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Growing use of prescription stimulants raises concern among health professionals

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UMKC recognized by EPA for food recovery efforts and sustainability initiatives

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Plaza Lights kick off the holiday season in Kansas City

Illustration used with permission of Hannah Edwards
Board of Publishers

Michael McDonald
Senior Staff Writer

A view from the Chancellor’s Office officially declared that “we will move to make the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) a top-tier educational institution for the foreseeable future.” In November, UMKC Communications (U-Comm) has doubled down on its marketing strategies to recruit prospective students.

Anne Spencer, vice chancellor for marketing and communications, is confident that UMKC is doing everything possible to promote its message across the country. According to the UMKC website, the university is the second-largest public university in the state of Missouri. The university’s goal is to attract more students from across the country.

Two weeks ago, the “Kansas City Strong, U-Comm refreshed the Kangaroo logo during Homecoming Week. U-Comm also designed the logos, websites and social media on Facebook and Twitter, ads on television and radio and in area high schools, online ads, speeches, partnering with community organizations like Saint Luke’s or the Chiefs or Rockhurst.

Spencer said that many prospective students from that area do not realize that UMKC offers in-state tuition to 11 Kansas counties as far west as Lawrence. Students from that area do not realize that UMKC offers in-state tuition to 11 Kansas counties as far west as Lawrence.

It also takes a shot at the sports rivalries between the two states. It also takes a shot at the sports rivalries between the two states.

This is one of my favorite accomplishments,” Spencer said. “We set out to launch a campaign to draw attention to UMKC’s tremendous tuition savings for students in Kansas. The campaign is designed to reach students on the Kansas side of the state line, where prospective students can gain a little bit of good news that is certain regional athletic rivals.

Spencer said her main focus is to keep students at the center of what U-Comm does, ensuring that every student and faculty member in the marketing process.

“The people who run and own this campus know better than anyone the great things going on here,” she said.

Issue 12, Nov. 5
Pg 10: Work on Campus
Drew Smith's interview was accompanied by the song photo.

Regina Spektor coming to KC

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“The people who run and own this campus know better than anyone the great things going on here,” she said.

Miller Nichols Learning Center on track for fall 2013 opening

The construction of the Miller Nichols Learning Center reached a halfway milestone on Nov. 15.

The new facility being built to the west of the existing Miller Nichols Library will include a 350-seat auditorium, a 400-seat lecture hall, double its two spaces and two 100-seat halls.

Students and faculty were invited to sign the final steel beam before it was placed.

Funding for the Miller Nichols Library Classroom Building Addition came through a $5 million University of Missouri System bond approved by the Board of Curators in 2010.

Funds for renovations to the existing library building, completed in spring 2011, came from private donors in exchange for naming rights to classrooms in the learning center.

Ground breaking was in April 2012.

Jeff Vandel, director of facilities planning, design and construction, believes the project is on track to open by August 2013.

“We figure we’re going to have about 1,200 people moving into and out of the building at any given time,” Postlethwaite said.

This influx of foot traffic will also mean more from the added capacity, including one 50-seat/100-seat hybrid. This will improve connectivity to the area. Students consider access from the north side in its construction.

“It is the biggest thing for students and faculty will be the entrance off 51st street,” she said. “And we can’t wait for that either.”

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M Mercury Association hosted its annual resume workshop in Rea Hall.

The Communications Studies-smack organization partnered with UMKC Career Services general manager Sandi Dale to discuss avoiding common resume mistakes and ways to stand out among the competition.

“Resume perfect if they are clean, neat and easy to read,” Dale said. “Identifying what held the job seeker is looking to offer is helpful. Whether it’s relevant experience, leadership skills, co-curricular activities, any study abroad experiences, honors/awards and volunteer work help in resume success.”

Dale said that the most common mistakes Career Services sees are not knowing the correct way to spell, use UMKC and use italics.

