

Fear of unknown creates social tension

PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE

Are you for, against or undecided about the Islamic Cultural Center at Ground Zero?

PAIGE CARSWELL

If anyone said it best, it was Yoda. The three-foot-tall, pointy-eared green-skinned alien used his outer-space wisdom when he said, "Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering."

As much as we don't want to admit it, humans are all just animals, and we are driven by our most basic instincts—and perhaps the most shameful of all is the irrational fear we attribute to, well, everything.

It starts when we're very young. We're bitten by a dog, and suddenly, all dogs are evil. We eat salsa that is too hot, and then choose to eat the chips plain from then on. We realize that the crooks on television use knives, and begin to pass the butter knife to our parents at the dinner table.

But these are only small things. We'd never do the same thing to people, right?

Right?

The most wonderful thing about humans is that we have the ability to reason through the most difficult of situations, to pick out the good and the bad and to make distinctions between the two.

And the most terrible thing is that we don't.

One team walks around campus with the roles of being the drug users; one major walks around with the reputation of "those geeky losers." Women who stand up for their beliefs are **EDITORIAL** often classified as feminists who probably don't shave their armpits and churchgoers can all be the goody-goodyies.

Classifying everyone in the same group is the main problem, and is a huge problem for the culture center debate right now.

Of course the people building the Islamic Culture Center have a right to do so. Perhaps it will be a step toward healing and learning, and perhaps it won't. Either way, it's our decision.

The mess about whether or not there will be a backlash that will hurt more than this "mosque" could ever help is sad, but true. We're Americans, dang it. We don't change our minds and we don't forget and God help us, we don't forgive.

As if there's anything for us to forgive. There is a distinct difference between the Islamic culture and the radical people who partook in Sept. 11, 2001 view it—perhaps like there is a distinction between Christianity and the way the Ku Klux Klan or Fred Phelps views it.

If we could separate the two in our minds, there wouldn't be a problem. Unfortunately, that doesn't look like it is going to happen anytime soon. But, as wise little Yoda said, it's the fear that perpetuates more anger, and, ultimately, more suffering.

Understanding—being the bigger person—is one of the most difficult things to do, which is why we don't hear of many

people trying. But ultimately, it is one of the things that should distinguish us from the rest of the animal kingdom. We can't run around trying to anticipate the next time something bad is going to happen, and we definitely can't single out a group of people who are exercising their freedom of religion.

All other things aside, this is a decision for students, for politicians, for athletes and for actors. Everyone in the United States has a chance to stand up and put on their big person pants.

Milan Kundera once said, "Human decisions are terribly simple." But, they don't have to be. They can be thought out, if we want. We can allow others to have their own opinions without sculpting them based on their sex, age or ethnicity.

Without fear, or anger, we can allow people to just be themselves.

Paige Carswell is a senior majoring in journalism. You may e-mail her at paige.carswell@sckans.edu.



By Dawn Pleas-Bailey

I am very private about my political opinions. When asked to share my thoughts on putting a mosque at ground zero, I was quite hesitant. Mixing work responsibilities with my own personal opinion puts me in a very precarious position. My trepidation relates directly to the strong division that occurs on topics such as this. But I decided to risk and open myself up to share.

Just as I ask students to open themselves up to new experiences.

I am very aware of all sides of the disagreement. But I believe that the root cause of September 11 can only be healed if we search beyond the immediate.

I truly believe in the power of faith and the need for reconciliation.

If people were willing to open themselves up to perspectives that make them uncomfortable, it is possible that future 9/11 events will never occur again. I hope that through the mosque debate that we can address the underlying tensions that have divided our world.

I also pray that we don't allow the hatred or destruction of a few to cause us to label or alienate a whole group. I hope that we can truly begin to listen to each other.

As Rev. Desmond Tutu said "Forgiving is not forgetting; it's actually remembering--remembering and not using your right to hit back. It's a second chance for a new beginning.

And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened.

Dysfunctional family saga serves up laughs

By Lea Shores
Managing Editor

Everyone's family is a little dysfunctional. We all have an uncle who gets too drunk and too loud, an aunt who brings much younger men to meet the family, or a brother who's the family disappointment because he started using drugs.

Author Jonathan Tropper takes this universal family dynamic and adds a lot of laughter and a bit of heartbreak to his most recent novel, *This is Where I Leave You*.

Judd Foxman's family has been brought together to spend seven days sitting Shiva to mourn the death of their Jewish father. Over the seven days with his family, Judd ends up con-

fronting more than his grief of his deceased dad.

This is Where I Leave You could have easily been a mediocre story of love and loss and the wisecracks could have been taken too far.

Instead of being an overdone piece of work, it's a fast paced account of the people Judd has lost in his life, including his wife, who left him for his boss—a famous radio personality—after the death of their unborn child.

Judd's narrative slips back and forth between the past and the present. He is haunted by the memory of the first time he met his wife and by the image of witnessing her infidelity. While grieving his father, Judd also re-

alizes that he lost his father long before he died.

It doesn't take long to see that Judd isn't the only family member carrying around unresolved issues.

His grieving mother may be having an affair with the woman down the street, his sister Wendy is having an affair with her old high school flame, his sister-in-law Alice is struggling with fertility problems and no one in this mixed-up family can express any emotion without using their fists.

While being faced with ghosts from the past in his childhood home, Judd is also forced to deal with the future when his wife comes to tell him she is pregnant

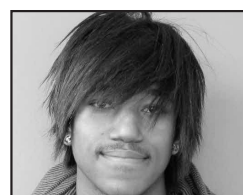
and the baby could be his.

