

# Singer returns home

**ALEJANDRA ROJAS**

What town can say they are welcoming back a hometown hero, who has climbed the country charts? Well, if you didn't know, Jerrod Niemann was raised in Liberal, and on Jan. 15, he came back to give his hometown the comeback concert they deserved.

After only 14 minutes of selling tickets the concert, was sold out, as 1000 lucky hometown hopefuls purchased tickets to "Welcome Jerrod Back."

Niemann took stage along with his band which is together formally known as "Judge Jerrod and the Hung Jury." As one, Niemann and the Hung Jury poured out their musical talent.

Many might be familiar with Niemann from his radio hit "Lover, Lover," but Niemann is no newcomer to Nashville. He has worked with many artists, including the likes of Garth Brooks and Brad Paisley.

Just like the typical country

shindig, this welcome back concert was no exception. Niemann performed some of his more recognized songs including: "Lover, Lover;" "Down in Mexico;" "The Buckin' Song;" "One More Drinkin' Song" and a personal song he wrote about non-other than his hometown, Liberal.

Genuine, happy to be back and performing in his Liberal football jersey center stage in the high school auditorium, Niemann not only sang, but showed the crowd a good time by joking around with possible classmates in the crowd as well as teachers and faculty members.

How can Liberal not be proud

of the now performer? As a way to give back to Niemann, the city

mayor, Tim Long declared Jan. 15 as Jerrod Niemann Day and also gave him the key to the city.

During his hometown recognitions, the Liberal high school principal also announced that a signed photograph of Niemann would be posted in the school hall of fame along with the other Liberal high school students

who have gone on to do great things.

I have to admit, Niemann wasn't one of the country singers I listen to, but after going to this concert, I became a fan. Not only did he show a humble attitude towards the crowd, but also showed a great appreciation about coming back to perform for his hometown.

Country music is one of my favorite genres. After listening to Niemann, he instantly became a favorite. From his concert, I realized he truly made his hometown aware of how proud he was of Liberal and he would never forget where he came from.

The overall atmosphere of the concert came from the crowd who, through laughter, cheering and singing along, showed their admiration for their hometown star. Being a part of the concert allowed me to witness the connection of a community coming together for Niemann.

*Alejandra Rojas is a senior majoring in communication. You may e-mail her at alejandra.rojas@sckans.edu.*

## Word on the Hill

What is the worst way to be dumped?

By Lea Shores



"Text message."

**Sarah Rommelfanger**  
biology  
sophomore



"The worst way to dump someone is on Valentine's Day."

**Kelli Florio**  
athletic training  
junior



"I have never been dumped."

**Kelcie Parrish**  
biology  
junior



"Over Facebook."

**Nick Koch**  
history  
senior



"Right before class by the lockers."

**Aron Pfingsten**  
English  
sophomore



"I don't remember the last time I was dumped."

**Tristan Walters**  
chemistry  
senior

## Breaking up now saves stress before Valentine's Day



**LEA SHORES**

Picture this.

It's Valentine's Day and you're having a nice dinner with that special someone. They've just opened a gift from you, a bracelet or maybe a watch. You

watch their reaction closely, hoping you picked out the perfect gift. They take a breath, preparing to speak and you expect to hear their appreciation for you and your affection.

Instead, you hear those five fateful words.

"I want to break up."

Now, imagine that today is also your birthday.

It seems like a horrible way to get dumped, but years down the road imagine the laughs you'll have with your friends over how silly and juvenile it all was—never mind that a few hours later it will leave you alone, crying into your beer.

In case you haven't noticed,

Valentine's Day is only a few short weeks away. Some of you may have suffered through the holidays, shelled out big bucks on a new iPod to give your significant other and then realized that you don't want to be with this person anymore. Don't worry, there is still time to cut your losses before you have to sign your name on another Hallmark card.

If you can't handle conducting the break-up in person, do not reach for your cell phone. Breaking up over text is so cliché. Facebook is a significant part of many of our lives and we

all know that a relationship is not official until it is "Facebook Official."

In fact, one time I had a guy ask me out not by speaking to me in person but by simply adding it to Facebook. Why not

apply this same kind of logic in reverse?

Just change your status on Facebook to single and then block the dumped from your news feed so you don't have to read all of their pathetic statuses. Bonus points if you are immediately in a "Facebook Official" relationship with someone new.

Maybe you're more comfort-

able being the dumped. Getting someone to break-up with you should be easy. Text your honey every few minutes just to "check-in." If something annoys them, do it. Tell them you forbid them to talk to members of the opposite sex. Stop taking care of yourself. Don't shower and don't wear clean clothes. Let the dirty dishes stack up in your sink. This strategy requires commitment. Make sure to start small and leave yourself room to build. You'll be single in no time.

If the person you're breaking up with thinks too highly of themselves and they need to be knocked down to size, one of

these may work well for you.

Tell your girlfriend she's gotten too fat. Tell your boyfriend you're leaving him for his best friend who has a bigger you-know-what (I'm talking about a bank account, of course). You may hesitate to use this technique because this person is going to feel pretty badly about his or herself.

