

the Circuit

 @BC_Circuit

bccircuit.com

 BC Circuit

Deacon Burke-Sivers presentation sparks "Dynamic" discussion

Angelica Nelson
The Circuit

A campus presentation regarding the Catholic response to racism by Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers on September 7 sparked a rigorous discussion about the cause and proper reaction to the issue.

Burke-Sivers, known as the "Dynamic Deacon," is a popular Catholic speaker who has been featured at many Catholic conferences, radio and television shows and faith formation programs.

He was invited by Dr. Dean Wurtz, the dean of students at Benedictine College, to deliver a presentation last Monday titled

Building a Civilization of Love: A Catholic Response to Racism. The event was sponsored by the Black Student Union and The Gregorian Fellows.

In his presentation, Burke-Sivers passionately spoke about racism and how Catholics should take action. He quoted several Bible passages throughout his talk, stating that we need to put God back in society and acknowledge the reality of sin.

"The solution to what we are

seeing and experiencing in this country is not rioting, or looting, or vandalism," Burke-Sivers said. "Racism is learned behavior, and Catholics can play a significant role in breaking down the walls of racism by taking a hands-on approach to creating pillars of mutual respect and understanding built on the firm foundation of covenant relationship."

The solutions Burke-Sivers subsequently recommended, include recognizing previous stereotypes, discontinuing support of media outlets that endorse racism or violence, going to cultural events, and making a serious effort to have meaningful conversations.

After the talk, the floor was open for questions. American history professor, Dr. Josh Wolf, was the first to speak and questioned Burke-Sivers' approach to this issue, responding that rioting is an American ideal and fundamental to our country.

"So what I hear is a lot of posturing and a lot of straw man arguments that are easily blown down, but what I'm not hearing is what our obligations are as Catholics to address this in a collective

“You are completely unwilling to engage in the dialogue that's going on here,”
- Dr. Josh Wolf



Deacon Burke Sivers delivering his presentation at Benedictine on September 7. Photo by Jordan Bell

manner and still adhere to the American ideals of equality, liberty and the separation of church and state," Wolf said.

"Well maybe you didn't hear my talk. I don't know what you were listening to. My whole talk addressed a Catholic response to racism," Burke-Sivers responded.

"You are completely unwilling to engage in the dialogue that's going on here," Wolf added.

After a heated back-and-forth

exchange, Burke-Sivers asked to move on to the next question.

Burke-Sivers told *The Circuit* after his speech that racism is not a political issue. Instead, he thinks that Catholics should focus on viewing others through the lens of Jesus Christ.

"What I was trying to do is a Catholic response which is antithetical to the cultural response which is why I clashed with that guy 'cause he's trying to address

it from a political, sociological [perspective]... I don't care, I'm addressing from a faith perspective," Burke-Sivers said.

The talk was also streamed live on Benedictine College's Facebook page and can still be viewed in its entirety.

As of Thursday, the video has 6.4K views and 168 comments. Viewers of the livestream had strong opinions regarding the interaction. *More on page 3...*

What's inside?

Reset Buttons p.2

“I don't think the world is going to end. It's been on the verge of ending since, well, ever.”
- Fisher Ward

Diversity p. 3

“Are there persons on our campus that are racists or insensitive? Yes, because we are made up of sinful people.”
- President Minnis

Football p. 5

“My health is your health and your health is my health.”
- Charles Gartenmeyer

theCircuit



bccircuit.com

Managing team:
Liam Keating, John Tuttle,
Fisher Ward
Adviser
Prof. Julie Love

To submit a letter to the
editor or story idea contact
The Circuit:

E-mail
circuit@benedictine.edu

Address
1201 N. 2nd Street
Atchison, KS 66002

Letters and guest
column submissions
must be typed, double-
spaced and include the
writer's name and phone
number. Please limit
all submissions to 300
words or less. Letters and
columns become property
of ~~The Circuit and may~~
be edited and published in the
newspaper's online edition.

The Circuit is a member
of Kansas Collegiate
Media.

Editorials, letters and
guest columns do not
necessarily reflect the
opinion of The Circuit as a
whole.

The Circuit Editorial
Board can be reached for
questions or comments at
circuit@benedictine.edu.

