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Bowling Green State University

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Stores shift from brick-and-mortar to e-commerce models

Jess Wagner
Reporter

Elder-Beerman, JCPenney, Sears, Macy’s. Most people have witnessed first-hand the closing of at least one of these stores. These major businesses, among others, are facing the reality of today’s shopping climate — the shift toward e-commerce.

Because of the steady rise in the percentage of retail sales attributed to e-commerce, Credit Suisse, an international bank, predicts that 20%-25% of all U.S. malls will close by 2022.

“How people shop is changing,” Su Yun Bae, professor of retail merchandising, said. “It’s more convenient to shop online because of the variability and the range of products. They have the size, price and color you want.”

Kate Proctor, a BGSU junior, shops online because of the convenience.

“I like not having to drive all the way to the mall,” she said. “From my house, it’s a good 25 minutes to the nearest one, so it’s just easier to do everything online.”

Proctor is not alone. Of those polled by eMarketer in 2018, 43% cited convenience as their primary reason for shopping online instead of physically going to the store.

Consumers, however, are not ready just yet to abandon physical stores.

“We can’t ignore brick and mortar stores,” Bae said. “(People) want to see what (the product) looks like, they want to feel and touch it and experience the product and store environment.”

In an attempt to appeal to all customers, companies are experimenting with a hybrid. Amazon opened a New York storefront in September last year that sells its most popular items.

According to an article by CNBC, Cameron James, the vice president of Amazon’s physical retail team, the store rotates its inventory on a weekly basis depending on what has become more or less popular online.

Bae said in order to be successful, companies need to invest in “omniscient retailing,” or the approach of multiple merchandising mediums.

In other words, Bae said companies should have multiple channels, such as mobile, e-commerce and traditional stores, “seamlessly integrated so that customers feel like it is one store.”

Read the rest online @ bgfalconmedia.com
Columnist details racism in school system
Anecdotes highlight experiences all throughout school

Kylie Tusing
Columnist

I usually don’t speak out about racism. For several reasons, I never want to offend someone and I never want to seem like a victim. But experiences help people; maybe that person is yourself or maybe it is someone else.

I grew up in a suburban area that lacked diversity in race, religion and culture. Every school break we traveled, and it was in these fleeting moments I never felt out of place. I got to experience different cultures while growing up but nothing compared to coming to college.

Looking back, I think it was because when I shared stories people questioned the actions chosen. They questioned the integrity, asked how I felt. I never did that; I never asked but always accepted. There is true power in education.

The school district I attended had a talent for making issues like bullying and harassment as a result of racism problems that should be swept under the rug. They were made to seem meaningless, like the kids who got faced with oppression somehow asked for it. There are several experiences I had that were rooted in racism but instead of writing them all, I wrote my most memorable three.

Kindergarten
I was terrified of going to school, crying and kicking to my mom each day getting on the bus and getting off of it. A group of kids had been tormenting me on a daily basis. I learned by myself, played by myself and stayed to myself. One day, a classmate approached me at my desk. If I try, I can still feel the fear that raced through my body. She took my crayons and dumped them on my desk, put all the colors to one side then the brown and black crayons to the other. She looked at me and spoke, “This is us and this is you, and that’s the way it will always be.” I went to the teacher telling on her, and my mom called the school. They said, “Ms. Tusing, the teacher did not hear that statement therefore we cannot take your daughters word as an accurate account.” I transferred schools a year later because the bullying started affecting my ability to learn; those girls went without punishment. I was five.

