

# The Vitruvian

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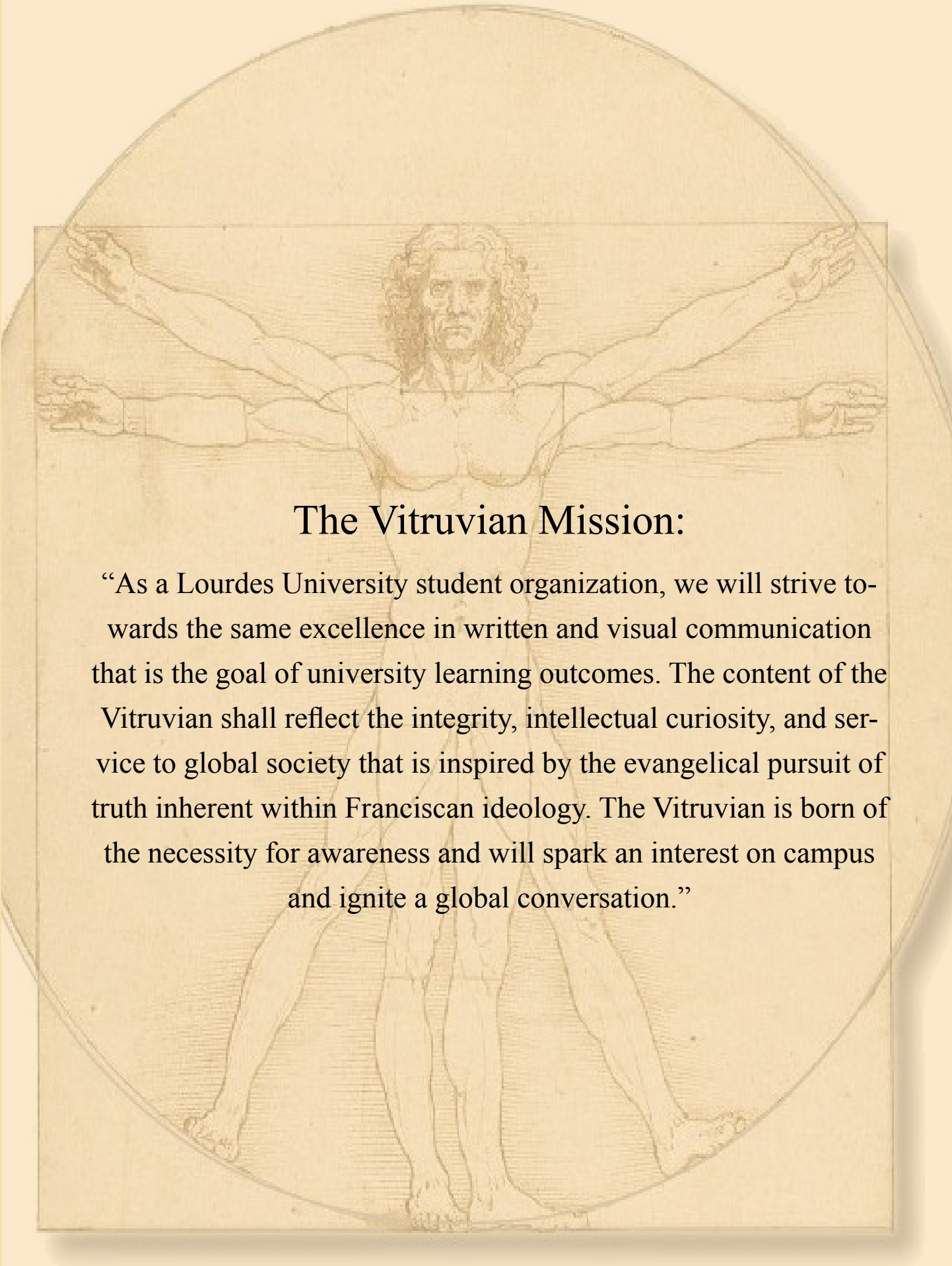
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## The Vitruvian Mission:

“As a Lourdes University student organization, we will strive towards the same excellence in written and visual communication that is the goal of university learning outcomes. The content of the Vitruvian shall reflect the integrity, intellectual curiosity, and service to global society that is inspired by the evangelical pursuit of truth inherent within Franciscan ideology. The Vitruvian is born of the necessity for awareness and will spark an interest on campus and ignite a global conversation.”

# Toledo: Insight to the Art Scene

Katie Bartlett

Uptown and Downtown Toledo joined together to hold their final Art Walk of the summer season. The Arts Commission of Toledo premiered these events during the second Thursday of each summer month. For three hours of these evenings, local artists display their work on street corners and inside storefronts of restaurants and artist galleries. As I peruse down to the block of St. Clair and Washington, I begin to witness an unfamiliar world unfolding before me. The variety of works is inspiring. Creations made from paint, metal, glass, and textiles are in abundance. The people walk in and out of the shops with artwork in hand, and a drink in the other. There seems to be something in the air, and the patrons are thriving from the abundance of radiating energy.