The content of this
publication is copyright ©
of the Benedictine College
Journalism and Mass Com-
munications Department.
All rights reserved.

voices

A year of change for *The Circuit*



Liam Keating
Managing Editor

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest have made humans struggle heartily. Yet, we continue to persevere through hardships and anguish. Everyone has had to adapt and change their way of life to accommodate with the undulating times that we live in. *The Circuit* is no different.

Last year, I served as the sports editor, delivering coverage on

all of your favorite athletes and sports teams. This year, I am your managing editor which oversees the entirety of the newspaper. With this influence, I did not want to sit on the sidelines, I want to make a change especially on this campus that I deeply love.

I saw the civil unrest that has taken hold in our country as protests occurred through our nation due the tragic death of George Floyd. I thought to myself, 'How can I as a straight, white male become an ally to those most discriminated?'

Fellow Raven, Will Alexander and I had many discussions this summer on how our staff can become an ally. Together, we formulated a response to become a more inclusive place for African-American, Latino and Asian students through *The Circuit's* platform.

This year, *The Circuit* will be

dedicating a page each edition titled, "The Inclusive Exclusive" that will highlight the diverse cultures that make Benedictine College a unique place to learn. Important features along with culture stories of delicious recipes will help readers connect and learn about one another.

It is important to hear and learn from people that are often left unheard to gain a better perspective and grow as loving human beings.

Holocaust survivor, author and Nobel Prize winner, Elie Wiesel said in his 1986 acceptance speech, "Action is the only remedy to indifference: the most insidious danger of all."

Action is the only you can do to alleviate hatred. This is *The Circuit's* response to make Benedictine College a more inclusive place utilizing fair, well-written and accurate journalism.

The Rambler: Reset buttons



Fisher Ward
Copy Editor

Does anyone else want one of those massive, Deus Ex-Machina reset buttons that you can generally find in the final stage of an all-hope-is-gone scenario? Well, all hope won't be gone until after November, so it's not time for the

reset button just yet.

Popular as this joke has been in the past couple of months, there's no going back. 2020 has presented a unique challenge that nobody was ready for, not even those doomsday preppers, who I just know are waiting to jump out of the woodwork and scream "We told ya so!"

And I don't want to give them the satisfaction.

I don't think the world is going to end. It's been on the verge of ending since, well, ever. We've felt the doomsday clock creeping nearer to midnight since 1945, sure, but we've been living in the end times since 33 AD.

The world is definitely going to change; it always does. Question is, what will the changes bring? I have no idea. I hope it's

all good. Don't we all.

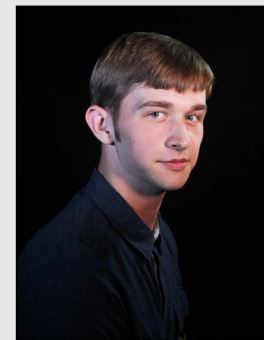
If anyone knows where to find a reset button, let me know.

Turning to some lighter subjects, I've been trying to find something to read or watch to divert my attention from the world's general malaise. There were some pretty decent movies that came out last year, but if I wanted to distract myself, Joker was not the right choice.

Knives Out, on the other hand, is an excellent distraction. Written and directed by Rian Johnson of Last Jedi fame, Knives Out is a fantastic mystery designed like a modern-day Agatha Christie story. If you're interested, it is currently free on Amazon Prime Video.

Cheers!

Left with Time



John Tuttle
Online Editor

Our current situation lends itself to forming new habits. Not only in an immediately local sense, but nationally, our situation is that of a "new normal." With new procedures and protocol, we have adopted an altered routine. In some aspects, it has made living harder.

Video calls lead to lethargy, breeding laziness and indifference even in light of the opportunity for something beyond the screen. Whether in education or employment, there is a lack of consistency. One class may be on Zoom, on a different app, or prerecorded and uploaded at a later time.

If we go out in public, there are places to wear masks and places that leave it up to individual discretion. There is a time to don a mask, and a time to remove it; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing. With disorder, there is little to hold onto in an ever-changing atmosphere of the looming pandemic. We fall into uncertainty, even hypocrisy.