His life is turned upside down yet again when baby-seeking Alice asks him to sleep with her.

In order to move on, Judd must learn both to forgive and ask others for forgiveness.

Called one of the best books of the year by *Entertainment Weekly*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *The Washington Post*, the novel *This is Where I Leave You* is impossible to put down. Topper's characters are funny and touching. The story occasionally crosses the line of being believable and but makes up for it by being a genuinely relatable story.

Lea Shores is a senior majoring in English. You may e-mail her at lea.shores@sckans.edu.



By Josh Hall

I can understand why people would not want it built there, and that is simply because it looks like a blatant slap in the face. What I think people need to realize is that not everyone is the same. I believe others should be more tolerant of other religions regardless of what the religion may have been affiliated with, and also I don't think that people shouldn't want a mosque at ground zero because they see people with Islamic backgrounds as the enemy. That's just rude.

I myself am against the mosque being built at ground zero, but for a much different

reason.

If there were a reason for not wanting a mosque as representation for the U.S., it should be because of the separation of church and state. Honestly, if the "ok" were given for that mosque to be built, it will open doors for many people make an example of the event. People will extort using religion in politics and U.S representation to their own advantages. Not only that, but that action would cause grounds for the public to throw a fit on our current president. I'm sure he would be antagonized to an extent which would not only be uncomfortable for him, but uncomfortable for the rest of the country.

The repercussions completely outweigh the acts of the good deed. I'm sure that the President means no harm, but it really wouldn't be for the best.

Music is more than background to set mood for life's adventures



KORIE HAWKINS

The road back to Kansas is full of reflection.

Think back over the past three months. Let the feeling of that first summer wave rush through your veins and enter your brain. Let the memories overwhelm you. What are you thinking of?

The way the blazing sun tanned your skin day in and day out, vacations to the beach, that comfort of walking shoeless in the sand, barbecues on the back porch, naps that seemed limitless with no point of return, that new friend you met at that one place, kissing your significant other while walking hand and hand, July 4th weekend events, parties with no end time, meeting up with friends, all the things you waited the whole school year to do day after day.

All of this only to pack the car up and make the drive back to Winfield. You are leaving the

memories of summer behind you. All of a sudden you're back to reality. Your radio grabs your attention booming "So I put my hands up, they're playing my song, butterflies fly away, nodding my head like yeah..." But wait, do you remember what song was playing in the background?

I don't know why, but I do. I can hear the lyrics in my head playing over and over again. "Have you ever reached a rainbow's end? And did you find your pot of gold? Ever catch a

shooting star then tell me how high did you soar?" Fantasia Barrino, "I Believe." I'm not sure if it's because I've strived for this year my entire life, or if it's just the thought of accomplishing something.

Some may be returning, like me. I can't believe it's my senior year already. Three years fly by pretty fast, others may be embarking on a new journey. Some of you may be thinking, "Finally I'm here out of my parent's house." Better yet "I made it to college." Whether you are

happy, excited, anxious, scared, or even sad- the sound is there. The sound I'm talking about is music. Music has a profound impact on the world. Everyone has a specific melody that brings life all together. Somehow it all make sense in some way.

I believe Maya Angelou said it best. "Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness."

There is just something about the way music provokes an emotional response in our minds. For some it may be the beat, for others it may be the lyrics,

but for most it is the connection your mood makes with a particular song.

Although the summer has ended and the school year has begun, whatever song best describes your summer will always be there. But now it's time for a new song, whatever that one maybe. Always remember there is a song for every feeling, a verse for every emotion, and a chorus for every transition in our lives.

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Word on the Hill

What song best describes your summer?

By Korie Hawkins



"I will trust." The song is about trusting in God in spite of what the situation may look like. You got to trust."

Ashlie Edwards
elementary education senior



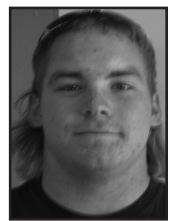
"Let Me See the Booty" by The Dream. It's the best car song to sing and dance to."

Erin Buster
music education sophomore



"Hey Soul Sister." It came on the radio about every five seconds and it got really annoying. But I still like the song."

Meeka Gentry
psychology sophomore



"California Girls," by Katy Perry. It's an awesome, bouncy and fun song. Plus I like Katy Perry."

Chris Cole
physical education junior



"Standing on the corner Watching all the Girls Go by."

Jack McNickle
Assistant Women Basketball coach



"I'm Single" by Little Wayne because I don't trust nobody. So I'm single."

Merin Oakley
nursing freshman



"We Be Steady Mobbing" by Lil' Wayne. Every time I was in my car I turned it to that track."

Danny Mouandgy
business administration junior



"Deuces." Pretty much the hottest song out."

Lina Robinson
accounting sophomore



"I need you now." I had to go back home. I couldn't be with my boyfriend, and I was missing him."

Nimsi Zayas
psychology senior



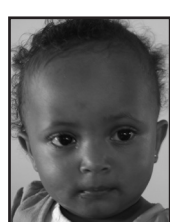
"From the Inside Out." It talks about being changed and not just living for your outside appearance."

Derreck Carter
biochemistry sophomore



"California Girls." I hung out with my friends all summer. We sung that in the car all the time."

Maurica Cliet
nursing freshman



"Baby Baby" by Justin Bieber."

Ava Aguirre
Cheer Mascot

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