The Uptown Association made its first appearance in the Art Walk series this summer by including areas of Uptown Toledo into the mix. Specifically, the Art Walk stretches from 11<sup>th</sup> Street to the Ottawa Tavern on Adams. According to local artist and member of the Uptown Association Events Committee, Jesse Heider, “I think it was pretty successful. This was a good summer for Uptown, and the Art Walks helped shed light for our area.” Being a resident of Uptown Toledo, Heider can easily recognize the creative impact such art events have made for her part of town. The Glass City has been striving towards stimulating the economy, as well as improving the overall ambiance in recent years. The arts have inevitably contributed to this ongoing success.

Heider, an Uptown native, actively participates in the Art Walks as well as other local events. There is no doubt

that her work is unique in nature; she uses terrariums as her medium. This is a self-sustaining ecosystem which may contain moss, rocks or plants that can survive in this environment. Heider also uses preserved botanicals in her jewelry, given the small scale with which she works. “Tiny Terras” really took off two years ago, and has made leaps in growth ever since. When asked where her inspiration comes from, Heider replied that it comes from her father: “As a kid I was always interested in terrariums, and my dad was the one who gave me the information I needed.” She and her father share the same love for nature and the life it contains. Heider creates earrings, necklaces and bracelets that make up most of her business. In addition to the various art events in town, Heider creates custom work which can be seen on her Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/tinyterras](http://www.facebook.com/tinyterras). Here you can also find a link to her Etsy account where purchases may be made.

The City of Toledo is definitely not scarce in what it has to offer residents and visitors, and the art community makes certain no one forgets this. “More and more artists have emerged from the city, and these events are their outlets,” says Heider. “We’re like a community within a community.” With the implementation of numerous events annually, the art scene in both Downtown and Uptown is a trendy place to be. On November 16<sup>th</sup>, make sure to check out the “Make it Indie” Crafter Fair being held in Uptown Toledo. You can catch Jesse Heider here along with other local artists. For more information on this specific event and others visit [www.theartscommission.org](http://www.theartscommission.org)



# Raise Your Thermoses High in a Toast to Autumn

Veronica Lark

At the beginning of fall, I'd like to think that I'm not alone in visualizing myself walking down a leaf-covered sidewalk with a fall-flavored-coffee encased in my mittened hand. Along with being a time for consuming far too many warm beverages, fall is a time for celebration. Outside of the countryside, people only glimpse some of the more consumer-based aspects of fall; and while Starbucks and discount boots may seem of prime importance, there's a simpler version of fall that merits just as many smiles.

The not so faraway town of Tecumseh, in Southern Michigan, welcomes visitors to its annual "Appleumpkin Festival" in early October. This festival crowds the streets with vendors, booths, and a plethora of food, as people begin breaking in their fall gear. On the outskirts of the tiny Michigan town, autumn transforms Kapnick Orchards into a fall-time destination through their annual Apple Festival. This year's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apple Festival will impress locals as well as anyone willing to make the drive out during the weekend of October 12-13.



Kapnick Orchards has seen a fair amount of change over the years; starting in 1961 as a roadside stand, the family has seen it develop into both a wildly successful store and thriving orchard. Cousins, Sharon Shaffer and Kim Amstutz (both whom I had the pleasure of interviewing), are part of the current family generation keeping the Orchard thriving, and they seemed excited for the coming months of fall.

Throughout the fall season, wagon rides that traverse through the orchard and the surrounding woods are available to the public. According to Sharon, they're always adding new attractions to the wagon ride, and this year, the employees' favorite add-on is their *Despicable Me* characters. "We just love our minions!" Sharon exclaimed, while excitedly explaining the ensuing autumn's events to me.

Although the Orchard offers autumn-themed enticements on a daily basis during fall, there will also be special attractions for visitors during the Apple Festival weekend. A

bake-off contest will encourage baking enthusiasts to bring in their best recipes and homemade goods; dozens of activity and craft centers will be scattered throughout the property. And entertainment will not be lacking at all, with an array of magicians, clowns, a petting zoo, and live music.

The majority of people may end up being content with the simple pleasures of a family-run orchard. Kapnick's most popular items are their homemade caramel apples (which you can hand select and then see painted with caramel before your very eyes), their homemade apple butter (churned outdoors for 8 hours—the good ole fashioned way), and their homemade apple cider (which doubles as another top seller: apple cider slushes!). It's obvious that the lure for city folk and out-of-towners will be seeing the roots of the autumn season coming to life in a more interactive way than a family trip to Kroger.