Eighth grade
I was now a straight-A student who was in advanced classes and a couple organizations through the school. But my apartment complex had students with behavioral issues, causing our bus to be known as the “bad students bus.” I missed the morning bus to go to the dentist, which was always great because the other kids’ behavior was truly awful. Later in the day, I came back during lunch, and I found out an incident happened on the bus that morning. Each student was going to be called into the office, although mine and other black students’ names were on the top of the list. The administration asked me why I was choosing to misbehave this morning by throwing food and jumping over seats. I responded that I was not on the bus that morning, and if they looked they could see my excused absence. They responded, “Lying isn’t appropriate, Ms. Tusing.” My mother taught me that year to not say another word to the administration or a police officer when you are called a liar. “You don’t speak until you have representation,” she would say. When I told them this, they put me on a “watch list” and said they would be monitoring me for the rest of the year. I was not even on the bus.

11th grade
There are a few teachers you just remember. My German teacher was one of them. A kid told me, while sitting in class, “You should shut up because you’re lucky you even have rights and that you shouldn’t even have them.” I went directly to the principal who looked at me and said, “Well it is unfortunate, but what would you like me to do?” I was baffled. The principal made my teacher aware of the situation. He was more outraged than our principal, and when he spoke to me after class it was the first time I thought one of my teachers was on my side. When the student was moved to the other side of the class, isolated from the rest of us, he was upset, which resulted to him calling me the n-word in the hallway. I reported it to the principal again, so sure that this time it would be taken serious. The principal looked at me and said, “I don’t know what you expect here, Kylie. Because see, all you black folk say that word to each other, so how is it wrong if he says it to you?” The student continued calling me the n-word every day.

Administrators were supposed to protect me from an unsafe school environment; yet, they contributed to it. Racism is not dead, it is alive and can be found in the hands of people who hold power. I think for all the encounters, I should have stood up for myself, and I cringe out of regret.

How many kids have to go through exactly what I did because I refused to stand up and say it was wrong? We have come to a moment in society that standing in silence is choosing the oppressor. One day, I hope to live in a country where people will look at me for me. But right now the color of my skin still holds more significance in this country than the content of my character.

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Celebrate Earth’s gifts to humankind

This is an article written by the BG News staff in 1995. It is being republished because it still feels relevant today.

Via the BG News Archives.

Earth Week is upon us. While the Earth has been around for countless eons, Saturday is the 25th time the University has celebrated its contributions to humans. In fact, the entire week has been designated as a time to celebrate and appreciate nature.

People should enjoy this time, because our resources cannot last forever. Sure, they will last through our lifetimes. There will be coal for our children’s barbeques, there will be gas for our grandchildren’s cars. The question is, will our great-grandchildren need to use the leftover gasoline to power their oxygen tents?

The world population is nearing 6 billion. That’s a lot of people, and they are consuming the Earth’s resources faster than they find ecological solutions. Americans make up only 10 percent of the world’s population, but consume 90 percent of Earth’s resources, according to Paula Gonzalez, an environmental activist who spoke on campus Monday night. Although this figure can be disputed, the point is still valid. America wastes too much.

People need to examine the products they consume and the quantity in which they use them. Does the frozen pizza that already tastes like its packaging really need to be surrounded by two more layers of cardboard? Is it too much for Mom and Pop to tolerate Junior’s stinky laundry and use cloth diapers? Would it take more than five minutes to toss Friday night’s empty aluminum products into the recycling bin?

The News doesn’t think so. Although people are becoming more environmentally aware, it doesn’t mean anyone is doing anything about it. It seems the environment is just the latest in a long line of politically correct causes taken up by those who are hippest. Our environment is not a fad, however; it’s here to stay.

If you don’t know about our world’s environmental problems, Earth Week is an excellent time to learn. The News believes students must first be aware of our problems in order to help alleviate them. The News urges students to go to the Union Oval to check out the information that will be presented by the Environmental Action Group, Student Environmental Action Coalition and the Center for Environmental Programs.
College Credit Plus gains popularity in colleges

Shayne Nissen
Reporter

College students are becoming increasingly younger, according to a study from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, thanks to College Credit Plus.

CCP is a dual enrollment program in Ohio that allows students in grades 7-12 to earn high school and college credits at the same time by taking college courses online, on campus or at their selected high school.