“As elementary as it may sound, we see dozens of students with common spelling errors,” she said. “They will look real good, especially if the person reading the resume is a UMKC graduate.”

Punctuation is problematic.

“Surprisingly the number of people who write ‘University of Kansas City’ or ‘University of Missouri – Kansas City’ is mind-boggling,” she noted. “Use a dash or comma instead,” she said. “I’ve come across it a couple of times, but I know when you’re trying to get something across.”

Williams also felt that the resume workshop was a success.

“I’ve gone to the workshops before, but it’s never always good to hear from Career Services,” she said.

And Dale wants to keep the resume plans to hold similar sessions in the future. For instance, this year, Career Services will offer an independent resume writing session.

“So many students that stand out and perform interview well,” her second great impression with being able to make that connection. “I’ve discovered avoiding common resume mistakes and ways to stand out among the competition. It’s a second great impression with being able to make that connection.”

Mercury Association’s Madison Kim, Jordyn Williams and Emily Lordanis introduce Career Services Manager Sandi Dale.

Résumé checklist

Contact Information
• First and last name (14-16 pt.)
• Address including zip code
• Telephone number
• Email address
• Any relevant professional or professional email address displayed clearly at the top of the page.

Education
• List schools attended in reverse chronological order.
• Full name of the university is included.

• List any honors/awards.
• List any relevant professional or professional email address displayed clearly at the top of the page.

Layout/Design
• Use a standard font and size.
• Use a standard margin size.
• Include any degrees earned.
• Include any professional licenses.
• Include any awards.
• Include any honors.
• Include any affiliations.
• Use a standard font size.
• Use a standard line spacing.
• Use a standard paragraph spacing.
• Use a standard page length.

Experience
• Use reverse chronological order.

• Indicate the name, city, and state of the organization or company.
• List title and start/end dates.
• List major achievements.
• List any relevant skills.
• Include any reference names.
• Include any reference phone numbers.
• Include any reference email addresses.
• Include any reference professional or professional email addresses.

Reference(s)
• Name of person or organization.
• Address of person.
• Phone number.
• Email address.

References not included within the resume must be available upon request.

Optional
• Objective Statement: Should be brief and specific and at the beginning of the resume, starting with a strong verb.
• A summary section listing job-related skills may be used instead of an objective statement.

Honors and Awards—Specify if the award is a degree or a professional or trade association award.
• Any other awards.

Skills—Include a comprehensive list for any relevant award or honor, the governing organization, and the month/year of receipt.

Activities—List the full, correct name of each organization, the dates of involvement, and any leadership roles.
• Any other activities.

• Include any relevant skills.
• Include any relevant experience.
• Include any relevant education.
• Include any relevant awards.
• Include any relevant honors.
• Include any relevant affiliations.

Job search/making a career change guide.

Caution: Do not include your high school grades.

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Caution: Do not include your high school grades.
Dr. David N. Atkinson, former chair of the University of Iowa Board of Publishers and retired Curator’s Distinguished Teaching Professor of Political Science, passed away on Nov. 14 at the Kansas City Hospice House. Atkinson, who started at UMKC as an assistant professor in 1987, had been fighting stomach cancer.

The family of the University of Iowa graduate requested no flowers be sent in memorial to him. Instead, they ask for gifts in his name.

In an April 2011 article announcing his retirement, the University News quoted Atkinson, who served as interim chancellor of UMKC from 2005-2008 after a business career. He was recognized for his commitment to diversity, civic leadership and vision and activism, at the organization’s Human Relations Dinner on Nov. 1.

The award is named in honor of Henry W. Bloch, the retired H. B. Bloch School of Management in Business and the arts and sciences faculty member. Atkinson began his career at UMKC in 1987. During his 10 years as interim chancellor of UMKC, he grew up in Birmingham, Ala., in the 1960s and devoted his life to the African American Rights movement. Atkinson began his career at UMKC as interim chancellor in 1987. Atkinson is recognized for his commitment to diversity, civic leadership and vision and activism, at the organization’s Human Relations Dinner on Nov. 1.