If your fall-preparation-lineup is lacking excitement, visit [www.kapnick-orchards.com](http://www.kapnick-orchards.com) for more information of location and activities, and stop by Kapnick Orchards sometime this fall! The Apple Festival activities will be happening this October, from 9 am – 6 pm on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup>, or 10 am – 5 pm on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

# Social Media Pros and Cons

## Samantha Good

What happened to the days when talking to someone was either face to face, or on the telephone? Today, children and teens hardly ever speak to people face to face, even when in a public setting with people that they know. This is not only present in teens, but with most age groups. In today's world, instead of talking to someone face to face, social media has come along making face to face communication less common. At the same time, social media makes it possible for people who live in different countries, such as family, able to communicate with one another anytime.

"Social media is a great way to connect with my friends and family back home in Memphis, Tennessee," Lourdes freshman Kyle Sherman said.

Almost everyone has either a computer or a smart phone. These devices make accessing social media easy for people, whether they are on the go or at work or just bored stuck in the house. However, how many times have you found yourself working on a paper or doing a search on Google, and find yourself being pulled towards checking your Facebook or Twitter account? It is so popular in schools that some districts, such as Sylvania Public, have banned the sites on their systems. Students get distracted from doing their school work and go onto social media instead of doing a web quest or writing a paper.

According to Assistant Superintendent at Sylvania Public Schools Scott Nelson, social media sites are blocked in the Sylvania Schools network because they have not found an educational use for them yet.

"We will continue to evaluate social media and determine the negative things and see if we can make them educational," Nelson said.

Another problem prevalent in social media is cyber bullying. Formerly, bullying was something that was done face to face, such as picking on the kid at school by pushing their books out of their arms or calling them names in the hallway. Today, bullying is still done in schools, but it has also taken to social media sites and has become known as cyber bullying. Cyber bullying exists in forms such as posting mean things about someone on a social media site, like Twitter or Facebook, or sending a threatening message to someone on one of these sites. According to [www.bullying-statistics.org](http://www.bullying-statistics.org), over 25% of adolescents and teens have been bullied repeatedly through their phones or the internet.

Online dating has been around for as long as social media has been around. Eharmony.com and Match.com are just two of the many online dating sites. However, did you know that not everyone is who they appear to be on these sites? A few years ago, a movie called *Catfish* was released. It is about a guy named Nev who meets a girl on Facebook. Nev and this girl create a relationship, and Nev decides he wants to meet this girl. Upon meeting her, he is told a bunch of lies until he is given the truth. The girl that he saw and received pictures of on Facebook and mobile were not, in fact, the girl he thought she was. The girl was someone different but was using another girl's identity as her own on Facebook, which broke Nev's heart. Although Nev and this girl are still friends through the girl's own Facebook account, this happens every day. Nev created a show on MTV (*Catfish*) showing people that you can be anyone behind a computer screen. Face-to-face contact ensures that you know who you are talking to is the correct person unless they are lying then well you would have to figure that one out on your own.

"Social media can cause drama, but at the same time it can be good. I met my girlfriend on twitter and we have been together for 9 months," Freshman Sean Westhoven said.

Now, not all of social media is bad. It can be used to connect with people that you haven't spoken to in years, or family that live in a different state or country. As of September 15, 2013, there are 1.15 billion Facebook users, 500 million Twitter users, and 5 million snapchat users worldwide, according to Expandedramblings.com. Not only is social media used for just social reasons, but it is used for communication in businesses and schools as well. If you go onto Google and type in the search bar a name of a business you wish to know more about, chances are one of the first links to come up is a link to Facebook. The same goes for music groups, books, authors, movies, TV shows, anything. Almost everything and anything has something on Facebook or Twitter.

Let's face it, social media is here to stay, no matter how good or bad it gets. The types of social media we have today may be around tomorrow, or something new and better will be here. No matter, what it is not leaving anytime soon. If you do not wish to be a part of social media, you need not too, but it will continue to grow and change with or without you.

# What's not spectacular about *The Spectacular Now*?

Veronica Lark

One of this summer's best movies, *The Spectacular Now*, was filled with characters full of unique flaws. The screenplay, written by the same people who brought us *500 Days of Summer*, came with high expectations and contained a rare beauty that is difficult to create onscreen. I left the theatre impressed with the artistically fresh and untainted romance, adapted from Tim Tharp's novel, which was so real, I almost felt like I was learning a story that only a friend would have privilege to know. This story centers on the life of Miles Teller, who embodied an unforgettable personality and charm. Miles Teller (well-known from his role as Willard in the new remake of *Footloose*) embraced his role as the fearless Sutter Keely. The other lead, Shailene Woodley, left her well-known role in *The Secret Life of the American Teenager*, and became the quiet, but driven Aimee Finecky.

*The Spectacular Now* deals with something deeper than the clichéd "coming of age" and "first love" movie themes. What the characters portray are lives that have been laden with loss, and their stories intertwine during a time when they have an opportunity to move past their history. In fact, their relationship was clearly a time for growth in both characters. The storyline was poetic in the way that many of the subplots in this story could be taken

at face value and looked at through a kaleidoscope of differing perspectives. General peer pressure, alcohol abuse, and abandonment were themes that, when combined, led to a spiraling of effects: fear of what's next, fear of moving on, and a particular desire to exist for the "now."

