculpture while planning an Alumni Plaza in November 2017.

"The bear became part of the conversation because President Baker has been wanting to increase the presence of professional sculpture on campus," Reid said. "It was right about that time that I found out that the bear was going to be arriving on campus so we decided to put them together."

The Aesthetics Committee, which, according to the 2017 GFU Faculty Handbook, "develops and maintains a consistent and coordinated university image through campus aesthetics," approved the Marketing Department's pitch to bring the bear sculpture and the Alumni Plaza together into one location.

"Since I work in Alumni Communication," Reid said. "I became the project manager for coordinating with (GFU) Plant Services around the plaza, working with the sculptor, the foundry, and all those groups."

"Our goal overall has been to bring some artwork to the community," Baker said, although he didn't agree with the location at first.

"We debated about where to put it with the Aesthetics Committee," he said. "I wanted to put it next to the bridge."

He also said in the end, he was glad that it wasn't placed where he originally wanted it, and that it looks better next to the football field.

Reid noted Phil Thornburg, GFU alum and owner of Winterbloom Inc., as the donor who put together the landscape and architecture plans for the Alumni Plaza.

Thornburg is just one of the donors responsible for contributing to the sculpture, whether in time or money. Sauls was able

to confirm that ASC did not contribute in any degree to funding the bear this time around.

President Baker said that the entire project was funded through a few donors, who were not named, and through a specific annual fund that is used for a variety of different projects each year.

When asked directly about where the funding came from for the sculpture, Baker said, "The institution has resources that comes from students paying tuition, from donors and others, so the answer to the question is partly that I have funds from what we call an Innovation Fund."

In the past, some of the Innovation Fund has been used to implement other sculptures at different locations on campus. Baker marks the GFU 125 Anniversary sculpture outside the Stevens Center, by GFU Professor Mark Terry, as what started the effort for more art on campus.

Since then, others like "Treasure," by Oregon artist Ellen Tykeson, the sculpture depicting a family of four placed near Pennington Residence Hall, the metal salmon beneath Crisman Crossing (commonly known as "the bridge"), and the chainsaw-carved wooden animals previously outside of Canyon Commons have been added to campus.

Ryan Wilhite of Tualatin, Ore., sculptor of the bear and son of distinguished alumni Dr. Steven Wilhite of Eugene, Ore., was working on the bear for the last two years, but also recalls a conversation that he had several years prior.

"I remember walking around a long time ago when I was doing bronzes full time," Wilhite said, "and my dad said, 'man it would be nice if we had a bronze bear here,' and then it really didn't get much past that."

Wilhite was a full-time bronze sculpture artist before the recession. When the economy took a downturn, he then began teaching full-time and doing art on the side. Within the circle of the wildlife bronze sculpture industry, he creates figurative portraiture (faces and heads) and wildlife in both bronze and ceramic.

When the project first came to be in 2014, Wilhite was asked if he would be willing to build the bear. Later, President Baker called him and told him that they would eventually go through with it. Wilhite would produce three clay sketches; one standing with a symmetrical pose; the other standing on all fours; and the third was something a little more aggressive, according to Wilhite.

For the bear, he used his personal garage space to sculpt 200 pounds of oil-based clay he bought on Amazon to build the molds before sending them off to Firebird Bronze Foundry to be cast and welded together.

Wilhite said he didn't mind waiting a few years to be re-commissioned for the bear. "It actually worked out for the best and gave me a little bit more time," he

said, "because the first time we were pushing dates, but this time I said that I wanted, within reason, to take my time because I work full time."

Even though he would spend three to four hours per day over the course of two years to complete the bear, he said it was an enjoyable process. Each and every hair on the bear was handcrafted with what he called a "loop tool," so that the texture in bronze would come out life-like.

The deadline before the Oct. 5 unveiling almost ran up against catastrophe because the bear was set to be completed the day Firebird Bronze's lease expired, meaning that if the bear were in the shop for another day, it would cost them the next month's rent. A few workers from the foundry loaded up the bear on a flatbed trailer and got it out the day before the deadline.

