



## 2023-2024 Year in Photos

Seniors gather for a picnic dinner for the Class of 2024 in the Activity Center at Bob Jones University.

PHOTO: Madeline Peters

See [PHOTOS](#) p.4 >>

## EXP Zone transforms Grace Haight Building

*Former nursing building finds new life through experiential learning*

**Zachary Edmondson**

STAFF WRITER

The EXP Zone at Bob Jones University is a hopping place. In one classroom, engineering students design everything from self-watering systems for plants to self-driving lawn mowers. Down the hall, a science class studies water quality and pH testing. On another floor, criminal justice students dissect their own crime scenes piece by piece.

The EXP Zone, short for experiential learning, marks a transformation in use of the Grace Haight Nursing Building that now plays a unique role in the BJU educational scene.

The building is named for Grace Woodman Haight, a missionary and friend of Bob Jones Sr. BJU archivist Dr. John Matzko said Haight was born in 1863 into a prominent Massachusetts family with ties to the Puritans.

A woman of some means, Haight worked with orphans in China and Egypt

before she returned to the United States, became the editor of a religious newspaper called Fellowship News and taught at BJU. Haight served BJU and its students faithfully until her death in 1955 at the age of 92.

### THE BUILDING'S MANY LIVES

Built in 1947, the Grace Haight Nursing Building looks like the nearby women's residence halls because it was once a dormitory. It was initially a residence for single



PHOTO: Derek Eckenroth

women, including Haight, who worked in the BJU offices. Married couples also stayed there for a time as well.

Over the years, the Grace Haight Building was used by the BJU Elementary School and the School of Health Professions. In 2022, the building reopened as the EXP Zone as part of BJU's quality enhancement plan. The plan is a requirement

for accreditation that the university uses to identify an area of student success to improve and create a five-year plan to focus on improvement.

### THE EXP ZONE

Dr. Bill Lovegrove, a professor in the engineering department, is the EXP director. He said the program's purpose is to give

See [EXP](#) p.7 >>

## Haydn's "The Creation" marks artist series finale



PHOTO: Anastasia Noonkesser

**Rylie Wiedell**

STAFF WRITER

This April, Bob Jones University musicians will perform Haydn's "The Creation" as the final production of the 2023-2024 Concert, Opera and Drama series. Many choirs have sung in artist series concerts in the past, but

what makes this performance unique is that all BJU choirs—the Chorale, Concert Choir, Lyric Choir and University Singers—as well as the BJU Symphonic Orchestra are a part of this huge production.

Joseph Haydn's "The Creation" was inspired by the works of George Frideric Handel, including the famous "Messiah." Haydn

wrote the work in 1797 and 1798. It is about an hour and forty-five minutes in length. The oratorio was written in German, although it is often performed in English. BJU's choirs will sing the piece as it was written, in German, an added challenge

See [CHOIRS](#) p.7 >>

## STAFF NEEDED

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF STUDENT NEWS

## Help remake The Collegian into a digital-first platform

*A variety of media creation skills are needed to transform The Collegian. Regardless of your major, we have a position for you:*

### WRITERS

We need great content, and great content comes from great writers.

### REPORTERS

Broadcast journalists can gain experience behind or in front of the camera. Video unlocks new ways to share and create stories.

### DESIGNERS

A contemporary vision with respect for the past will thrive here, particularly if you are meticulous about detail.

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Photographs speak volumes, and Collegian photographers are our storytellers.

### WEB DESIGNER

We're digital first, and that means the website must be outstanding.

### SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Different than a personal account: this is the careful creation of amazing content that people want to see and engage with.

### COMIC ARTIST

Every print issue needs a splash of humor and color.

**Have questions?** Email [editor@bju.edu](mailto:editor@bju.edu)



PHOTO: Derek Eckenroth



## The Collegian: way more than a newspaper

PHOTO: Derek Eckenroth

### FROM THE EDITOR



#### Jonathan Lovegrove

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**N**ewspapers are a dying breed. Let's be honest, do you read a weekly paper? In light of this decline, newsrooms across America are scrambling to adjust their strategies.