The director, James Ponsoldt, understood that glamour and fancy effects don't make statements in the powerful ways that a difficult message, coupled with raw talent and chemistry between actors tend to. The adolescent mistakes that are made by both characters in the film could be seen as typical twists-and-turns in a "coming-of-age drama", but they were atypical in their emotional appeal. Sutter Keely's claim, that "as long as I [he] can remember, I've never been afraid," seemed to be his life mantra as he sauntered through life enjoying a vortex of alcohol abuse and avoidance of commitment.

To any viewer, this lack of fear would easily translate into Sutter's denial of his problems, and desire for momentary pleasure. It would be all too easy to make assumptions about the results that his destructive tendencies would lead to, but it would be all the more fun to stop assuming, and see for yourself what Sutter discovers after spending so much of his time living in the "spectacular now."

*"The Spectacular Now deals with something deeper than the clichéd "coming of age" and "first love" movie themes."*

# Sherman Alexie Review

## B. Mondrala

Sherman Alexie, Native American author, speaker and comic addressed the Toledo Public Library audience at the Stranahan Theater in Toledo, Ohio on Wednesday, September 11, 2013. He presented as energized, enthusiastic and positive about the opportunity to speak to an audience comprised of “nerds” who were much like himself.

He was unapologetic about his leftwing, liberal, anti-war, pro-patriotism points-of-view. He related that his family (father and grandfather) had a history of serving the United States (U.S.) in the military. He chose to share a story about the impact his deceased, war-hero paternal grandfather had on his personal and emotional life from beyond the grave. His personal quest to obtain a replacement set of his grandfather’s military medals of honor became the catalyst for a great personal epiphany.

His work and his quest became the focus of his interview with Oprah Winfrey on national television. Alexie had stated to Oprah’s representative during the pre-show interview that he felt the medals presented a path to healing and forgiveness for him and his father. Alexie reported that he felt his response to the interview questions was fabricated and pure fiction, not realizing that it was his heart that was speaking and not his intellectualized fictional talent. Unbeknownst to Alexie, Oprah had arranged for the U.S. military to present him with the medals on the televised program. He

shared with the Toledo audience his experience of the reality of holding the medals and the U.S. flag in his hands. He reported that the moment brought forth an unexpectedly strong emotional response.

Alexie proceeded to narrate how the presenting of those medals to his own father created yet another opportunity for healing within his family. His father, who was in late-stage kidney failure, appeared to resolve some unfinished emotional tasks upon receiving the medals into his keeping. Alexie related that the medals seemed to act symbolically to bring his grandfather into his father’s grief work. In the few short weeks before Alexie’s father passed away, the medals brought the three generations of Native American men a deeper intimacy. Knowing that he was the agent of that opportunity appeared to bring Alexie a measure of comfort and closure regarding his father’s death.

Sherman Alexie’s narrative presentation on this date brought the audience into the history of his “medal” story, and expanded the story by making it a part of our story.

***“He was unapologetic about his leftwing, liberal, anti-war, pro-patriotism points-of-view. He related that his family...had a history of serving the United States in the military.”***

# American Culture and the Continued Use of the “Ism”

## *Combating discrimination by listening, educating, and understanding*

Megan Eisenhour

Our president is black. Miss America 2014 is Indian. America surely must be far advanced from the racial tensions of the fifties and sixties, right?

On the Fiftieth Anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech, there remain mixed opinions about how far we have come as a country. Are we really much better than we were fifty years ago when groups of African-Americans were burned by cigarettes and doused with condiments during the non-violent protests of the Civil Rights Movement? American citizens of all ethnicities and religions continue to be subjected to ethnic discrimination regardless of how many generations their families have lived in America. Simply because these American citizens are of different skin tone, religious practice, or accent, they are consistently scrutinized, demoralized, and objectified by other American citizens.

Yet, racism is not the only “ism” that plays a role in our emotionally segregated communities. Sexism, ageism, religionism, classism, and countless other types of discrimination affect almost everything we do as American citizens. Do we really think we are better than others? Or is this just something that has developed into our “American Culture?” The negative connotations that surround an “ism” will always hold some truth to them. Do things like racism and religionism really serve any benefit to our great and powerful nation?

Lourdes University student, Ali H. Elmokdad, considers racism to be defined by when someone believes they are a racial superior. Furthermore, he feels that discrimination can occur in many ways, whether that is in terms of beliefs, religion, or nationality. Elmokdad was born and raised in Lebanon, but moved to the United States when he was eleven years old. He and his family are devout Muslims and reside in the Sylvania area. Elmokdad speaks to many Lourdes University classes about Arab and Muslim culture, in addition to working with the Arab Student Union at

the University of Toledo, and serving as President of the Lourdes Arab American Student Association.