But there is something positive this pandemic has done. It has forced people in very tangible ways to take charge of their lives, confront themselves, and take responsibility for how they use their time. If you're in quarantine or are sheltering in place, you are being given a chance to do something. Time lost returns again, and it asks us how we used it.

The Inclusive Exclusive

Minority groups see need for more awareness

Will Alexander
The Circuit

Minority students believe that Benedictine College should do a better job at making them feel more included into the school's culture.

Benedictine's student population is predominantly white and Catholic that often leads minorities to feel out of place.

Black Student Union (BSU), the Hispanic Latino Club (HLC) and other minorities spoke about these hardships. The common

members of these groups use to describe BC is "white, Catholic and conservative".

Leila Almanza, sophomore, and secretary for the Hispanic Latino Club had strong views about this issue from her experience.

"As much as BC advocates for open mindedness and their beloved community factor to draw prospective students in, they really filter everything on their campus, and respectfully so, through the lens of Catholicism," Almanza said. "The Catholic culture they uphold here at Benedictine is one that is geared towards the white Catholic's comfort rather than BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) Catholic's acceptance."

Almanza is not the only member of HLC with strong views based on their experience at Benedictine.

HLC President Jessica Luna and Vice President Jazmine Diaz also shared their perspectives.

"I think the culture at BC is very conservative and they make it very known. They are not very open to people who think differently," Diaz said. "Even though all they

ever do is preach about community. If that were true, then there wouldn't be so much division in the school."

Luna explained that Benedictine will accept anyone, but once they arrive on campus, the events are focused on Americans and Catholics.

"If you do fit in as a minority it's because you've molded yourself to fit into the culture of Benedictine and not your own. I think as a private institution, this school showcases what their audi-

ence wants to see and they worry a lot about their "image" but in all honesty, the voices of minorities are being silenced

because it doesn't fit their perfect picture," Luna said.

Jordan Malcolm, Black Student Union president, had a troubling start when he first arrived at BC that motivated him to speak up and be a part of the change.

"Students have said black athletes (football players mostly) are intimidating to look at because of what we wear and how we talk. It also shows within how we're treated. Like I said, if you aren't Catholic, they don't really value your opinion," Malcolm said. "As a Black student coming in, those comments immediately made me want to leave and go back home. Felt like I had no real purpose being at the school unless I played a sport."

Malcolm remained steadfast thanks to a conversation he had with his father.

"He told me to just keep my head low, focus on my degree and play football," Malcolm said.

But he knew he couldn't keep



From left to right: Leila Almanza, Franco Monaco, Amber Mascarenas, Sheldon Ivory and Dante Edwards are the leaders of the HLC and BSU clubs. Photo by Jordan Bell

quiet knowing others were dealing with the same prejudices.

"When I first became BSU president, some administration and students didn't even know we were a club. I felt it was neces-

issue for us and we want to be the best that we can be at everything we can do. But reality is reality we are a small Catholic institution in a rural area," Minnis said. "It's not surprising that the

with this."

Minnis explained that Benedictine is not perfect and that there is plenty of room to grow to become a more inclusive institution.

"Are there persons on our campus that are racists or insensitive? Yes, because we are made up of sinful people. All of us are and if you have an organization of sinful people then sins happen," Minnis said. "But, we as an organization have to continue to preach what we believe which is a culture of love and community faith and scholarship."

Minnis continued that these sins come from a lack of understanding of the gospel image of love and the necessity to embrace the Benedictine value of treating all persons as Christ.

Seeking more information?

Follow Black Student Union and the Hispanic Latino Club on Twitter

@BlackStudentU_
@hlc_bc

sary to really use my voice when students and faculty say that racism doesn't exist on campus," Malcolm said. "The school motto is "Treat everyone as if they are Jesus Christ himself" but many of our Catholic students don't live by that standard. And it shows on campus."

BC President Steven Minnis acknowledges the lack of diversity on campus, but also believes that we must build a culture from love.

"This is a really important

majority of our students are white but this is a great opportunity for the college to recognize the importance of diversity on our campus and to move forward

Deacon Continued from page 1...

favorite professor on campus because he's so vocal about what goes on in the world, and a lot of our administrators are extremely quiet on that part," Malcolm said. "I don't know if they're afraid of losing their jobs or it might tarnish their name on campus, but that's a big part of the issue be-

cause people are more concerned of their image than what really matters."