The Collegian is no different. While our print issue is here to stay, it's no longer our top priority. Our focus has transitioned to web, social media and video content.

As a newspaper enthusiast, it's easy to decry this change, but it presents many opportunities!

This school year, Collegian stories have been read over 40,000 times on CollegianOnline.com—far exceeding the reach of print issues.

The Collegian's social media accounts have been seen 15,200 times this school year.

This is just the beginning. As The Collegian continues to expand its digital team, the potential reach is tremendous.

Going digital also unlocks a variety of new mediums. Have you ever wanted to publish a podcast, create a YouTube show, or even host a livestream? These options are available as we grow a passionate and engaged team.

We're building a team to transform The Collegian for the next generation of service to faculty, staff, students and alumni. Will you join us?

Scan the QR code below to apply. We will be in contact with you shortly.

### JOIN US TODAY:



PHOTO: Derek Eckenroth

#### WBJU HAS JOINED THE COLLEGIAN.

Reporters can create broadcast-style stories and shows for The Collegian's YouTube channel and website.



PHOTO: Marissa Ellerbrock

#### IS SPORTS YOUR GIG?

We need sports fanatics who can bring the most engaging stories and explain why we should care.

CAMPUS NEWS



Smoke from a forest fire is visible from a balloon launched by engineering students. PHOTO: BJU Department of Engineering

# BJU engineering students' weather balloons captured wildfire photos

*Project led to unexpected photos of North Carolina fires in November.*

**Bethany Brooks**  
COPY EDITOR

Student-constructed weather balloons were launched by the Introduction to Engineering class in November. These weather balloons were launched from the roof of the parking garage and captured images of forest wildfires in the North Carolina mountains.

Ethan Lee, a sophomore engineering major, said his team discovered the pictures after it retrieved the weather balloon after their mission.

"We had no idea our balloon had captured photos of the wildfire until we extracted the footage," Lee said. "When the mission

started, we were unaware of the wildfire raging in North Carolina. The picture brought a sense of accomplishment for capturing such a unique photo of a natural disaster."

Lee described the process from its creation to its launch. The class of 36 students was divided into three sections of 12, each creating their own weather balloon. The three sections were furthermore divided into four teams of three students, with each team tackling a different aspect of the weather balloon's design, construction and launch. The project was completed over the course of eight weeks.

Lee described launch day as "both the most stressful and relieving part of the project."

"We are attaching two months of work and hundreds of man hours to a balloon, trusting that our calculations, predictions and preparations will lead to a successful mission," Lee said. "Finally retrieving the balloon was the most

*That's a feeling I want to experience every day.*

exciting experience for everyone on the team. The mission was complete, and we could see and hold the fruits of our labor. Observing the mission footage and laughing with the team after the completed mission was

my favorite memory from this project."

His team found the weather balloon had taken photos of smoke from the wildfires in North Carolina.

The smoke was likely a result of the Collett Ridge Fire, in Cherokee County, North Carolina. This fire encompassed more than 5,500 acres, threatening several structures, before it was contained Nov. 22 with the help of more than 220 firefighters at a \$5 million cost, according to the North Carolina Forest Service.

The project, and its resulting photos, gave Lee a sense of accomplishment.

"This project heightened my excitement to become an engineer," Lee said. "That's a feeling I want to experience every day as a future engineer."



PHOTOS: Submitted

## the Collegian

**Bob Jones University**  
Greenville, SC 29614

CollegianOnline.com



TheCollegianBJU

©2024 Bob Jones University

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Jonathan Lovegrove  
editor@bju.edu