Unfortunately, Elmokdad and his family have experienced multiple acts of racism in the Sylvania area. Because Elmokdad’s mother chooses to wear the hijab, a headscarf worn by Muslim women, his family is quick to be targeted. Elmokdad recalls multiple incidents at local grocery stores and even while driving where people have gone out of their way to make terribly hurtful comments.

“My mother was hurt. Who would think that we still have to face these issues in this beautiful country?” Elmokdad pleads, while describing an incident where his mother was confronted about her hijab in the grocery store. “I know why people make racist comments. People don’t know the religion of Islam and how peaceful it is. They get these ideas from social network sources that Muslims hate Western culture. This is untrue. I was born and raised in Lebanon, yes, but I am an American citizen. This is my home.”

On a national level, Elmokdad firmly believes that we have a problem with racism.

“This country was built on the idea of equality and freedom, but we do have a problem. We have a lot of racist people in this country. White against black. Black against white. It does exist, and it is a sad thing that in such a country we have to deal with such issues and face such people,” he states.

And not only do acts of racism affect reputations on the personal level, they also affect the reputations of whole communities. “You will always have the idea in your head about *this is what happened here*,” Elmokdad adds.

Yet, the Lourdes University community has something to be proud of. Even though acts of racism occur daily just around the corner in the Toledo area, Elmokdad states that he has never felt unwelcome as a Muslim student in a Catholic school. “Lourdes is a culture and everyone belongs to that culture,” he adds.

When asked if he had anything to say to his community, Elmokdad is quick to state, “You don’t have to be a racist to love your faith, culture, beliefs, and race. You can be dedicated to your beliefs and honor



your race, but that should not make you value your own beliefs over others. What makes us any different from others?”

Assistant Professor of Theological studies Peter Sibilio, Ph.D., has spoken at many conferences regarding the similarities between Christianity and Islam. In one of his most recent speeches he draws attention to an important idea from Pope Benedict XVI.

“Then-Father Joseph Ratzinger, when he was just a humble theology teacher, long before he became Cardinal, said, ‘We are no longer ready, willing, or able to think that our neighbors, who are decent and respectable and in many ways better than we are, should be eternally damned and lose salvation simply because they do not have *Catholic* stamped on their passport’,” Sibilio states.

In many ways, this statement by Pope Benedict XVI can be applied to the acts of sexism, racism, and other assorted hate classifications that are unethically used today. Why must someone have Caucasian, mid-fifties, and white-collar class written on their entrance ticket to society? Are we not all from the same earth? Do we not all have equal pursuits of life, liberty, and happiness?

Furthermore, Sibilio draws attention to a statement by Catholic Theologian Hans Küng:

“There will be no peace among the nations without peace among religions.” Racism, sexism, ageism, religionism, or whatever your chosen “ism” is will do nothing but increase the miles away we are from world peace. And isn’t world peace something so many of us want to witness at some point in our futures?

The easiest thing we as citizens can do to prevent these “ism”s is actively listen and become educated. Just as Miss America 2014 was harassed on Twitter moments after her crowning for being “Arab” and “Al-Qaeda” when she has lived in the United States since birth, the best way to prevent these atrocities is to learn about the people around us. Get to know your African-American neighbor. Say hello to the Asian man sitting next to you at dinner. Admire the hijab of the Muslim woman at the grocery store. These acts, these types of love, are what will eventually bring a screeching halt to racism, religionism, and all the other segregating complexes. These simple acts are the kinds that will create a wave that starts with our community. And soon enough our waves will grow to create a powerful sea of equality and peace.



*Ali H. Elmokdad, Lourdes University student and President, Lourdes Arab American Student Association*

# The Hermit Kingdom and the Worm

## Patrick Pickering

You may not know much about North Korea, and you are not alone. With the continuous increase in the globalization of information, it is surprising that so little is known about the people and culture of North Korea. This may be why it is dubbed the “Hermit Kingdom”.

Following the Second World War, North Korea was largely influenced by the politics and ideology of Soviet Union and China. They became dependent on the resources received from each nation, and when the Soviet Union fell in the early 90’s, the North Korean economy took a massive blow. Along with the decrease of foreign aid, there have been numerous environmental disasters, and this has caused further damage to the already fragile economy.

The resources that are available in North Korea are largely allocated to military and other government spending. Currently, there is no form of diplomacy between the United States and North Korea, and this is largely due to North Korea’s ongoing nuclear testing. The Western world has vocalized their complaints that this spending should address the rampant malnourishment, due to food shortages, instead of funding nuclear tests. According to The World Food Program, who has been working with the UN, one in every five children suffers from stunting in the capital city, Pyongyang.

The animosity between the Western world and North Korea drew the interest of Vice Co-Founder, Shane Smith. He has visited North Korea on a series of journalistic missions in an attempt to unravel the mystery of the Hermit Kingdom. Each visit encompassed a

strict government regulated tour that took him through a series of indoctrinations that contrasted the evils of Western ideology against the purity and strength of the current Supreme Leader. Each trip that Smith took, he was under constant supervision of ‘minders’, secret service or other political figures with the purpose of tracking tourist and journalist movement within the country. His trips were slightly eerie and reminiscent of the “Truman Show” because he was always under the careful eye of the secret police.