Since the CCP program started in the 2015-2016 school year, some might believe the amount of students that have decided to utilize the program has grown exponentially from 54,053 enrollees in its opening school year to 71,845 students in the 2017-2018 school year.

Holly Cipriani, assistant director of Pre-College Programs at BGSU, believes there are multiple reasons as to why these numbers have gone up.

"Students and families are starting to become a lot more aware of CCP now. Affordability and the cost of higher education is on people's minds. It also allows these students to start to get a feel for what college classes are like," she said.

According to Matthew Pindoley, a CCP student currently taking online classes through Owens Community College, while still also enrolled at Lake High School in Millbury, Ohio, Cipriani is spot on.

"I decided to do CCP because I figured it would save me money in the long run and it would prepare me for college in the future," he said.

Some might think the affordability of college is the most important factor in taking these CCP courses.

According to a graphic from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, in the 2017-2018 school year, there was $142 million in savings and in the year prior to that there was $120 million in savings. Combined, CCP saved students and their parents a total of over $262 million in tuition money.

The lesser cost of tuition is a burden lifted off of many Ohio families, but what some families don't see is that taking college classes can be, for some, a significant jump in difficulty compared to what these students are used to.

Holly Cipriani notes that integrating the students into a college class can be different for everyone.

"It is very individual, it depends on the student," she said. "Every CCP student that we have on our campus does meet with an academic advisor prior to scheduling classes. Our advisor does talk to our students about the content you are reviewing in class may be adult content."

This content can be jarring at first, but according to Pindoley, easing oneself into the program can help a lot.

"I guess I never had trouble integrating myself because I eased myself into the whole process by gradually taking more and more classes starting with one," he said.

At Bowling Green specifically, the difficulty of the courses on campus don't seem to be affecting the completion rate of classes, as BGSU has a 97% completion rate for classes taken through the university, according to the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

In fact, the grade point average for all grades that participate in CCP is above a 3.0 with the highest average coming from eighth graders, which could be surprising to some.

BGSU Senior Makiah Tillman has had several classes with these CCP students at Bowling Green and was surprised to see how well these students have taken to college courses.

"In most cases the CCP students that I have met are incredibly smart and mature for their age. They have been able to handle the courses just as handily as us college students," she said.

Read the rest online @ bgfalconmedia.com.

VIA OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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on-campus small group
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315 S. College Dr.  |  stmarksbg.org
Students of all backgrounds come together at H2O to engage in worship, Scripture-based teachings, and connection with others. This year H2O has two venues—Downtown Bowling Green at 9:00 and 10:30AM (252 S. Main Street) and On Campus at 11:30AM (Union Ballroom). “We are all at different places on our spiritual journey. But no matter where you find yourself right now, we want you to feel welcomed,” about Jesus.” The church is one of the largest student groups on campus and averages around 400 students at their weekly services.

While H2O’s main gatherings occur on Sundays, the church has much more going on throughout the week, including various Bible study life groups you could get involved with. “We believe that Groups are the heartbeat of the church,” said Joe Kaloger, H2O staff member. He continued, “It is a time when we open our Bibles in search of the truths that connect to our lives today. For me, I was looking for a community that would help me grow in my search for spirituality and a place to build lasting friendships.” Groups consist of 15-20 people gathered together to get to know each other in the context of community and be a part of discussion on spiritual matters relevant to our lives. H2O offers Groups for people in every season of life, from traditional students living on or off campus to students already meeting within specific communities (such as specific academic majors, athletes, Greek Life, military, internationals, etc.) H2O also offers City Groups for graduate students and recent graduates transitioning to life as young professionals, as well as established city/community members and families.

H2O has many other ways to get involved, in addition to Sundays and Groups. There are opportunities to join teams that serve with the music, video, hospitality, H2O Kids, and more. “Freshman year, I came to H2O to see what it was all about. Then, after getting involved with a group and serving on Sundays, I found a family,” said Tessa Mitan, a student-turned-staffer with the church. “H2O has a ton of opportunities to offer and there is a place for everyone.”