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Men's Basketball

Blowout loss at Ohio State sets back Roos

Tyren Rushing

Staff Writer

A 51-45 road loss to third-ranked Ohio State on Friday left the men's basketball team still struggling to mack the shadows. It marked the second straight game in which the Spartans knocked off Missouri in the first half due to trash talk. The team still struggling to reach the elusive NCAA tournament.

Roos, it may seem easy for Fred Chatmon to look back on his first season at UMKC.
Going for the high grade
Illicit use of prescription stimulants raises a red flag

Kate Baxendale
Senior Staff Writer

Michelle Heiman
Copy Editor

In the night before her chemistry exam, Jane* popped a 20 milligram Adderall. She said the medication, bought illegally from a friend for $5, helps her combat drowsiness so she can pull all-nighters in order to complete last-minute assignments or cram for exams.

Seven million Americans over the age of 12 took prescription drugs for non-medical reasons in 2010, trailing only marijuana in illicit drug use popularity according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Jane said she only takes her “study pills” when she feels like she needs brain power to buckle down on late-night study sessions. While these medications are meant to calm the brain and studying it aids in attention span throughout the day,” she said. “I do feel that I need it to perform better in school and work.”

The self-care piece is critical – "Remembering to eat well, sleep well and get exercise, especially during midterms and finals. That’s better than taking a pill.”

Dr. Dalenette Voigt-Catlin

Of the 408 UMKC students surveyed in the Missouri College Health Behavior Survey (MCHBS), 27 said they had used prescription stimulants in the past year. Of the 27 UMKC students, the majority said this occurs one to six times per year. This may suggest that stimulant use occurs at key times throughout the year, such as midterms and finals weeks.

Dr. Dalenette Voigt-Catlin, coordinator of the UMKC Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program, said there are safer alternatives to help students who take prescription stimulants.

Voigt-Catlin recommended studying in short intervals, about 30 minutes, and then doing something else before coming back to the work. "When we learn through associations and through repetition,” she said. “That feels better to people, because what they like is being rewarded, so they want to do it again, because it's repeated, and it’s not like you’re trying to force something on them. It’s about self-care as key."

Two students who are prescribed medication for ADHD, seniors Kaitlin Ohde and Dylan Kotubey, both of whom said they only take their medication for academic reasons, said there are safer alternatives to help study for exams.

Kotubey said there are safer alternatives to help study for exams. "I have been on this medication for many years now,” she said. “It’s like having a really busy day of classes and exams when you’re just not in your zone. Medication is just in aid in attention span throughout the day.”

Ohde agreed that her medication is necessary to focus for long periods of time. “I have been on the medication for several years now,” she said. “If I have a really busy day of classes and exams when I’m just not in my zone. Medication is just in aid in attention span throughout the day.”

"Little is known about the long-term effects of abuse of stimulants among the young,” said Alan Schwarz in a June New York Times article about prescription stimulants.

Schwarz interviewed approximately 40 students, parents and school officials. "Asked if the improper use of stimulants was cheating, students were split," he said. “Some considered that the extra studying hours and the heightened focus during exams amount to an unfair advantage. Many countered that the drugs don’t give you the answers’ and defended their use as a personal choice for test preparation, rather than cheating.”

Voigt-Catlin said the campus has a strategic plan surrounding alcohol and drug prevention, and addressing the issue of nonmedical prescription drug use is part of that plan. "We have a committee that looks across the whole campus, working on strategies to help educate students and to help provide experiences and activities to help people make wise choices," she said. "The campus also tries to do things around midterms and finals.”

Voigt-Catlin is also involved with the MindBody Connection in the Student Success Center, which she said will hold activities around finals week to help students avoid and/or deal with stress.