***“Rodman was largely optimistic on what could be achieved in North Korea. He believes that his new friend, Kim Jong-un, is generally a good guy that wants to open up to the world...”***

Smith’s fascination with the country led him to stumble upon a gift that Secretary of State Madeleine Albright gave to Kim Jong-il in 2000. In her unprecedented trip to North Korea, the Secretary of State gifted the Supreme Leader a basketball signed by

Michael Jordan. Albright had somehow learned that the Supreme Leader and his son, Kim Jong-un, had a love for basketball, particularly the Chicago Bulls. With this knowledge, the staff at Vice began scheming on how to implement their own form of basketball diplomacy.

Vice enlisted the help of the Harlem Globetrotters as well as “The Worm”, or better known as Dennis Rodman, for their mission to North Korea. The enthralling HBO documentary shows glimpses of life within the Hermit Kingdom, but the journalists are always under the watch of their minders. The basketball diplomats are taken on a state guided tour that attempts to show prowess of the country, but comes off largely choreo-

graphed and subdued. The main event of the trip was an exhibition match that saw the visitors and locals come together to make up the two opposing teams. In true fashion of a friendly, the game ended in a tie, and Dennis Rodman had a new “friend for life”, in that of Kim Jong-un.

This trip seemed to have left a hunger in Rodman because he soon orchestrated a second trip to North Korea, but this time it was sponsored by an Irish betting firm called Paddy Power. Rodman furthered his relationship with Kim Jong-un, and was able to hold baby Ju-ae, the daughter of Kim Jong-il. The significance of this encounter is that her existence was only rumored until Rodman’s confirmation at his last press release. During this release, Rodman also stated that he would be returning to North Korea with twelve ex-NBA players to have a series of exhibition matches.

Rodman was largely optimistic on what could be achieved in North Korea. He believes that his new friend, Kim Jong-un, is generally a good guy that wants to open up to the world, but at the same time he is required to maintain a certain image for his people. In addition to the exhibition matches, Rodman will also coach their Olympic team for a certain time.

The conference turned political when Rodman stated that Kim Jong-un just wanted to talk with President Obama, and made the basketball connection by further saying, “He loves basketball. And I said Obama loves basketball. Let’s start there, all right. Start there”. Having opened the political discussion, the press asked Rodman about the situation of Kenneth Bae. Bae is an American citizen who is currently imprisoned at an unknown work camp in North Korea. In response, Rodman fired, “Guess what? That’s not my job to ask about

Kenneth Bae. Ask Obama about that. Ask Hillary Clinton.”

However, he was not opposed to accepting a more diplomatic role because he added, “Let’s have a conversation [Obama]. Why Obama, you afraid to talk to Dennis Rodman? You’re not afraid to talk to Beyonce and Jay Z?”. As strange as this tale may sound, Rodman has spent more time with North Korean officials than any American diplomat, let alone American citizen. With no end in sight to the food shortage crisis, continued imprisonment of Kenneth Bae, and ongoing nuclear testing, it may not be such a bad idea to call in “The Worm”.

***“The conference turned political when Rodman stated that Kim Jong-un just wanted to talk with President Obama, and made the basketball connection by further saying, “He loves basketball. And I said Obama loves basketball. Let’s start there, all right. Start there.”***

# The Truth about Human Trafficking:

## Putting an End to the Misconceptions behind Today's Modern Day Slavery

Marcee Lichtenwald

We have seen it played out before. Young attractive girl out at night on her own, doing what every other young girl would do; laughing with her friends while walking through the city, admiring the fashion mannequin in the window as she passes by, smiling at the cute boy who returns her coy gesture. The two stop and exchange flirtations while prince handsome secretly plots his strategy of trickery on the attractive and unsuspecting young girl. Fast forward a few frames to the bold and fearless crusader fighting against all odds, pulling a few action-packed moves on the lesser skilled corrupt beings blocking the heroic adventure of saving the damsel in distress from the horror she has been thrust into unexpectedly. This scenario does not represent any one given movie or television show, but it does exhibit the misrepresentation of the very real human trafficking industry on the big, or small, screen. The entertainment industry is there to entertain; to tell an action packed story with an heroic ending that causes everyone to walk away satisfied that they got their money's worth. Unfortunately, this fine line between entertainment and reality has a way of skewing common perceptions of the very real and disturbing issue that is human trafficking; an issue that has received greater awareness due to the exhaustive efforts of activists and legislatures working tirelessly to bring an end to this issue of modern day slavery.