If you want to find out more about H2O, stop by one of their many events this week or check out their website at H2Ochurch.com. Many students have found this church to be a great place to not only meet other students, but to find and experience their relationship with God.

“If you want to find out more about H2O, stop by one of their many events this week or check out their website at H2Ochurch.com. Many students have found this church to be a great place to not only meet other students, but to find and experience their relationship with God.”

— Pastor Bryan Wiles

“H2O has a ton of opportunities to offer and there is a place for everyone.”

— Tesla Mitan,
Church Student Leader

“H2O Church offers Student Connections while Seeking God”

“You can expect an atmosphere that is friendly and comfortable, teachings that are Biblical, challenging, and honest, and music that is loud, upbeat, and always about Jesus.”

— Pastor Bryan Wiles

“We believe that Groups are the heartbeat of the church”

— Joe Kaloger,
H2O Staff Member

“It is a time when we open our Bibles in search of the truths that connect to our lives today. For me, I was looking for a community that would help me grow in my search for spirituality and a place to build lasting friendships.”

— Joe Kaloger,
H2O Staff member
Student accidentally shoots self on campus

Stepha Poulin
Editor-in-Chief

A student accidentally shot himself in the hip in Lot 7 of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

The victim was transported to the hospital. "He was conscious and alert when transported to the hospital," BGSU wrote in a statement on Facebook.

The BGSU police declined to comment due to the ongoing investigation. There is no threat and the situation is secure, according to a dispatcher at the station. The Bowling Green city police weren’t on the scene.

Junior Claudia Lorenz saw multiple police cars pull up to the scene around 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

“We saw the kid kind of going like this,” Lorenz said, clutching her stomach and hunching over to imitate the injured man. A crowd of more than 30 students stood around the scene for about an hour. Some students heard about the shooting from their friends and ran out to see it after class.

Dispatchers work to clean up blood in the Union parking lot.

Dispatchers work to clean up blood in the Union parking lot.

PHOTO BY ABBY SHIFLEY
New operations director joins football staff

Chase Bachman
Sports Reporter

When it came time for Scot Loeffler to hire people for his coaching staff, he went to work hiring the best available people.
The Falcons’ new offensive coordinator, Terry Malone, has served in his role at two Big Ten schools and spent nine years with the New Orleans Saints. Defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder spent time in the NFL, Auburn and Notre Dame to name a few stops. All in all, the Falcons boast one of, if not, the best coaching staff in the MAC. It includes more than 200 years of coaching experience at Power Five institutions and the NFL. But, the most intriguing hire may be the one with the least experience.

Olivia Passy was hired as the director of football operations in January of this year after serving as an assistant to Boston College head coach Steve Addazio.

Some may recognize her from open practices shouting orders into a megaphone. “I hate the megaphone,” Passy said laughing. “I wish sometimes I didn’t have to carry it around at practice.”

What stands out to most people, however, is the fact that she’s a female in a sport dominated by males. What also surprises people is her age. At 23 years old, Passy is the youngest director of football operations in the MAC, and quite possibly the country. For those thinking her hiring is a bit unconventional, Passy thinks the same. “I think the only qualm is that it takes a little bit of extra time to get everybody adapted to a bit of an odd hire,” said the 2018 Boston College graduate. “A lot of coaches probably see somebody like me and think ‘how could she know football well enough to do this job?’”

Loeffler isn’t one of those coaches. After working together for one season at BC, the Falcons’ new head coach decided she was the best person for the job. When Passy reflects back on their time in Boston, her hiring becomes even more of a surprise.

“Scot and I, we were actually pretty distant,” Passy said. “He’s so hyper-focused on football, and me being on the operations side. We were pretty separate.”