GFU's most viewed Instagram video is one where the bear is being hauled down Highway 99 West, straps flapping in the wind, its head nearly missing a stoplight. At 5,000 views and counting, more than 2,000 views above all other videos on their homepage, the comment board continues to be a place where some of the original protesting students converse about the sculpture's arrival to campus.

"I think the reasoning behind doing the bear with the Alumni Plaza is thinking more long term," Sauls said. "So if you have an alumnus that is making a donation with specific intent, George Fox wants to say, 'okay, we will use it in a way that you want to use it in order to cultivate these alumni relationships so that in the future we can continue to have money for more productive things.'"

Westervelt, Baker, Reid, and Sauls all said to some degree that the bear was meant to cultivate strong alumni relationships that would carry on into the future, as well as give the current students an on-campus rallying point.

"The goal for me was two-fold," Wilhite said, "one, that it looks really good. Two that you can enjoy it from a distance as a piece of sculpture and go up close to it and touch it, rather than it being a piece in a gallery."



Photo by Ryan Wilhite

GFU Student Campaigns Against Human Trafficking

By Jen Wright



On October 20, people across the world participated in the Walk for Freedom march, including Meghan Elford, a student at George Fox University (GFU).

The walk was started by the nonprofit organization A21, which stands for “21st Century Abolitionists” and combats human trafficking worldwide.

Elford, an intern for Spiritual and Intercultural Life (SpIL), tried to organize a group of GFU students to walk in Portland, but wasn’t able to get enough for a group.

Elford is not surprised by the lack of interest shown. This is the first year a walk has been organized, and it’s hard to get students interested in brand-new events, Elford said. Most of the lack of interest shown in campus outreach events is due to students not wanting to try new things.

“I’ve noticed a lot, like, this year compared to last year, people just don’t want to participate. They don’t feel safe, they just don’t want to do something out of their comfort zone,” Elford said. “I think it’s just repetition that will get people, hopefully.”

Elford is studying inter-cultural sociology, and wants to pursue a masters in nonprofit at Portland State University. She has been involved with various missions and charities for many years, and last year she joined a group of GFU students on a mission trip to Romania. The trip focused on immersion and service, and Elford saw first-hand the effects of human sex trafficking.

“There are so many people that are being forced to do this, and [there are] children that are being sold into this, [there are] people across the world that cannot get money, so they have to resort to this,” Elford said.

Photo by Lauren Reichenbach

“I worked with this girl at the organization, she is nine years old, her mom and her sister are in prison for prostituting, and she’s already started to take on the family role [herself],” she said.

“It’s really hard for me to watch people be like, ‘oh that doesn’t happen in our city’, or like, ‘well, that’s somebody else’s problem’,” Elford said. “[Highway] 99 is one of the biggest trafficking highways in Oregon. It’s so easy to get from a port and get to the city.”

Even simple things like anonymous text messages are a potential danger. Replying can give away the location of the user.

Students can still help A21 by donating or helping

spread word about the cause. Elford hopes a walk will be organized next year and attract more participants. Meanwhile, Elford is running a clothing drive for Door to Grace, a ministry for young girls affected by sex trafficking.

“I have had mixed success there, because people didn’t have to go anywhere, they just had to donate stuff,” Elford said.

Elford is also planning a day to make and eat a meal together with girls from the Door to Grace program on Nov. 28. Students are encouraged to donate food or time, and see how they can get involved by contacting Elford at the SpIL office.



By Emma Bach

DConstruction for a new George Fox University (GFU) indoor tennis facility at Austin Sports Complex began in the summer of 2017. However, the tennis facility still hasn’t opened for use, as GFU has yet to acquire an occupancy permit.

In order to gain an occupancy permit, inspections by the City of Newberg must be completed once the facility is fully finished. This is continually being worked towards.