He added that although the confrontation between Wolf and Burke-Sivers sounded angry, it can be attributed to the passion they both have about the topic.

features

Student health center relocates



New health center is open behind St. Michael's Hall. Photo by Francesca Del Curto

Angelica Nelson
The Circuit

In an attempt to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on campus, the Benedictine College Student Health Center moved to 1301 N. 3rd St., behind St. Michael Hall.

The Benedictine College Coronavirus Taskforce decided to buy the building from the Atchison

Hospital in order to help isolate students with COVID-19, especially from other departments on campus.

Although plans to buy the property were in the works throughout the summer, the transaction was not officially completed until August 14, which coincided with move-in weekend for new students on campus. Consequently, the nurses at the Health Center had to deal with the challenge of moving locations while testing new students for the virus.

According to Janet Adrian, director of Student Health Services, moving locations was a necessary step to help keep the campus safe.

"The reason student health moved over here was because of the COVID pandemic that we are going through right now," Adrian said. "The old student center also housed the Counseling

Center, so in order to keep those folks safe, we felt it important that we come over here and have our own entity."

-Janet Adrian

Even now, folding tables are being used as desks, and the center's decor includes flowers placed in a bio-hazard waste box.

Despite the challenges that come with moving to a new location at the beginning of the semester, the change has allowed the nurse practitioners to establish safe protocols for students.

These protocols include

offering virtual screening appointments, establishing a separate entrance for students with COVID-19 symptoms, adding medical air filtration systems, providing safety gear for nurses and increasing the number of exam rooms.

Additionally, all students must make appointments ahead of time to limit the number of people in the waiting room. In previous years, there would be up to 20 students waiting to be seen.

Sophomore Auggie Iseman visited the Health Center the first time the day after he moved in due to a sore throat, headache, and other symptoms.

"Looking back on it that's what I was most impressed with cause they had 2,000 students coming and they had to get testing equipment to all of them and all of those testing supplies were just amongst them which is a lot, and they were also in the middle of moving to a different building," Iseman said.

Iseman shared his gratefulness for the Health Center's

SGA's Quarantine Solutions

Mckenna Elder
The Circuit

As of Friday, only 5 students on Benedictine's campus are having to quarantine while off-campus students are not able to join in on the campus activities because of isolation. The number of quarantined students ballooned to 83 on Sept. 8 which forced groups on campus to take action.

The Student Government Association (SGA),

teamed up with Student Life to brainstorm ideas on how to help isolated and quarantined students. Mary Claire Aranowski the Vice President of SGA told about their plans that will hopefully be implemented soon.

"A night once a week there will be a link that any isolated or quarantined students can click on and there will be someone available on zoom to talk to those students, just so they have another place of support," Aranowski said.

SGA also has a way to reach out to quarantine students via

friendliness and patience while he was being cared for in the new building.

"They just had a lot of things going against them at the time. But yeah, they treated me very well, and I was appreciative of it for sure," Iseman said.

Adrian added that it is always a learning curve for students to get acclimated to college and take care of themselves without the help of their parents, and COVID-19 has only added to that stress.

She encourages students to

their social media. They post a suggestion box on their Instagram story on Friday's, so that over the weekends people can slide up and say if they have needs that need to be met.

Brooke Barringer, a junior this year, had to be in isolation for 10 days at the Quality Inn hotel in Atchison. She tells how this

plan that has been brought about by SGA and Student Life could make a

positive impact.

"I was lucky enough to be able to have friends and family to facetime during my time away, but I think that having the option to get in contact with someone from the school via zoom is a great idea especially if there are students who don't have anyone else to talk to," Barringer said.

As the amount of positive COVID-19 cases diminishes amongst the student body, SGA and Student Life are still available for isolated and quarantined students.

schedule an appointment if they are feeling sick and get their Influenza shot at the local CVS or Walmart Pharmacies in town.