Regardless of how much the two interacted, her unique ability and willingness to grow was enough to get her this far. According to Assistant Athletic Director Jason Knavel, those qualities could take her a long way.

“She’s someone that knows a lot for her age,” Knavel said. “If she encounters something she doesn’t understand, she’ll work to figure it out. She’s constantly taking in new information.”

Where she goes from here is anybody’s guess. It could be a Power Five program, or perhaps even a professional franchise. Olivia Passy is in virtually uncharted territory, both personally and for women. Her departure could be only a few short years away. Being as young as she is, her entire career is ahead of her. But while she is in Bowling Green, Loeffler and the rest of the program understands they have a wunderkind on the practice field shouting through a megaphone.

New Hockey coach begins tenure

Max Marko
Sports Reporter

The Bowling Green hockey facilities were empty when Ty Eigner walked in on Monday morning. There were no low undertones of the TBS morning comedy block emanating throughout the player’s lounge, a known go-to channel for Chris Bergeron, who after nine years of leading the hockey program at BGSU, made the decision to take his career to Miami and Pittsburgh was the place to be,” he said.

“Maybe I can be a part of this,” Eigner said. “I would have coffee in his office pretty much every morning and just talk about hockey … I remember my first year I taught at the high school, but my classes didn’t start until 10 o’clock in the morning, so I had two free periods and I would go to Gringo’s office and just talk about hockey every day,” said Eigner.

Now his passion for the game is best shown in his love for Bowling Green hockey. A regular presence on Twitter, Eigner’s feed is a virtual opportunity to him.”

When (Bergeron) brought me in to kind of fill the void, that’s probably why he brought me to be perfectly honest,” Eigner said. “Because I was an alum of Bowling Green and he knew it mattered to me … and this time there was more than just me in terms of alums that wanted to be a part of this.”

Even if there is a slight disappointment in not landing Dan Bylsma, which there should not be, that does not mean he won’t have an impact on the program.

“My first year here Dan Bylsma invited me to come to Pittsburgh as a guest coach, and it was the year after they won the Stanley Cup,” Bergeron said. “Pittsburgh was the place to be,” he said.

“So that week I was there, it opened my eyes up to a lot of different things in terms of how they run practices and how they do certain things on the ice.”

It is no surprise there were multiple candidates knocking on the door this time around. Nine years ago, when the program was at rock bottom, it was almost impossible to find someone who would be interested in attempting to steer Bowling Green hockey in the right direction. The program’s new standard, returning to national relevance and potential contention for a national championship, made this vacancy a very attractive position.

As far as what is next for this team in order to live up to this new standard, the transition between this past year’s blue line and next year’s blue line will need to be flawless. Three key penalty killing seniors on the defensive core in Adam Smith, Connor McDonald and Chris Pohlkamp are graduating, and starting goaltender Ryan Bednard signed an entry-level contract with the Florida Panthers and will not be returning for his senior year.

There needs to be extensive trust between the coaching staff and the players, and having someone who has spent the past nine seasons dedicated to Bowling Green hockey will bode well for chemistry and stability on both sides.
Reporters name most intriguing NFL Draft prospects

Parker Kern
Sports Reporter

“Hi, hello and welcome back to the NFL Draft,” said former ESPN anchor George Grande at the 1983 NFL Draft.

This quote by Grande is the first line of the song “NFL Draft Remix” by DJ Steve Porter. To compile this song, Porter took miscellaneous quotes from players, anchors and coaches throughout the years of the NFL Draft and put them to music. It’s a rather fitting song for the events of this week, and if you haven’t heard it yet, I highly suggest you search for it on YouTube right now.

Aside from my love for that song, which I’m listening to while writing this, this year’s NFL Draft will indeed be an intriguing one. The Arizona Cardinals have the No. 1 overall pick, and there has been much speculation over the past months that they may select former Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray with the top pick.