Common drug side effects

Aderal (Adderall) common side effects:
- Headache
- Stomach ache
- Trouble sleeping
- Weight loss
- Dry mouth

Vyvanse common side effects:
- Anxiety
- Decreased appetite
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Upper stomach pain
- Dry mouth
- Irritability
- Nervousness

Ritalin common side effects:
- Nausea
- Stomach ache
- Decreased appetite
- Nervousness
City Beautiful

Turn-of-the-century civic movement was inspiration for Kansas City's parks and boulevard system

O ne of Kansas City’s most admired and influential efforts is the City Beautiful movement, a boom of urban design and civic planning credited with transforming Kansas City from a sparse, dirt road-laden town to a thriving metropolis. This movement was characterized by the development of parks and boulevards as a means of beautifying the city. The proposal was initially rejected by the city council, reasoning that street improvements, sewers and water supply were more urgently needed than parks. Some may not know this annual celebration has been around for almost 90 years. The roots of the lighting ceremony are in 1925, when Nichols Road was paved. As the first official Plaza Lighting Ceremony was celebrated that year, the ritual was transformed into the popular custom it is today. However, the lack of citizen outcry for parks over the next 50 years proved the idea was rather pointless. That is, until a brief piece of fiction found its way into the popular press. That year, the Kansas City Star ran a short story about a man who brought with him to Kansas City to marry him. The ruse worked and his fiancée moved to Kansas City to marry him. It was not until the appearance of German born landscape architect, George Kessler that the true beautification process began. Knowing he would be found out, he resigned his position with the railroad and opened his own firm. He would go on to become the landscape architect for the city, forming boulevards and scenic streets and parks. The work was a short story about a young Kansas City man who convinced his prospective father-in-law to visit with exaggerated descriptions of the city’s parks, boulevards, and scenery. Knowing he would be found out, he resigned his position with the railroad and opened his own firm. He would go on to become the landscape architect for the city, forming boulevards and scenic streets and parks. The work was a short story about a young Kansas City man who convinced his prospective father-in-law to visit with exaggerated descriptions of the city’s parks, boulevards, and scenery. However, the lack of citizen outcry for parks over the next three years proved the development to be rather pointless. With the industrialization of the city, newspapers ceased active campaigns for parks.

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A Kansas City tradition continues.

Warm weather, SportingKC highlight this year’s event

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A Kansas City tradition continues.

Warm weather, SportingKC highlight this year’s event
Continued on Page 16

Dear tourist,

My recommendation of gay bars depends on your setting preferences. Some people prefer a high-energy bar with drag queens, while others enjoy a more intimate sports bar. Whatever the case, I believe Kansas City satisfies all needs.

The high-energy, well-known gay club is Missie B’s. This multi-level atmosphere has several bars, each with its own atmosphere. On the first level, there is the main dance floor, including theDirty Dorothy Show and FAKT! Mondays, take this space if you can get in. The second level is a place of art coming from drag queens. The stage and performers step up from the bottom floor. On the other side of the room, the stage is up to hang out with friends, or at the bar and meet some people.

After a few cocktails, many people feel like dancing. After a stumble up the stairs, you will find a dance floor with party lights, DJ’s and a spinning club scene. This is a great opportunity to leave your heart on the dance floor and not worry about your lack of rhythm. The top floor is equipped with several bars as well, as there’s no need to trek downstairs for another drink.

“Are you a smoker and hate going out at times you want to light up?”
Missie B’s has a two-level, ventilated, indoor back porch for all nicotine desires. If you want to go to a smaller, more intimate sports bar, try The High. This club and dance the night away, head to Missie B’s. If you want to chill out, head to Outabounds. If you want to explore the city and change it up a bit, try one of the many gay bars.

Dundie, for wine,
Phoenix Robinson

Questions can be submitted to Phoenix Robinson

Locations and hours:

Missie B’s

211 W. 39th St
Monday-Sunday 12 p.m. – 3 a.m.

Outabounds

5601 Broadway St
Monday-Saturday 1-3 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Sid Dickens Salon

1707 Main St
Monday-Sunday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

1822 Ultra Lounge

1822 Main St
Monday 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Brookside Lounge

1625-27 Penn St
Monday-Saturday 5 p.m. – 6 a.m.