The Student Health Center is open from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. To schedule an appointment, call the center at 913-360-7117. For appointments outside of the center's hours, students are directed to contact their health provider or the Atchison Hospital Emergency Room at 913-360-5320

sports

New football regulations for 2020



Raven football gearing up for practice as new regulations are installed for the 2020 season. Photo by Jordan Bell

Stephen Personelli
The Circuit

The past month at Benedictine College has seen new laws and regulations imposed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. On September 8, new laws were put into effect by the athletic department for the ability of fans to watch the Ravens play this season.

The first football game of the season was postponed to October 10 due to the pandemic. The first home game is now slated for Saturday, September 26 against Culver Stockton. Athletic Director Charles Gartenmeyer is pleased that the football team will be beginning play instead of having a hard conversion.

“I was having a very difficult time thinking I was going to be telling families that they couldn’t come and watch their kid play,” Gartenmeyer said.

In order to allow families and students to attend games at Larry

Wilcox Stadium this fall, only 30% of the stadium’s capacity will be allowed inside. Approximately 500 fans will be allowed to watch the Ravens play this season.

In order to allow as many students as possible into the game

“

I am going to miss the atmosphere that the tailgate brings to the games.”

- Kevin Averill

there will be student seating on the north side of the stadium on the hill.

When entering the game fans will go through a temperature check to make sure everyone is healthy to ensure safety while watching the game.

On top of the seating restrictions, tailgating will be illegal in the McDonald Parking lot. This is

one of the long standing traditions for Ravens fans that is lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Junior Kevin Averill is upset that this tradition will be discontinued for the season.

“I’m going to miss the atmosphere that the tailgate brings to the games. I really enjoy the energy the tailgate brings to game day,” Averill said.

Following the game, students and families are asked to leave the stadium immediately instead of going on the field to participate in the closing prayer and the singing of the Raven’s fight song.

“My health is your health and your health is my health,” Gartenmeyer said. “People are going to have to adapt to the safety requirements we are putting in place.”

For more information on the regulations for all the sporting events this fall visit Ravenathletics.com

From the bench: Coming together through Sports

Austin Canatella
The Circuit

America limped through quarantine without spring or summer sports. People are desperate for college sports now.

College sports are part of the backbone of American society. Every Saturday in the fall, college campuses across the country take part in an integral experience pivotal to American life. Everyone waking up, excited to get to the game, tailgate with their friends while losing their voice screaming for the home team.

Professional leagues have made a re-appearance and it is a blessing, but the world is just not the same without college sports.

I live for college sports; college football is what gets me through the fall semester, especially through Friday classes. Even if you are not a hardcore college athletics fan such as myself, we can all agree on its importance to the country and the smaller scale of the Benedictine community.

Mandates have been put into place such as social distancing and masks. The effectiveness of masks was debated, arguing that it limits breathing and doesn’t actually stop the spread of the virus.

In my own hometown of Bryan, Texas, there were nearly 3,000 active cases. Masks were mandated and the number shrank to under 300 actives in a matter

of weeks. This proves to me that masks, if worn by everyone, can work.

Along with the other cancellations of all spring sports in Kansas, not only hurting spring sports but as well as sports in the fall. Revenue for colleges across the country plummeted, taking money away from communities and institutions.

The solution to this problem is working together to bring sports back and doing the right thing so that sports can stay in our lives. Right now, society is in a deep divide, and sports are the one thing that can help us come together and celebrate. Beyond opinions, beyond sides, we can all wear masks for a common good.

One thing can be said to help us all: coming together can save something not only vital to the Benedictine community, but communities across the country. Masks are a highly debated topic, but this isn’t about the individual, it is about everyone. Put personal ideas aside, wear a mask for the person next to you and the athlete fighting to play their last season.

Benedictine sports came back this week when the Ravens soccer programs faced Central Methodist marking the first athletic event on campus in 197 days. Fans and students are allowed at games this fall so please wear a mask and protect others while we all support the Ravens.

Upcoming Sports Schedule

Football

- Sept. 19 @ CU
- Sept. 26 vs CSU
- Oct. 3 @ GVV

Soccer

- Sept. 19 @ WPU
- Sept. 23 vs BAK
- Sept. 30 vs GVV

Volleyball

- Sept. 18 @ MVU
- Sept. 19 @ CMU
- Sept. 22 vs EU