**Copy Editor**  
Bethany Brooks

**Writers**  
Dray Dickey  
Zachary Edmondson  
Ryan Headen  
Timothy Vaughn  
Rylie Wiedell

**Reporters**  
Daniel Matesevac  
Tyler Scott

**Photographers**  
Heather Battles  
Katelyn McKenney

**Comic Artist**  
Madelyn Wokaty

**Designers**  
Madeliene DeJesus  
Karina Innes

**Advisers**  
Nathaniel Cary  
Hal Cook



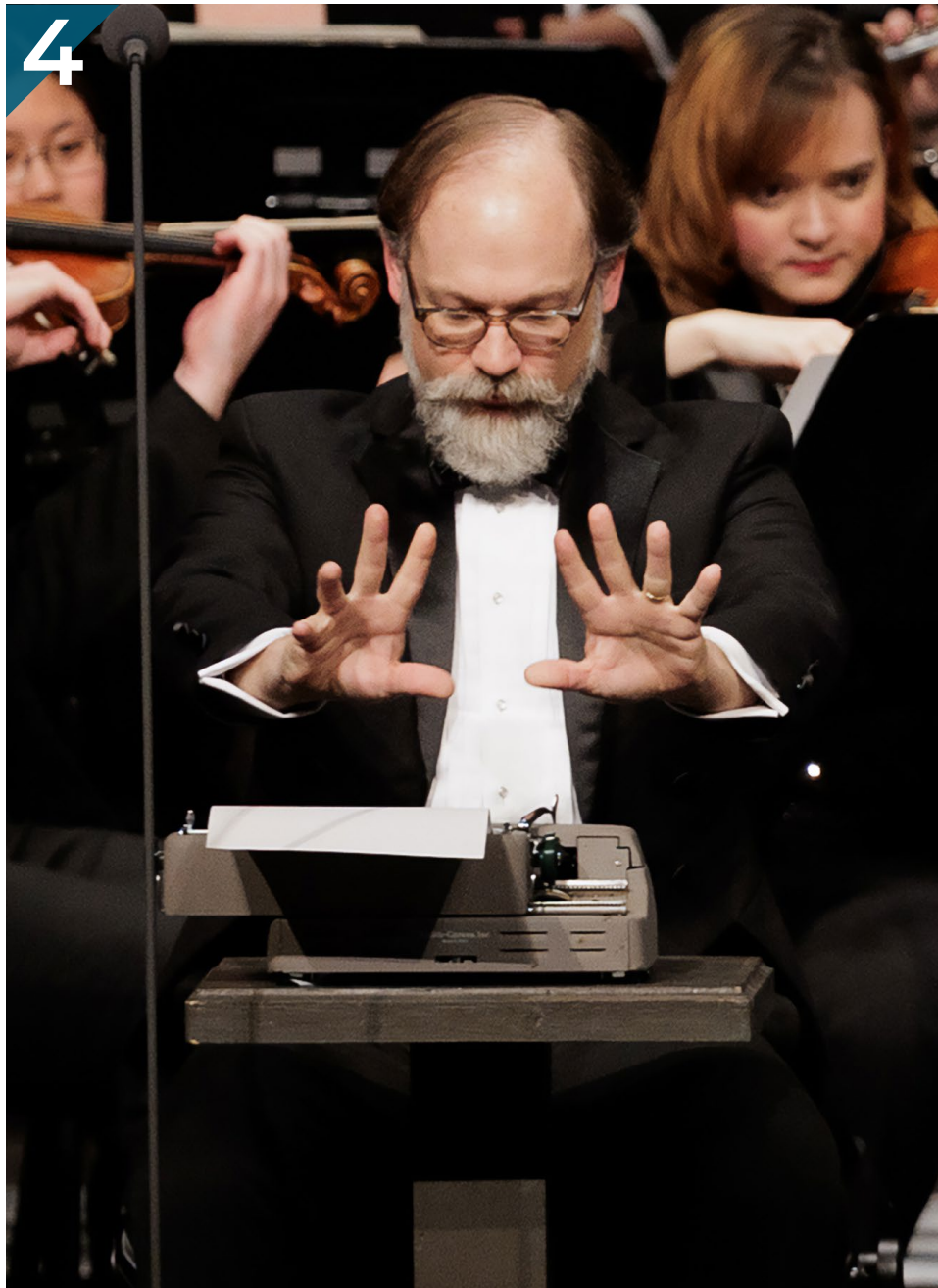
CAMPUS LIFE 2023-2024 YEAR IN PHOTOS



- 1 CLASS OF 2027 & SOCIETY RUSH**  
New students gathered for their class photo (HAL COOK) then chose their society (KATELYN MCKENNEY).
- 2 MONTAGUE AND CAPULET**  
Campus divided into teams for the November production of "Romeo and Juliet" (KATHERINE WILLIAMS).
- 3 CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR**  
The rain stopped just in time for everyone to celebrate among the lights (DEREK ECKENROTH).
- 4 THE TYPEWRITER**  
Dr. Michael Moore excels on a most unusual musical instrument at Classical Pops (ANASTASIA NOONKESSER).
- 5 BOBA JONES**  
Dr. Alan Benson cut the ribbon to open BJU's trendiest dining establishment (HEATHER BATTLES).
- 6 THE PASSING OF JOSE LOPEZ**  
Societies gathered in War Memorial Chapel to celebrate the life of Jose Lopez (HEATHER BATTLES).



2



CAMPUS LIFE

2023-2024 YEAR IN PHOTOS



**7 GATHERED FOR HEALING**  
 After the sudden death on Feb. 21, of Jose Andres Lopez Bono, 18, a freshman kinesiology major from Honduras, the Bob Jones University community rallied in prayer.

PHOTO: Heather Battles

## FEATURE

BACKSTAGE  
**PASS**RODEHEAVER  
AUDITORIUM

**BACKSTAGE PASS** is a series of articles designed to take readers on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Bob Jones University campus. Many historical details come from “A Short and Fevered Rehearsal: *The Story of Rodeheaver Auditorium*,” a documentary produced by BJU.



PHOTO: Hal Cook