The building is essentially finished, except for the electrical work. GFU decided to have Plant Services’ electricians work on the facility instead of contracting the electrical work out to another party.

“Our electric department is working hard to finish up so we can get temporary occupancy,” Jesse Dillow, the director of grounds at GFU, said. “Final occupancy will be given once the landscaping is finished.”

The electrical department had a large amount of work due to the moving of Villa House, and the construction of the Hadlock Student Center. This has led to a continual pushback on the opening date for the new tennis facility.

The facility includes six tennis courts and is covered in PVC fabric. This will provide protection and space for the athletes and allow them to practice or participate in matches whether rain or shine. It is also designed to be both energy-efficient and thermal-efficient.

The facility is also intended to be used by the GFU track and field teams and the GFU student body. The Austin Sports Complex already contains a turf field, and GFU hopes the new tennis facility will greatly benefit the tennis teams and athletics overall.

Photo by John Joo



GFU Music Department Delights for Family Weekend

By Ana Imes

The Family Weekend Fall Showcase took place on Oct. 19 in George Fox University's (GFU) Bauman Auditorium. Among the groups performing were Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Concert Choir, Women's Chorale and Chamber Singers.

Danielle Warner directed the three choral groups and the Symphony Orchestra. Her vision for the night was for "the audience to leave with a sense of the music department and a sense of George Fox," she said.

A few pieces that she directed were "Serenade in C Major, Op. 48" by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, which she described as "heartbreaking and beautiful"; "Nyon Nyon" by Jake Runestad, which consists of only nonsense syllables; and "Invictus" by Joshua Rist, a powerful piece traditionally sung by men but performed by the women's chorale at the concert.

Dwayne Corbin directed the Symphonic Band, which consists of 45 members that are primarily non-music majors. The band delivered a timely performance of "October" by Eric Whitacre, described by Corbin as a "gorgeous, mellow fantasy" about "the feelings and sensations of the fall," as well as "An Original Suite" by Gordon Jacob, one of the first pieces written for a band. The lively first and third movements sandwich a "slow and reflective" second movement that "gets quite dramatic -- almost film score intense." Dr. Corbin was excited to

provide what was a "preview of what will come later in the semester," he said.

Rebekah Hansen directs the strings in the music department, including the Chamber Orchestra. She also co-directs the Symphony Orchestra. Hansen said that the showcase provides a great opportunity for students to "show all the work they're doing and how much they love it." The Chamber Orchestra, made up of nine people, performed the Winter segment of Antonio Vivaldi's "Four Seasons," featuring Comfort Smith on an impressive violin solo.

If you missed the Showcase, or if you liked what you heard, the next concert is at 7 p.m. on Nov. 1 by the Symphony Orchestra, Concert Choir and Masters Chorus (a community group also directed by Warner). The two choral groups will sing a combined Mozart piece, followed by Tchaikovsky's "Serenade of Strings," played by the orchestra. Following a few days later is the Jazz Band concert on Nov. 4 and a combined performance by Women's Chorale, Chamber Singers, Chamber Orchestra and the Keyboard Ensemble on Nov. 8. Lastly, the Symphonic Band will hold a concert on Nov. 15.

Each of the directors emphasized that they are open for new members at the start of spring semester. If you or someone you know plays the clarinet, speak to Corbin, who is desperate for more clarinets in the Symphonic Band.

Photo by Alyssa Minar

Co-Existing: The Science & Religion Club

By Bianca Tarsia



Science and religion are two topics that are often viewed as opposing; can they exist in harmony together or are they too different? The Science and Religion Club, led by Greg Conan, exists on-campus to hopefully find an answer to this question, encouraging students to engage in a supportive environment where they are free to express their thoughts and opinions.

The group meets every other Thursday at 6 p.m. in Hoover 211, with their next meeting taking place this Thursday. All students are welcome to attend, where they “can learn about and discuss the relationship between science and religion, regardless of their perspective or beliefs,” says Conan.