Murray has been largely questioned for his size. He stands at 5 feet 10 inches and weighs 194 pounds. Aside from Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson, most starting quarterbacks in the NFL are at least 4 inches taller and 35 pounds heavier than Murray. His ability to take hits from NFL defensive fronts has been called into question, leaving many scratching their heads as to what the Cardinals will do when they are on the clock tonight. Will they take Murray and ship away Josh Rosen, a young quarterback with potential on their roster who was drafted out of UCLA in the first round of last year’s draft? Will they draft former Ohio State defensive end Nick Bosa? Or will they go “off the wall” and select Quinnen Williams (DT, Alabama) or Devin White (LB, LSU) with the first pick? All of these players will undoubtedly hear their names called at some point tonight, but where they will end up, and where Arizona will end up, is the main point of focus for tonight’s first-round coverage, beginning at 8 p.m. ET Thursday on ESPN and ABC.

The mock draft’s top 10 of NFL.com’s Charles Davis is defense-heavy. Davis believes 7 of the first 10 players selected will be defensive players. Along with the aforementioned Bosa, Williams and White, Josh Allen (DE, Kentucky) and Rashan Gary (DE, Michigan) are also on his list, among others. With the NFL’s current trend towards more scoring and offensive yardage, it is interesting to see defense is projected to be prominently drafted.

I’ll give you two of my sleeper picks – one offensive and one defensive. These are both guys who will most likely be picked tonight but may be picked lower than originally expected or projected.

My defensive sleeper pick is Ed Oliver (DT, Houston). Davis has him going eighth overall to the Detroit Lions. He may fall that far, but I believe Oliver has supreme talent and can be a defensive playmaker for whichever team selects him. Oliver only played eight games in 2018 due to injuries, but he recorded 29 tackles in those games, along with 3 sacks and 1 forced fumble. He had 122 career tackles, 13.5 sacks and 5 forced fumbles for his career at Houston and was a force to be reckoned with as early as his freshman season. Oliver stands 6 feet 3 inches and weighs 292 pounds. He will have to bulk up to at least 300 pounds to be able to hang with fellow NFL defensive tackles, but I’ve watched him play for a few years and I think he’s the real deal.

My offensive sleeper is someone you may be familiar with – former Ohio State QB Dwayne Haskins. Haskins was a perfect fit in former OSU head coach Urban Meyer’s spread offense. He has a cannon for an arm and is exceedingly accurate, especially with deep downfield passes. He can break from the pocket and gain a few yards here and there, but Haskins has never been known for his rushing ability. His “secret sauce” is his gun of an arm, one that I believe will be used right away by whichever team selects him.

Davis has Haskins going to the Cincinnati Bengals with the 11th pick, although I believe the New York Giants could take him with the sixth pick. Eli Manning is on the decline and the Giants need a QB who is ready to play now to pair with their young star running back, Saquon Barkley. Cincinnati could be a good fit for Haskins, with Andy “Red Ryder BB Gun” Dalton, who has not been living up to expectations for the past few seasons. Haskins threw for 4,831 yards and 50 touchdowns at Ohio State last year while throwing just 8 interceptions. A 6-foot-3-inch, 220-pound gunslinger, Haskins is ready for the big time.

Whoever team you may root for, I hope they make smart decisions tonight and this weekend and select the players best for the team. Be careful – even if you don’t agree with the pick now, the selected player may be your favorite in two or three years. That’s the beauty of the game!

NFL Draft

Kyler Murray
Current team: University of Oklahoma
Current position: Quarterback
Expected team: Arizona Cardinals
Height: 5’10”
Weight: 194 lbs.

Ed Oliver
Current team: University of Houston
Current position: Defensive tackle
Expected team: Detroit Lions
Height: 6’3”
Weight: 292 lbs.

Dwayne Haskins
Current team: Ohio State University
Current position: Quarterback
Expected team: New York Giants or Cincinnati Bengals
Height: 6’3”
Weight: 220 lbs.