**Zachary Edmondson**

STAFF WRITER

**R**odeheaver Auditorium has played a prominent role at Bob Jones University ever since the school moved to Greenville in 1947. It is the first building most visitors see when they arrive on campus. Significant performances have been held there, including “Cyrano de Bergerac,” “Samson et Dalila,” and Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast: The Broadway Musical.” However, few people know the rich history of this building, and the people who made its existence possible.

**THE ORIGIN OF THEATRE**

Dr. Darren Lawson, Dean of the School of Fine Arts and Communication, said fine arts have been part of BJU since the school’s founding in 1927.

The move to Greenville twenty years later created an opportunity to build a larger auditorium. Dr. Bob Jones Jr., who had a keen

interest in the fine arts, intended it to serve two functions—as a center for preaching, and as a theatre for concerts, plays and other events. The new auditorium was named for Homer Rodeheaver, a friend of the Jones family who served as Billy Sunday’s music director.

“This one building was one-fourth of the budget of all of the campus,” Dr. Lawson said. “And it was the last one to be done... they were still building it when the kids were coming here.”

The country was still recovering from both the Great Depression and World War II, and building materials were scarce. But by God’s grace, the new campus—including Rodeheaver Auditorium—was completed in 13 months. Immediately after the theatre’s completion, the Spitalny Group—a well-known orchestra of all-female instrumentalists led by Phil Spitalny—was invited to perform in the first Artist Series in 1947, the precursor to the Concert, Opera, and Drama Series of today.