At the beginning of the school year, the club members de-

ecided on what topics would be discussed for the remainder of the semester. Some subjects covered previously have been “evolution and creation, whether an artificial intelligence can have a soul, the origin of the universe, whether Jesus died for aliens, the ethics of becoming cyborgs and whether the universe is a computer simulation,” said Conan.

In addition to student led discussion, there are faculty members who have also lent themselves to the conversation, sharing their beliefs on the matters at hand. Conan says that he is “excited to see where the club will go in the future, as we continue to explore the quandaries that emerge from the intersection of science and religion.”

Photo by John Joo

PSA: Don't Touch the Service Dogs

By Danielle Brown

Roaming around George Fox University's campus are two hardworking dogs, Shadow and Penny, who spend their days assisting sophomore Aspen Monkhouse and freshman Alyssa Minar respectively. You have probably seen the dark, shiny fur of Shadow or the curly brown hairs of Penny, but as tempting as it may be to pet them, these dogs are not to be distracted from their jobs.

"People don't realize that they're working," Monkhouse said, describing her daily encounters with others--the constant petting and whistling that causes these dogs to turn their focus away from their owners.

Both women explained that distractions for service dogs aren't good because you never know when something bad could happen that is detrimental to the owner's health — something that often gets pushed. However, they need their dogs to be focused on getting them help if the occasion arises.

Minar shared that she has had her most recent bout of



Lyme Disease for four years now and has developed serious heart conditions that can drive her heart rate up to 200 bpm. Penny alerts her when this happens, signaling that Minar needs to sit down or eat.

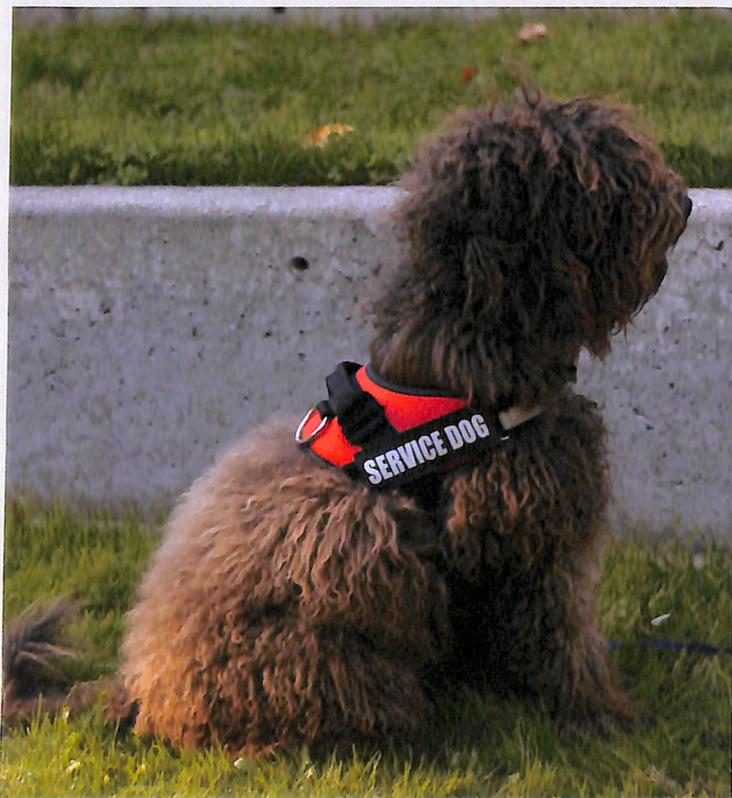
"If they're paying attention to you because you're talking to them or petting them, then they're not paying attention to their owner, so they might miss an alert or a signal," said Minar. She said that a friend with heart conditions went into Atrial Fibrillation because a teacher was talking to the service dog, distracting him from his owner's needs.

Monkhouse shared that she has Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS). This can affect her heart rate and blood pressure, causing it to spike or drop dramatically. Shadow's job is to aid her with alerts or mobility in cases where she becomes dizzy or passes out.