Parker Kern
Sports Reporter
Religious scholars, activist preach environmental stewardship

Paul Garbarino
Managing Editor

In one of the Arab states of the Persian Gulf where he taught, Ovamir Anjum delivered a public speech expressing his ideas on how there is no reason to believe in being special in the eyes of God, and no person has a right to overconsume or have a larger carbon footprint than others because they have attained God’s favor.

He received his termination a week later. Anjum, the Imam Khatib Endowed Chair of Islamic Studies at the University of Toledo’s Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, shared this story on Saturday at the Wood County Library during the Muslim Student Association’s event, Religion and Climate Change: Conflict or Collaboration?

With two other speakers, the panelists discussed various ways religion both contributes to and combats climate change.

In his speech that got him terminated from his teaching job, Anjum was critiquing prosperity gospel, the religious belief that material wealth and physical well-being stems from blessings and a favorability from God.

“Prosperity gospel, which is among both Christians and Muslims, is the number one culprit,” said Anjum. “If you go to Gulf countries you’ll see they have among the worst carbon footprints because they have this notion that because God is happy with them he gave them oil.”

“Faiths and religious systems can be easily hired for worldly, greedy projects.”

The Protestant Reformation’s conviction that God’s thoughts are unfathomable, in addition to the belief in prosperity gospel, is what Reverend Deborah Conklin, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, cited as a contribution to materialism and climate change.

“It was the reform movement, the reform theology, that no one could know God’s mind,” said Conklin. “And that God dictated who was going to be among the elite, the saved and who wasn’t. Therefore, you almost act saved so wouldn’t be indicated as someone who was unsaved. And how do you look saved? You look prosperous.”

Religious scholars Continued on page 12
Continued from page 11

“It’s not very hard to put together an argument that religion, Christianity and maybe other faiths have certainly sowed some of the seeds that later sprouted into this extreme industrial revolution, consumerism, materialism that we see today that are causing the climate crisis,” said Bob Clark-Phelps, doctor of physics, Citizens Climate Lobby member and of the Catholic faith.

Excessive consumerism, capitalism, colonialism, pollution, waste—the panelists emphasized who these climate change causing behaviors were either cultivated from or exacerbated by religion.

Phelps acknowledged the benefits of the industrial revolution, capitalism and wealth gains, citing increased human longevity, higher standards of living and advances in technology and medicine. But this wealth came at a cost. Rampant wealth inequality and the oppression that follows imbalance of power are some of the problems affiliated with capitalism.

Grandchildren, beaches, islands, cities — Conklin also highlighted how future generations and entire societies could be at risk if climate change isn’t slowed and rising sea-levels consume populated areas.

“It will lead to war,” Conklin said.

Excessive waste was another key variable contributing to environmental decay emphasized by the panelists.

Anjum said when he first moved to the United States from Pakistan, he was floored by the use of disposable napkins, cups and water bottles. To him it didn’t make sense because where he was from it was a sin to waste food and his family produced minimal waste.

Phelps emphasized how just a handful of generations ago nearly nothing was wasted, and now cultures have completely changed.

“How far have we come from that kind of lifestyle where nothing is wasted to a society where people stuff things into their refrigerators, leave them there for weeks, decide they’re not good anymore and throw them in the garbage,” Phelps said. “That happens in my family all the time!”

Religion isn’t the only element to blame, however. The panelists highlighted how big corporations have fed materialistic lifestyles, and capitalism’s inherent goal of growth has led to excessive demand for resources.

Anjum cited the degradation of community and family as another large contributor into exorbitant resource use.

“Family and community have been destroyed or reduced to a subservient status precisely because they stood in the way of progress,” said Anjum. “Because people could not be as mobile and as loyal to national bodies such as militaries and democracies when they were attached to particular communities and families. What has happened as a result of the breakdown of community and family is that the sheer number of calories that is needed to sustain a single individual outside of a natural family and community environment has shot up.”