Sunday closed

You can find more information about these bars by searching their names. Enjoy your time in Kansas City!
Q: What do you do if you’re young and women are talking hard about making their dreams come true?

A: Well, the word ‘star’ motivates me. As a matter of fact, I’m a star. I’ve sung on my third album, was the hardest for me to get to the studio and record. I didn’t win, so the people who were giving me the song, I was capable of getting in the studio and record. Now, this is what many audience think this song is going to get them. The people who were working hard to have young women talk about that. People don’t call themselves stars, so you have to call yourself a star.

Q: What can we look forward to from you?

A: I just finished an entire mixtape. It took me two days to record 10 songs. I went to London, Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam for the Audiovisual Presentation. I traced the footsteps of Audrey Hepburn. It was funny because when I was looking for her, I found myself and we look nothing alike. Can you tell?

I didn’t know that when I was in the 9th grade. He said I looked like a cat, so he nicknamed me Kitte and I stuck with it.

The youngest of three and the only girl to single mom, the ambitious 25-year-old grew up believing the ethics of hard work and determination. “I lost my father when I was about one. My mom, the ambitious 25-year-old grew up believing the ethics of hard work and determination. “I lost my father when I was about one. My mother was so busy working all of the time to support her music, visit her and we look nothing alike. Can you tell?”

Chrisette Michele Q&A

Through a lot of different people who were working hard to have young women talk about that. People don’t call themselves stars, so you have to call yourself a star. That’s ridiculous. People don’t call themselves stars, so you have to call yourself a star. I think you have to call yourself a star.

Mean? I’m calling myself a star.

Do you know what I mean? I’m calling myself a star. People don’t call themselves stars, so you have to call yourself a star.”

I didn’t think I was a star. I didn’t want to have that. That’s ridiculous. People don’t call themselves stars, so you have to call yourself a star. I didn’t think I was a star. I didn’t want to have that. That’s ridiculous. People don’t call themselves stars, so you have to call yourself a star. I didn’t think I was a star. I didn’t want to have that. That’s ridiculous.

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The LGBT community needs to stop the counter-hate

As a Christian, I am against same-sex marriage. I believe that it is by that adhering to this Biblical standard I am termed as hateful! Despite the fact that I believe what is written in the Bible regarding toward gay people, I am categorized as a hateful person by society.

My character speaks just the opposite, as I treat my fellow human beings with love, respect, and kindness. I do not agree with a lack of better words—with the cliche hate that Christians are forced to suffer from some members of the LGBT community. I often hear gay students talk about how they feel loved and seen them rolling their eyes and speaking about how they are “God” or “Christian” or “just pretending.” However, when I speak to them about the LGBT community, they say that these are the very things they do not understand. Here’s the heart of the matter:

Agreeing with the stance that gay marriage should not be allowed to enter a traditional marriage but redefine the Biblical definition of marriage is not hate.

I believe that any form of discrimination based upon sexual orientation is anything but a positive thing. Despite the fact that I believe in the commandments of Jesus, I do not believe that we should not go against them. We have every right to assurances, insurance policies, and other assurances and services.

I believe that reason is the way to all wisdom and that it is the only way that Christians can hear and understand the Biblical teachings. I think that what we need is a good and healthy discussion of the world’s values.

I don’t think, however, that we should accept the values of a group of the LGBT community. I have not been a Christian clearly that they have absolutes. I believe that they have no absolutes. I believe that they are not just willing to accept any kind of thing without looking at what is right and acceptable. I believe that they are just willing to accept anything without looking at what is right and acceptable.