"If it got serious — like if I were unconscious and I hit my head on something — I wouldn't be able to do anything about that, and if [Shadow's] distracted, he can't go get help, he can't task for me, and that could be scary," said Monkhouse.

Minar and Monkhouse were both open to sharing about their disabilities and stressed the importance of their service animals in aiding them in their daily lives. They were also adamant that their disabilities are a part of them — just as much as our hobbies and majors are a part of us — but just because they are affected by them doesn't mean they need to be the focus.

"Yes, we do acknowledge our disabilities, but that doesn't define who and what we are," Monkhouse said. "There's still a person inside."



Photos by Alyssa Minar

GFU'S Most Popular Instagram Accounts

By Emma Bach

You might already know it, but George Fox University (GFU) has a unique presence on Instagram. There are a handful of humorous GFU Instagram accounts, all of which are sure to make one's day a little brighter.

The most well-known account, George Fox Memes (@georgefoxmemes), is run by "a fellow Bruin" and never ceases to produce quality memes for the GFU community.

Often the memes posted are incredibly relatable to students: ring by spring, chapel credits, and grades are just a few of the many subjects mentioned. The account takes submissions, so reach out to them if you have something to contribute.

Another popular account is the GFU Art Memes (@gfuartmemes) page. Similar to George Fox Memes, the account entertains its followers with relatable memes. However, one can note that GFU Art Memes is art-focused — most of its memes connect specifically to art majors or the art department.

Relatively new to the GFU Instagram game is The Bon

Review (@thebonreview), which presents "reviews of your favorite on-campus eatery." Despite being created just this year, the account has already accumulated an admirable amount of followers. The Bon Review rates miscellaneous food items from meals on a scale of 1-10. The reviews are enjoyably honest and are always accompanied with a quality snapshot.

The anonymous owner of The Bon Review explained the origin of their account: "We had never eaten at a cafeteria so much before and we're always comparing it to MeeMaw's home cooking, so we figured why not become a meme?"

GFU Game Faces (@gfu_gamefaces) is another comical account — they feature photos of GFU athletes, specifically ones that capture funny facial expressions. Their bio reads, "Pretty much just amazing candid game faces taken at GFU sporting events."

The GFU Instagram platform is worth checking out. With their humor and lighthearted posts, the varying accounts provide the perfect reprieve from school stress.

Doubters Are Given Space for Discussion

By Ana Imes

The first Doubters' Town Hall was held in Hoover 105 on Oct 14. Dr. Isaac Choi and Dr. Ross McCullough presented four arguments for the existence of God, followed by an interactive question and answer session. Students brought doubts and ideas, and they walked away with more questions and new ideas.

Abigail Favale came up with the idea of Doubters' Town Hall while sitting in mass one morning. She has "had conversations with a number of students who have been having doubt," and she's "aware of students who have lost their faith" during their time at George Fox University. Favale wanted "a time set aside where we could speak honestly about questions that we're wrestling with.

"Most students who doubt do so in sincerity and goodwill," Favale said. She readily admits that "there is no magic simple answer to the tough questions," but she is eager to share intellectual resources from "great minds who have been wrestling with these questions for millennia."

The purpose of Doubters' Town hall is to "cultivate a culture of open inquiry, honesty and authenticity," she said.

Favale spoke about a natural inclination some students

may have towards silence and alienation when it comes to their doubts or questions, especially if they grew up in Christian families. She believes "doubting is often a necessary means of greater truth." Favale thinks that these kinds of conversations are cultivated in the classroom, but less so outside of it. She is encouraged by groups such as the Science and Religion Club, and she is "hoping there is a ground swell right now for bringing these kinds of questions to the floor."

The number of young people who are leaving the church is concerning to Favale. "At the very least, if the student decides to reject Christianity, I want them to be rejecting the best possible version of it," Favale said.