The key to not completely destroying their self esteem is to make sure you tell them you want to stay friends. Who doesn't want more friends, right?

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

### PERSONAL COLUMN

## PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE

*Do you support the movement by the Arizona legislature to ban the protesters from the funerals of those who died during the Congresswoman's forum?*



**JACOB MCGUIRE**

In an attempt at providing security for friends and family members of the congress members that were killed in Arizona, Jan Brewer with the Arizona Legislature has passed an emergency bill that creates a 300 ft barrier around the funeral procession for an hour before, during and an hour after the time of the funeral service. As this is an

attempt to make funerals civil, I personally do support the ban. When attempting to think objectively about a funeral service, it is a very personal occasion which typically involves family, friends and sometimes admirers. As this is the case I think funeral services should be as private or as open as the family (or person/persons otherwise stated by the deceased) desire.

While some could consider this a violation of the First Amendment, I wonder if it would be appropriate for protesters to be present during birth, or even out in the parking lot of the hospital after receiving the child? The First Amendment is in place to give people a right to have an opinion, but not the right to degrade others.

This is particularly curious

due to the nature of the protesters, Christians. Though interestingly enough each time I have witnessed protesters they have always been Christian.

As I am a Philosophy and Religion major as well as a Christian myself, the two most important commandments given as Jesus says (Matthew 23:41-46) are to love the Lord your God and to love your neighbor. If this is the case then loving your neighbor means protesting at funerals as opposed to comforting and giving condolences to those who have lost a family member or a friend. This seems to me to be unethical and simply stupid as love is an action of grace and forgiveness not hate and fear.

*Jacob McGuire is a junior majoring in philosophy & religious studies.*



**JEAN-GABRIEL JOLIVET**

In the wake of the tragic events in Tucson, Ariz., and following the decision by the Westboro Baptist church to protest the funerals of those killed, the Arizona legislature introduced SB 1101 to ban the protesters from the funerals.

The bill underlines the need to balance free speech and public safety. This bill is based on an

Ohio statute that barred protests for one hour before and one hour after a funeral procession within a 300-foot radius. The Ohio law was upheld by the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and the Supreme Court heard an appeal from the Westboro church last October. The Justices are expected to issue a decision by the late spring in regards to that issue.

Some would argue that such statute prevents the Westboro church to freely exercise their constitutional rights. However,

despite the special protection accorded by the First Amendment, there is no absolute right to use public property for free speech activity, and the government should have the right to limit such display in the name of public safety.

The Westboro Church needs to respect any funerals and find peaceful and respectful ways to push its extreme political agenda.

*Jean-Gabriel Jolivet is the assistant professor of political science and the pre-law advisor.*

## Respect for others outweighs free speech

**INGER FURHOLT**

Once words are spoken for people to hear or written for people to read, they cannot be taken back. The First Amendment gives all Americans the right to freedom of speech, which is a great thing as people everywhere in the world should be able to speak their mind and their opinion. However, can freedom of speech be taken too far, and are there certain occasions and situations where people should not be allowed to speak their mind, out of consideration?

After the Arizona shootings on Jan. 8, where six people were killed and 13 wounded, including U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, there have been big discussions around the country about whether funeral protesters from the Westboro Baptist Church should be allowed to

protest at the funerals of the victims. On Jan. 11, the Arizona legislatures unanimously voted to pass a law that prevents funeral protesters from protesting within a 300-foot radius of the funerals.

Many may have learned that there is a time and a place for everything, a funeral is the time for the living to say a last goodbye. At the funerals in Tucson, Ariz., people were mourning the loss of those who were suddenly taken away from them. A funeral is hard enough as it is for loved ones. It is hard to imagine mourning a loss while nearby protesters are saying "Your loved one died because this is how God punishes the sins of America," or "God hates you".

Having an opinion is supposed to be a good thing and speaking your opinion is usually great. However, sometimes the

question of where the compassion for the fellow American has gone must be asked, and we need to realize that sometimes we have to draw the line, out of respect for others.

Knowing that someone you are close to was killed seems very unfair. They already died in a way that was unexpected to most. Westboro Baptist Church is known worldwide for being very radical as they protest for different causes they believe in, including funeral protesting. They receive different reactions for their opinions and actions, and some even view them as a hate group. There are people who support them, while others are disgusted by their different ways of protesting.

It is understandable that the vote by the Arizona legislatures was unanimous, as they wanted to prevent the funeral protesters to come down out of respect for

the families of those who were killed. However, it could be argued that this is unconstitutional because it conflicts with the First Amendment which does give all Americans the right to speak their minds.

There is a time and place for everything, and there are different ways of speaking your opinion. Protesting at funerals is not appropriate, and shows a lack of respect for those who lost their life. The Westboro Baptist Church spread their messages by being extremely radical but they might be more effective by finding a different way.

You may shout out your opinion as loud as you can, but you can just as easily get your point through by speaking in a normal voice. This would also save everyone a headache.

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