### So what exactly is human trafficking?

Many people find themselves asking this very question as the term becomes more and more a part of our everyday language. We are all familiar with the term prostitution in conjunction with exchanging sex for money. So, in new millennial terms, now they are being trafficked? Wait, I'm confused. I thought a prostitute was the girl on the street corner, probably from a bad home life, probably supporting her drug addiction. This perception is certainly a common assumption, one that is perhaps fed by the media and entertainment industry. In some cases, these are contributing factors, but does that mean that every person with an undesirable upbringing develops a drug habit and becomes a prostitute? Certainly not. And does this also mean we discount them as victims? Absolutely not. So this is where perceptions start to break down. By examining what brought one into the arena of exchanging sex for money is where the emergence of this as an industry of

modern day slavery began to develop. Human trafficking is defined as a form of modern day slavery when any adult aged 18 and over is coerced and/or manipulated into different forms of labor services (be it sexual or domestic labor) against their will. Any child under the age of 18 involved in this trade is a trafficked victim (courtesy of [www.polaris.org](http://www.polaris.org)). Before presuming any further misconceived perceptions regarding drug addictions and prostitution, we need to take a good, hard look at the realities of human trafficking.

### Demanding the Supply and Distribution of Human Beings

The first thing that needs mentioning is that human trafficking is a BILLION dollar industry worldwide. Yes, that is billion, with a 'B.' While we are fighting a war against drug cartels, we are also forging a fight against a billion dollar modern day slave industry. Human trafficking is an industry that is marketable through the laws of supply and demand. Due to a high level of demand, suppliers are there to accommodate, for a nice little profit. Like any other industry, it is market-driven.

This demand is fueled by the fact that there is little reprimand for the buyer and little fear of the law on the part of the supplier. Instead, we penalize and further victimize the trafficked individual through arrests and incarceration, only to release her back into this world of fear, degradation, and extreme abuse. As a society we have only touched the surface of seeing this as an issue where there are actual victims involved. In the past, these victims were viewed and perceived as the perpetrators and the criminals, while the purchaser (a.k.a. "john") and the supplier (a.k.a. "pimp") were virtually unknown entities, unconcerned with and un-prosecuted in this triangle.

Based on this marketable concept of supply and demand, these suppliers need the product that fits the demand. The human trafficking industry is just that, an industry, a business. This particular business is not going to advertise the need for its human product. So how does one go about recruiting this product? As mentioned above, by means of coercion and manipulation.

### Human Trafficking: Women and Girls Kidnapped In Other Countries, Right?

We are all familiar with the concept of bringing victims in from other countries, and that the United States is one of the largest importers of trafficked victims. This is, at the very least, the awareness that comes into our living rooms via the mainstream media. But the larger awareness that is unfolding before us is that these individuals are being trafficked from our own neighborhoods. They are then

either trafficked among the buyers and sellers while still in their own home towns, or they are trafficked from state to state. This goes against the common misconception of the girl from the far-away-country being brought into our nation by means of force. This is happening right in our own neighborhood.

Toledo, Ohio itself has been, as of lately, considered to be a major hub for human trafficking. Some consider our position as a port city resting on certain waterways as one possible reason (are they transporting individuals via boats? What is this, the 1800's?), or due to our expressway traffic (because apparently Toledo is the only city in the U.S. with this new thing called an "expressway"). Toledo has gotten its notoriety because we refuse to ignore the problem. As Dr. Celia Williamson from the University of Toledo states, "We are committed to protecting our children and creating awareness and education to 1.) Get these children out of the industry, and 2.) Prevent others from falling victim." There has also been the misrepresentation of Toledo being the 4<sup>th</sup> largest "hub" in the nation for human trafficking. This too is a misrepresentation of facts, and as Dr. Williamson also states, "Toledo is 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation of cities with an FBI task force to combat human trafficking. It exists in other cities; they just need to catch up to our efforts." Toledo is not 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation as a trafficking hub; we are 4<sup>th</sup> in combating the issue. This is certainly something to be proud of. We are not taking this issue lightly, and we are committed to keeping our kids safe.

### **How Do We Keep Our Girls Safe?**

The larger question is what is it that makes children and adults vulnerable to the human trafficking industry. Vulnerability is the key word here. It is just this attribute that traffickers will prey on. Those at highest risk are runaways; homeless; victims of past sexual assaults and/or child abuse; young girls dating older men; and those with difficulties making friends. All of these attributes leads the trafficker into psychologically manipulating his/her victim by first befriending her, then zeroing in on her biggest vulnerability and then building a trust by manipulating that vulnerability. This art of coercion and manipulation begins with preying on weaknesses and getting inside the mind of the victim in an effort to control her. Control becomes the main mechanism that traps an individual in the industry. By getting inside the individuals mind, they get inside her heart. They prey on what is most lacking in a person's life and then fulfill this need building up a complete dependence. By accommodating their victim's every need, they develop a sort of "bond" that makes the victim feel utterly dependent on their trafficker. This why so often these victims do not leave their trafficker, or seek help on their own.