The next Doubters' Town Hall will take place from 8-10 p.m. on a Sunday night in November. The date and location have yet to be determined, so contact Favale or watch the posters for more information. The event is hosted by William Penn Honors Program faculty, but all students are welcome to attend. Future topics may include evolution, arguments for atheism, sexism in Christianity, the problem of evil, free will, and morality.



Fighting Founder: A Perspective on Guns and Masculinity



By Jen Wright

On Oct. 17, writer, researcher and professor Nathan R. Kozukanich gave a talk at George Fox University (GFU) on John Dickinson, an American founding father.

The talk titled “Fighting Founder: John Dickinson and the Right to (Not) Bear Arms in the Early Republic” focused on John Dickinson’s legal and political career. The talk was the second in a lineup of three to four talks planned throughout the 2018-19 school year.

Mark Hall, GFU’s professor of Politics and director of the John Dickinson Forum for the Study of America’s Founding Principles, has organized the talks to honor GFU’s Quaker roots by helping students learn about the founders of America.

Kozukanich has written a book about Benjamin Franklin and is currently working on an eight-book series on John Dickinson’s previously unpublished papers. The project is expected to take ten years to develop and release.

The series is an answer to the 2007 book “Sex and the 18th Century Man,” by Thomas A. Foster. The book is about the historical misconceptions surrounding male representation of sexuality in the 18th century.

The project is the fifth attempt to publish Dickinson’s writings, Kozukanich said, with the four previous attempts falling victim to the “Dickinson Curse.” One editor trying to release the papers was reportedly murdered by his own brother, Kozukanich said.

“We are trying to buck the curse this time, and actually get these published for the first time,” he said.

Kozukanich was very engaged throughout the talk, making jokes and referring to modern portrayals of John Dickinson in HBO’s “John Adams” and the TV show “South Park.”

The talk started with background about Dickinson and the early colonies, giving a picture of the political and military climate at the time. Kozukanich talked about the military service requirements imposed on men and the issue of concessions being made for religious and

other reasons.

Kozukanich focused on the reactions of the pacifist Quakers to the mandatory bearing of arms and the resulting political conflicts. He said he calls himself a pacifist.

“It means to me doing no harm to others,” Kozukanich said. “I don’t agree with war. In that sense, I’m sort of a very traditional pacifist. Negotiation is the better route, and I won’t participate in violence myself.”

While Kozukanich explored the arguments surrounding the second amendment and the “right to bear arms” today, he spotlighted the social connection between military service and traditional portrayals of masculinity.

“Every American action movie is like ‘guy with gun taking law into own hands and kicking ass’. That’s sort of one portrayal of American manhood, anyways,” he said.

“There’s a connection of some sort between toxic masculinity and guns,” Kozukanich said. “I hope we’re starting to see a change in gender norms and gender dynamics.”

Kozukanich mentioned the #MeToo movement and the controversy surrounding the recent Kavanaugh hearing and said he doesn’t know if they will meld with the gun safety issue, but he hopes to see change for the better.

Kozukanich condemned modern interpretations of the second amendment that try to apply it literally.

“That debate—it’s been a crappy debate—has largely been grabbing snippets from original documents, snippets from the past, to support some modern political agenda, being it gun regulation or being it gun rights,” Kozukanich said.

“I think we’re still sorting out what military service means, in an era where military service is voluntary. No one’s compelled to serve in the military,” he said.

About 25 people attended the talk, and Kozukanich stayed behind after he finished to answer questions.

The next talk in the series is scheduled for April 3, with University of California, Los Angeles History professor Craig Yirush talking about indigenous rights and the American revolution.

GFU Student on a Local Mentoring Program

By Mollisande Williams

Christian Hughes is no stranger to working with students. He's done it as a resident's assistant at George Fox University (GFU) for multiple years, during an internship at Odyssey Preschool and now again for his internship at Catalyst High School.

Hughes first interviewed for the position during his sophomore year during a field fair, at which point he didn't get the internship. It wasn't until his junior year that he decide to give it another shot – and this time, he was given a chance, just like the kids at Catalyst High School.