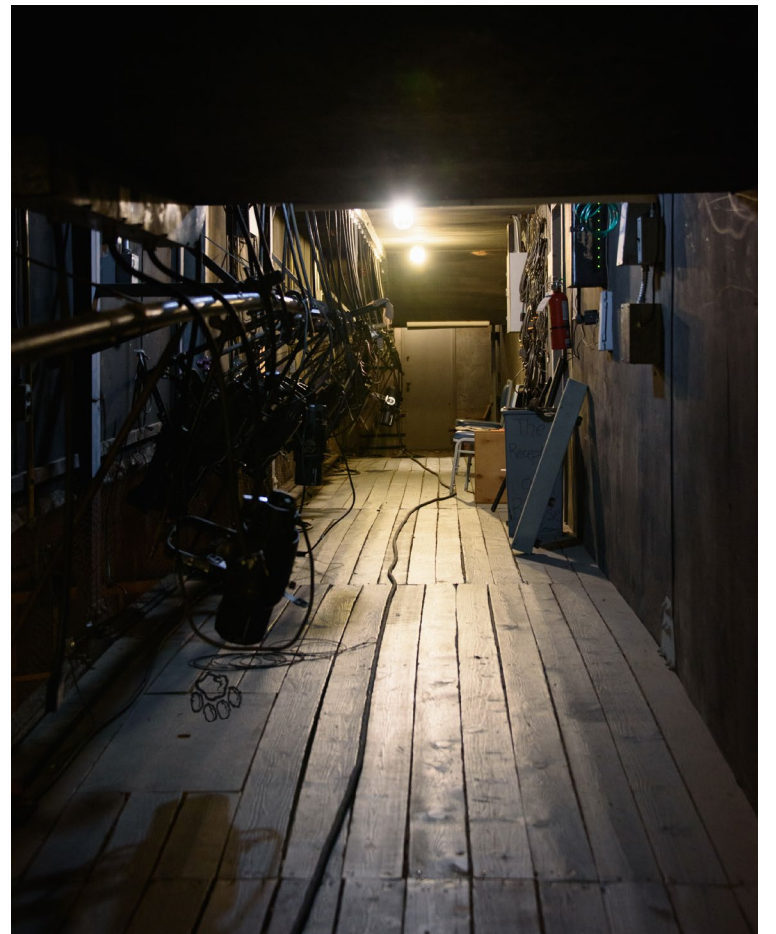
Rodeheaver was used

for both Artist Series and preaching until the early 1970s, Lawson said. By then, the school had outgrown the auditorium, so it built Founders’ Memorial Amphitheatre. The FMA became the center of preaching—hosting daily chapel, Sunday morning worship and the annual Bible Conference. Rodeheaver, on the other hand, became the center for arts and culture.

**FROM THE FLOOR TO THE RAFTERS**

What can first-time visitors expect from a trip to Rodeheaver? The first room they will see is the spacious lobby with its stone and wooden furnishings, lit by three matching chandeliers as well as windows that allow sunlight in. Beyond the lobby, visitors will find themselves in an auditorium designed to hold 2,600 people. These are the areas most visitors will see.

The people working on the productions, however, see much more of the building. For example, there is the wardrobe where



Catwalk high above the seats. PHOTO: Katelyn McKenney

designers work around-the-clock, making new costumes or repairing old ones. Or the property rooms in the basement, where props and sets from older productions are stored. Sometimes, these sets are refurbished and used in later performances. There is a scene shop, where new sets are built. And of course, no theatre would be complete without its dressing rooms and wig room.

Perhaps the most exciting thing to see at Rodeheaver Auditorium is what the stage crew calls “the beams.” These are a series of walkways hidden above the auditorium ceiling. They enable the stage crew to walk dozens of feet above the audience, undetected during the performances, allowing them freedom of movement from one side of the building to the other.

**THE SHOW GOES ON**

Rodeheaver Auditorium continues to play its role in carrying on Dr. Bob Jr.’s vision of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through the fine arts. Thousands of people enjoy the performances every year: fall Shakespeare plays, spring musicals and operas, and the annual Living Gallery. Dr. Bob Jr.’s desire for Rodeheaver—to serve as a center for preaching and fine arts—is still being realized today.



PHOTO: Derek Eckenroth



Homer Rodeheaver plays his trombone by the auditorium named for him. PHOTO: BJU

**NEWS**

»» From **EXP** p.1

every student real-life experience in their studies.

“Every program in the university has to have built-in experiential learning,” Lovegrove said. “And as we’ve tried to launch more project-based classes, we realize that they often need space.”

The EXP Zone offers a neutral place where students from different majors can collaborate.

“If you go to the science building, the science students feel at home and the business students don’t,” Lovegrove said. “So we have that class here in this building, and it’s neutral territory.”