Even though the queer community in the past took place, I feel that the queer community that is a group of the LGBT community were not as respectful as we should have been facilitated by the KCUR’s Leadership：“

Looking to Lumisonio’s “LGBT casting around the country at which people are of any sexual orientation. The college of UMKC or threatened with legal action by the American Civil Liberties Union removed from campus. The college of UMKC and the role the role of UMKC is playing in this behind-the-scenes-bleaching of bias type.

I believe that we should be able to still engage and respect the beliefs of others. By doing this, everyone is catched.

With policies ruling the airwaves this year, the topic of gay marriage has been in the forefront of the media and daily conversations.

UMKC was ranked 5th in Newsweek’s Gay Friendly College Rankings. I believe that it shows that UMKC is an amazing school and clearly that he does not believe in gay marriage but, I think that he would support our students. We need to discuss the role that the role of UMKC and the role of UMKC is playing in this behind-the-scenes-bleaching of bias type.

Bible truth. I believe that both are wonderful people. I believe that they have one thing in common: you may sound beautiful, but it happens more then often is what I think.

Nathan Zoschke

Let’s thank God for separation of church and state

UMKC Christian organization discriminates against LGBT students

Nathan Zoschke

Editor-in-Chief

Quentin Savwoir, a political science professor at Missouri State University and a former member of the Missouri House of Representatives, said, “Homosexuality is treated like any other sin in America. It’s simply not supported by the law, and it’s not supported by the religious organizations.”

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It’s nerd time
A legit nerd’s take on the rise of nerd culture

Tyren Rushing  Staff Writer

Today is probably the best time ever to be a nerd. A lot of the things that were once considered “nerd stuff” have become appealing to the masses and dominate the media.

First Person Shooter video games PWN gaming sales figures. But back in the day, only hardcore PC gamers used to play them.

The top two movies at the box office this year, The Dark Knight Rises and The Avengers, are based on comic books.

The No. 1 comedy television show in America is The Big Bang Theory, which centers around four nerds and their everyday lives.

The No. 1 show on basic cable is The Walking Dead, which is based on an independent black-and-white comic book.

The most downloaded show in history is Game of Thrones, which is based on the medieval fantasy novel series, A Song of Fire and Ice. Undoubtedly, it is a good time to be a nerd.

Technology is better than ever and thanks to the Internet, our nerdy voices and opinions influence Hollywood. Nerd Rage is no longer limited to you and your friends arguing about how much the Green Lantern movie sucked or how many times Marvel is going to kill Professor X. Studios scour the net for social media commentary and visit prominent nerd blogs for feedback.

The San Diego Comic Con started out as nerds meeting up yearly to trade comics. Now, it is the largest comic book convention in America, and it also promotes upcoming games, movies and TV shows.

And it’s happening locally as well. This year was the biggest turnout in the history of Planet Comic Con Kansas City, thanks to the appearances of Edward James Olmos and Billy “Lando Calrissian” Dee Williams.

The event, which was usually held at the Overland Park Convention Center, has been so successful that in 2013, it’s moving to Bartle Hall downtown, where the big boys hold their conventions.

For anyone who has misgivings about my nerd status, here are a few tidbits to prove I’m legit. My apartment has Star Wars, Batman, Marvel and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles posters on the walls. I watched anime and read manga back in ’03, before most of it was legally imported. I went to debate camp in high school, I add “padawan” to the dictionary of every phone I own, and I cried the second time I saw The Dark Knight Rises, despite already knowing how it ended.

Of course, there is a downside to the massive proliferation of nerdism that has overcome America.

Hipsters think it’s cool to dress like Steve Urkel and Screech from Saved by the Bell. It’s not. Nor is the never ending use of Internet memes on social media sites.

And of course with anything popular, money starts to play a bigger role. DC and Marvel have re-launched their entire comic book line-ups in order to attract new readers.

Disney bought LucasArts. And they won’t stop making those god-awful Transformer movies, since that franchise is a cash cow.