Catalyst High School is an alternative school containing 60-80 students who struggle with personal, academic or social issues. Students have to personally seek the school and interview prior to being accepted. Some students are from lower-income families, were bullied in school or struggled in the standard academic environment.

Students attending Catalyst High School are provided with smaller class sizes, six-week learning cycles, and mentoring and tutoring. This way, students have more accessible resources, can reach milestones and get a one-on-one learning atmosphere.

Hughes, a senior social work major, began the internship in fall of 2018 where he quickly learned the rewarding but challenging obstacles he'd face.

"I feel like with Catalyst, the students have a lot of needs. A lot of people here at George Fox have support already in place, like friends or family back home," Hughes said. "The students at the high school I'm working with, a lot of them don't really have anybody. Some of them don't even have family."

As a social work intern for the high school, Hughes' main project is overseeing the mentoring and tutoring program. The school partners with outside forces, primarily GFU students, and pairs them up with struggling students.

The mentors are each assigned a student, with availability and personality in mind, and are asked to be a positive figure in their lives. Mentors begin with a brief training for active listening and effective communication skills.

Once ready to begin, they are required to have a one-hour session per week at minimum with their student – simply to talk with them, give advice and become a friend. The time spent with the student can take place during their breakfast or lunch breaks, or during other available time slots. Because GFU students are in a similar season of learning, they can respond with empathy and patience when mentoring or tutoring the high school students.

Besides the benefit of adding this volunteer work to a resume, GFU students can gain a lot from this experience. Many form bonds with their students and get the chance to see them grow and succeed.

Being a part of the mentoring and tutoring program has allowed Hughes to "realize that [he] is blessed to be able to be here at George Fox and recognize that there are people in [his] life that helped [him] get to this point and now has the opportunity to give back in that same way," he said.

To be a mentor, the desire to form a relationship with a student is necessary. For tutoring, the only requirement is basic understanding and interest in the subject. To learn more, contact Christian Hughes at chughes15@georgefox.edu.



GFU Website Provides Resources For Illegal Discrimination

By Elliot Coulter

On the George Fox University (GFU) website, georgefox.edu, there is a page titled “Religious Liberty Resources.” This page concerns the current problem of same-sex couples being denied service for their wedding ceremonies. The resources linked on this section of the GFU website are for those businesses who do not want to participate in same-sex relationships and marriages. These resources advise them on how to avoid legal trouble based on their opposition to these marriages.

Mark Hall, professor of politics at GFU and the author of this page, said, “Two years ago an attorney and I . . . had a conference on religious liberty here at George Fox and we invited a bunch of Christian ministries from throughout the northwest churches and schools and social service organizations. . . Some organizations like the Christian legal society and ADF [Alliance Defending Freedom] have already put together nice resources . . . and so we thought it’d be really useful for members of the conference to have easy access to them . . . we thought we’d just put them online and people could go to them and use them as they saw fit.”

In the state of Oregon, it is illegal for a public accommodation business to discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity. However, it is not illegal federally. According to a CNN article entitled “Here’s Why Some Businesses Can Deny You Service—but Others Can’t,” when federal and state law don’t agree, the courts will defer to federal law, especially in cases where religious rights

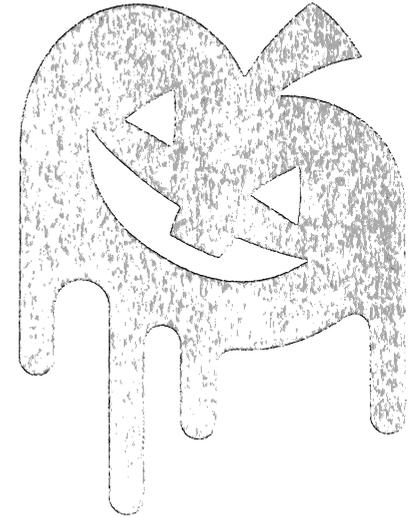
may be involved. The conflict is that there are laws giving people the right to their religious practices, but there are also laws protecting certain minorities.