Today, almost every department on campus has a classroom or lab at the EXP Zone. Not all of them are part of the EXP program, but all of them offer opportunities for interdisciplinary studies and experiential learning.

For example, Dr. Jeff King, head of the Department of Engineering, runs a class called Operating in the Space Environment.

His class partnered with a company in New Jersey to build a functional prototype for a CubeSat, a satellite that is about the size of a large softball.

King said the EXP Zone isn’t a normal classroom, and it is set aside

*I think there’s a long-term vision to have an innovation center on campus.*

specifically for projects. Previously, students shared lab space in the science building with other classes, which made completing their group projects difficult.

Another example is the Criminal Investigation class taught by David Davis, assistant professor in the department of criminal justice. This semester-long class combines traditional learning with what Davis calls “practical



PHOTO: Katelyn McKenney

BJU students work on an experiential learning project in the EXP Zone.

assignments.” Projects include taking care of equipment, photographing a crime scene, conducting a search, and drawing police sketches. Davis highlighted the search project as one reason he is thankful for the new EXP labs.

“It would still take me, for a 45-minute class, about eight hours of preparation,” Davis said. Now he has a permanent place to

set up and more time for his students.

**WHAT’S IN THE FUTURE?**

Interest in the EXP Zone continues to grow. In one year, nearly every room has been filled, with more classes interested in using the space. Lovegrove indicated that the program will eventually move beyond Grace Haight.

“I think there’s a long-term vision to have what we call an innovation center on campus,” Lovegrove said. “That would be a bigger, more modern and newer building that would do a lot of the same things. So I think this is our starter innovation center. It’s not the final answer, but it was a great way to get started and learn about how things like this are going to work.”



PHOTO: Anastasia Noonkesser

The BJU Concert Choir performs in War Memorial Chapel.

»» From **CHOIRS** p.1

for the students and faculty involved.

Dr. Michael Moore will direct the performance. Dr. Megan Stapleton will perform as soprano, guest artist Joshua Wheeler as tenor and Dr. David Parker as bass. Moore, Stapleton and Parker are faculty in BJU’s music department. Wheeler, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and the LA Opera’s young artist program, has performed as a leading lyric tenor in operas and concerts across the country.

Parker is also helping the choirs with proper

diction for this unfamiliar language. He said he is especially enthusiastic for this artist series. He has performed as a soloist in more than 130 productions, but this will be his first time singing “The Creation” in German, he said.

“The Haydn ‘Creation’ is indisputably one of the greatest oratorios of all time,” Parker said. “Recreating such a great Biblical event is tremendously rewarding as a Christian.”

Dr. Pattye Casarow, who directs the University Singers, the freshman choir, said she believes this artist series will be special for BJU because of its collaborative nature, involving all

BJU choirs. Many involved in the concert have never performed the piece, making it their introduction to Haydn’s masterpiece, she said. Haydn’s “The Creation” is so beautiful because of his use of “word painting,” using the music to portray the story of creation in Genesis, Casarow said.


The performances for Haydn’s “The Creation” are at 7:30 p.m., on April 18 and 19 in Rodeheaver Auditorium. To purchase tickets, visit Showpass online.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** Staff Writer Rylie Wiedell will be singing in “The Creation” as part of the combined choirs.

**From the designers...**

**YOUR MISSION, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT:** find the paw hidden in this issue, post a photo on your Instagram story and tag The Collegian. The first person to post will win a free Chick-fil-A meal.

Hint: This is not it...



**follow us on Instagram @thecollegianbju**

OPINION



**Zachary Edmondson**  
STAFF WRITER

## True tolerance in intolerant times

*Tolerance must be reclaimed from cancel culture and restored to its former meaning.*

There was a time when people didn't let their differences get in the way of good relationships. Friends could "agree to disagree" about any topic. Sadly, the world has changed. With the rise of "cancel culture," people all over the world—and especially in the United States—have become more polarized. Today, there are "right" and "wrong" beliefs, and if someone's beliefs don't align with the "right" beliefs, they are

canceled from society, forbidden to express their opinions freely.