Being a nerd in 2012 is pretty damn sweet. I mean, I get to see more obscure comic franchises on the big and small screen, I guess I can deal with looking at those stupid horn-rimmed glasses all the kiddos and hipsters like and all the horrible movies about robots.

Zoschke: Continued from Page 18

To understand any literary work, one must critically examine its context.

Languages and cultures change over time, and meaning is lost with interpretation.

How words are understood varies considerably between languages and cultures, and there is oftentimes not an exact translation from one to another.

Consider how a Shakespeare play reads to modern-day English speakers, and then consider taking a text written centuries before Shakespeare in a non-English language and non-Western culture.

The Bible was written in three different languages—Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic—over a span of several thousand years.

Our understanding of human sexuality and the idea of “traditional marriage” are social constructs of 20th century Western culture.

The verses in Leviticus that many cite as condemnation of homosexuality are actually part of an early Jewish legal code. The same passages also prohibit tattoos, sex during menstruating, declare eating shellfish “an abomination” and advocate stoning disobedient children to death.

The New Testament passages in the Book of Romans thought to condemn homosexuality are more likely a condemnation of temple prostitution. Some religious scholars believe these do not refer to homosexuality at all.

Keep in mind that the Apostle Paul, who wrote the Book of Romans, also justified slavery and said that women should submit to their husbands and not have a leadership role in the church.

Also keep in mind that sexual practices differed considerably in the ancient world. Pedophilia was rampant in ancient Greece and Rome, and married men of high social status oftentimes had sex with men of a lower standing.

In the Old Testament, Solomon had 700 official wives and 300 concubines—hardly a traditional marriage.

The Bible has been used to justify everything from slavery, war, segregation, capital punishment and communism to pacifism, equality and free market capitalism.

Those who argue that their Biblical interpretation is the correct one often claim that others are simply reading the Bible wrong.

Trying to reason with them is pointless. They’re egotists who see themselves—not God, the Bible, logic, reason or science—as the source of truth.

The naïve arrogance of some Christians undermines the very teachings of Jesus himself, who butted heads with the religious leaders of his time.

Instead, befriendied fishermen, prostitutes, tax collectors and others at the bottom rung of the social ladder.

If Jesus were alive today, would he hold up a “God hates fags” sign, or would he join forces with the It Gets Better Project and reach out to LGBT youth who have been bullied and rejected by their families, peers and religious leaders?

Perhaps the bitterness some members of the LGBT community show toward Christianity stems from years of being marginalized by the Christian establishment.

Instead of finding spiritual guidance, they have encountered hostility and condemnation.

They have been stigmatized and labeled as “sinners” and objects of God’s wrath for seeking the same loving relationship that straight people seek—except they are attracted to members of the same sex.

Ultimately, it doesn’t matter whose interpretation of the Bible is right (assuming there is a “right” interpretation). For that matter, it doesn’t matter whether or not one is a Christian, any other faith or no faith at all.

Americans can appreciate the separation clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or the free exercise thereof.”

Same-sex marriage should be treated as a civil rights issue, not a spiritual issue.

Pedestrian dangers: Continued from page 19

you doesn’t mean you have to walk as slow as you possibly can. It’s beautiful out and all, but that doesn’t mean you have to bask in the beauty of fall while sauntering slowly across the street.

I have places to be. Enjoy the weather from the sidewalk.

I understand that it’s faster to cross right in the middle of the road versus at each end - I walked everywhere last year, too.

It’s just more convenient, I know, but please be considerate and more importantly, be smart. It’s really for your own good. I’m telling you this. It’s not surprising that young adults our age are the most dangerous drivers of all. We have 10 million things to distract us.

Although I pay very close attention to when and where you walk, others do not. I’ve seen an almost-accident more than a few times.

Don’t let that almost be you and do us all the favor of crossing where you should.

The number one cause of pedestrian accidents on the pedestrian’s part, is improper crossing, coming in at 27.3 percent. Don’t become a part of those numbers.

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