When asked if the law should protect sexual and gender minorities against discrimination, Hall said, “In half of the states it’s perfectly legal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, and yet how many times do you hear of restaurants turning people away in those states based on sexual orientation? I would suggest almost none. It’s virtually nonexistent so I’m not sure of all the things that Oregon needs to focus on that . . . this should be really high on its agenda.”

However, we must consider the history of homophobia and transphobia in America. The Human Rights Campaign found that 29 people died in 2017 just from being transgender. There is a history of violence against queer people in America and throughout the world. Giving people the right to turn people away based on being queer encourages the idea that queer people are less important or less human than straight, cisgender people. This thinking results in violence and mistreatment.

The law should require businesses to serve any minority whether it is against their religious conviction or not. If people are given the ability to discriminate in the small parts of life, it teaches them to discriminate throughout their life. A child whose parents have denied service to a same-sex couple may begin to see that as normal. Then it becomes a cycle of perpetuated micro-aggressions and violence. The cycle needs to end now.

Is Halloween Haunted by Religious Stigma?



By Jen Wright

Halloween has always been a controversial holiday in the Christian community, and my family is no exception. It was always one of those “us” and “them” things; my friends were allowed to dress up and go trick-or-treating, but I was not.

My parents told me it was because Halloween “celebrated evil,” and so we would stay clear of it. No trick-or-treating, no dressing up and no “Halloween movies.” My siblings and I had to campaign for years just to be able to carve pumpkins—no “scary” faces allowed, of course.

Even though my family steered clear of Halloween, we still had an October 31 tradition, and I think it was an attempt to not make us feel “left out.”

We still get together and watch the Disney 1960 classic movie, “Swiss Family Robinson,” and have pizza and root beer floats. We have always bought candy to hand to kids who came to our door, but we were never allowed to go out trick-or-treating ourselves.

I don’t regret not spending every Halloween running screaming down the street in a witch costume, begging door-to-door for candy, but I do regret spending so many years looking down on my friends for their choice to celebrate it.

I think a lot of the stigma against Halloween in the conservative community is born out of misunderstandings about the origin of the traditions, and the meaning behind it. If you do any research into Halloween, you’ll find that Halloween wasn’t created to “celebrate” evil, but to chase it away.

Ancient Celtic and Germanic traditions surrounding “Samhain” were meant to acknowledge the presence of spirits among us, welcoming the good and chasing off the evil. People dressed up to protect themselves from evil spirits trying to possess them, and Jack ‘O Lanterns were

carved to scare them off.

The conservative community has a lot of idiosyncrasies when it comes to secular culture and traditions. Another example would be the vehement abhorrence against the Harry Potter book series.

My parents banned the series from the house “because it showed magic in a good light.” Simultaneously, magic-filled series like “The Chronicles of Narnia” and “The Lord of the Rings” were not only allowed, but I was encouraged to read them. Probably because they were written by religious authors.

I argued that magic was shown in both a good and bad light in those books, with the perspective depending on the use of the magic. If someone used it for bad, it was bad, and it was as simple as that.

Have my parents actually read the Harry Potter books? No. And still they acted on an assumption that it was bad, just like they banned the 2017 Disney re-make of “Beauty and the Beast,” because someone told them that in the movie, Gaston kisses another man. Which wasn’t true.

I’m always hearing people around me complaining about “fake news”, but what they don’t see is that so-called “fake news” can come from anywhere; all it needs is someone to believe it and not research it.

A two-minute Google search can be the difference between ignorance and truth, and as a generation with unprecedented access to information about anything, we need to take responsibility for what we believe and take time to make sure we have accurate information.

As you get ready for this Halloween season, whether or not you celebrate the holiday, take time to think about other traditions and holidays we practice. Do you really know how they started?

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*Photo by Katherine Maxson
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