I realized how much things have changed when I watched the first 1960 presidential debate between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon. What stood out to me was how courteous the two candidates were; while Kennedy and Nixon were not friends, they were civil throughout the entire debate. I couldn't help but compare it to the debates between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump in 2016. I wondered if the purpose of the 2016 debate was to see whose reputation could be destroyed the fastest.

How could the world

change so quickly in such a short time? We've forgotten the true meaning of the word tolerance. In the past, tolerance was about acceptance of people. Today, tolerance is about agreement with ideologies. Now you are pressured to accept their beliefs and condone them, even if they go against your own. Tolerance declares that all beliefs are equally true, and this misconception fuels cancel culture. Anyone with "exclusivist" beliefs—especially Christians like me—are labeled intolerant bigots.

I don't deny my beliefs are exclusive. The same is true of every ideology, including Buddhism, Islam,

Judaism, and secular humanism. As a Christian, I believe there is a standard of truth for all people. John 17:17 says, "Your word is truth." I can't accept that all beliefs are equally true, but I can extend love toward people I disagree with, without condoning their beliefs. This is tolerance.

Cancel culture is intolerant by its own definition. People on every side demand that others condone their beliefs, but they refuse to condone the beliefs of others. Is this not cancel culture's definition of intolerance? Yet many don't recognize the dichotomy.

If cancel culture continues, it will divide neighbors into enemies. Each group

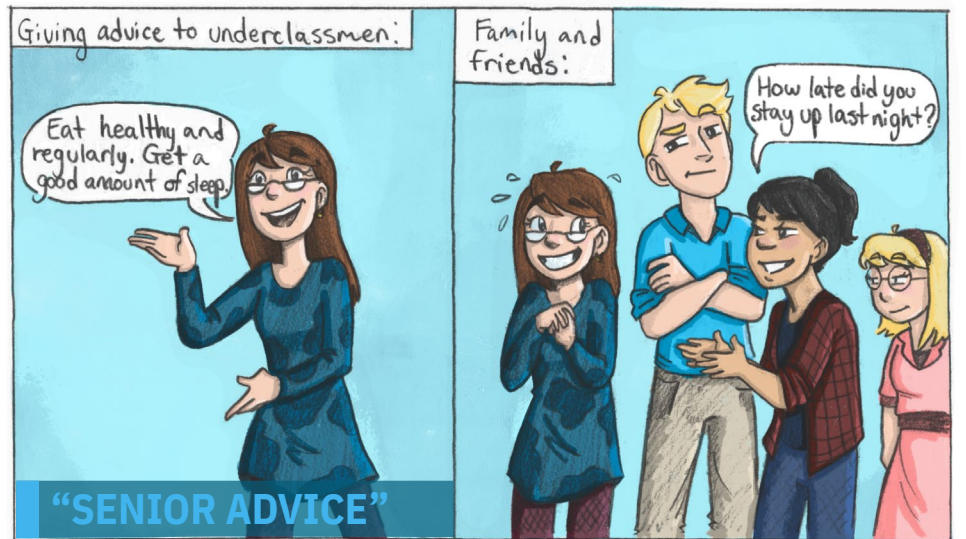
will assume that the other has nothing valuable to say, and they may take violent action against them. We have seen that the result of such unrest is chaos—think of the riots that followed the election of 2016 or the storming of the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

How do we stop the madness from spreading further? The answer lies in rediscovering true tolerance. The term must be reclaimed and restored to its former meaning. Jesus said it best: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Truth is the best response to a lie. The only way to defeat false tolerance is to embrace and practice true tolerance.



"BJU ROSETTA STONES"

COMICS | MADELYN WOKATY



"SENIOR ADVICE"

# sudoku

				8			2
		9	5	2			4
1				7	3		
			1	3			
		5	9				
3	4						8
	7	8		2		4	3
5				4	1		
			8		9		



"FINALS WEEK"