### **The Art of Manipulation**

The bond created between trafficker and victim develops a sort of "Stockholm syndrome" and the victim becomes the protector of the trafficker. This individual will do anything to keep her trafficker happy. The trafficker's perspective is all the victim hears, and the "establishment" becomes the enemy. Who do you think is purchasing their services?

The trafficker then becomes the master of "the Game" as it is referred. Once they have total control over their victim, they can begin the process of supply, demand, and distribution. Forget the images you see on television or the big screen where the traumatized victim escapes her captor and runs into the street waving down passers-by for help, only to be "saved" and able to return and rebuild her normal life. This is pure Hollywood fiction. The individual often feels she has nowhere else to go and is made to be completely dependent on her trafficker. He will control every aspect of her life including all financial stability, where she lives, what she wears, and to whom she speaks. The manipulation takes on a life of its own with control firmly in place.

### **Putting An End to This Violence**

Many are quick to assume that drugs are the major driving force behind this control. On the contrary, drugs become a deterrent for the trafficker. Drug addictions lead to profits for drug dealers, not traffickers of an underground sex industry. Remember, this is a billion dollar sex industry. Human traffickers are not willing to lose those profits to the drug industry. We need to get past these misconceptions and open our eyes to the reality that this is in fact modern day slavery, not your Hollywood depictions of sex-for-hire. It is crucial to understand that there comes a point where these women and girls begin to do whatever it is they have to in order to survive. Once trapped in this vicious underground, it is, in their mind, impossible to get out. This is how we end up blaming the victim and ignoring the bigger picture. Only by breaking these stereotypes can we put an end to blaming and prosecuting the victims and go after the real perpetrators: the supplier, and above all THE BUYER. We simply cannot put an end to this violent and horrific crime until we pass legislation that criminalizes the buyer. Without demand, there is no need for supply.

# *A Note from the Faculty Advisor*

Dr. Noah Roderick

## **Enumerations and Thanks**

It's pretty much impossible within the space I've given myself here to list all of the people we need to thank, let alone enumerate the ways in which each of those people helped make The Vitruvian a reality. This is a mere sampling, which I hope will suffice for the moment (in alphabetical order):

We thank Dean Holly Baumgartner, who, from our very first meeting, helped us to shape a good idea into something we could put down on paper. Without Holly, The Vitruvian might just have been a good idea.

We thank Chair Kate Beutel for nurturing both an intellectual and, importantly, a physical environment in which to do our work.

We thank Vice-President Roseanne Gill-Jacobson... Oh boy. This is tough. We thank Roseanne not only for being our biggest cheerleader, but for backing up her cheers with every institutional resource she could muster.

We thank Provost Geoffry Grubb, who quietly helped mobilize the resources to ensure not just that The Vitruvian would get off the ground, but that it would endure.

We thank Web Content Administrator Keith Johns for sharing his expertise so enthusiastically with the staff. It's no small thing to point out that without Keith, you would not be reading this very text.

We thank Publications Coordinator Carla Leow for helping make The Vitruvian beautiful and structurally coherent.

We thank President David Livingston. Getting a stamp of approval from the guy in the big office is a very nice thing, obviously. But President Livingston's sage advice and historical insights were absolutely central to the shaping of this magazine's intellectual vision.

We thank Director of Institutional Advancement Helene Sheets for her immense generosity of time and resources, and for making the task of actually publishing this magazine look easier than it probably is.

Finally, I would personally like to thank the Vitruvian staff, whose creativity, persistence, and sense of purpose have been, in equal parts, humbling and inspiring.

## **Faculty Advisor's Role**

The Vitruvian is a student magazine. All I need to know about my role as faculty advisor comes out of that simple, declarative sentence. But I'll unpack it a bit.

The Vitruvian. The truth is that we had a name for this thing before we even knew what kind of thing it would be. The name, *Vitruvian*, was actually there from the very first meeting. The staff knew that whatever form this periodical took, they wanted it to be steeped in the search for truth and the spirit of erudition, both of which are embodied in da Vinci's famous sketch. Part of my job as an advisor is to remind the staff of that ethos, should the need ever arise.

The Vitruvian is a magazine. As the staff began to articulate their specific goals, and as they started work on their first articles, it became clear that the analysis of ongoing local and global issues would be as much a part of their writing as reporting on current events would be. The staff also committed itself to making a home for new artistic work and analyses. In other words, The Vitruvian took on the shape of a monthly magazine, rather than a traditional college newspaper. As an advisor to a magazine, then, my job is to encourage the staff to write with a style and sophistication worthy of the great tradition of monthly magazines in this country.

The Vitruvian is a student magazine. The content of the magazine, along with its mission and its goals, are conceived of by Lourdes students, and by Lourdes students only. I made it very clear from the beginning that I wanted no hand in generating content for the magazine. I hold to that. My only job in this regard is to proof-read final drafts for mechanics/style. I reserve the right to redflag grossly offensive or libelous content, but given the extraordinary intelligence and integrity of the Lourdes students who comprise the Vitruvian staff, I have a hard time seeing when I would ever need to exercise that power.