

# Forcing beliefs on students is wrong and dangerous

When going on a field trip, most students would not pass up the opportunity to skip class, especially if there is the promise of free food and games.

However, if they knew that this trip was to a church that would change the course of their lives forever, they would not have gotten on that bus.

On Sept. 12, over 2,000 seniors from a public high school in Louisiana were tricked into going to an anti-LGBTQ church for a field trip that was advertised as a College and Career Fair.

The permission slip promised free food, fun, games and a special guest. When students arrived at the church, the events that followed were anything but fun, and the special guest was a homophobic priest.

Parents who signed these permission slips agreed to send their kids on a fun trip to learn about different college options, not a

traumatic experience. Not only did this trip

violate several rules, but it changed the lives of thousands of students forever.

Students were separated by gender, leaving a gender-fluid and transgender student alone. The transgender student was left traumatized from the event, reporting that they were constantly bullied by the other students on the trip and no punishment was made from any adult.

When the girls were led into the church, the host of the event talked to them about saving their virginity and “waiting for the man God intended for them.” It was also reported that the host talked about their own experience with being sexually assaulted and how if she “waited for the man God meant for her,” then it wouldn’t have happened.

Promoting sexual assault as an event you can prevent negatively affects the lives of young teenagers, especially young Christians. Even in a religious aspect, the Bible should never be used to excuse this type of behavior.

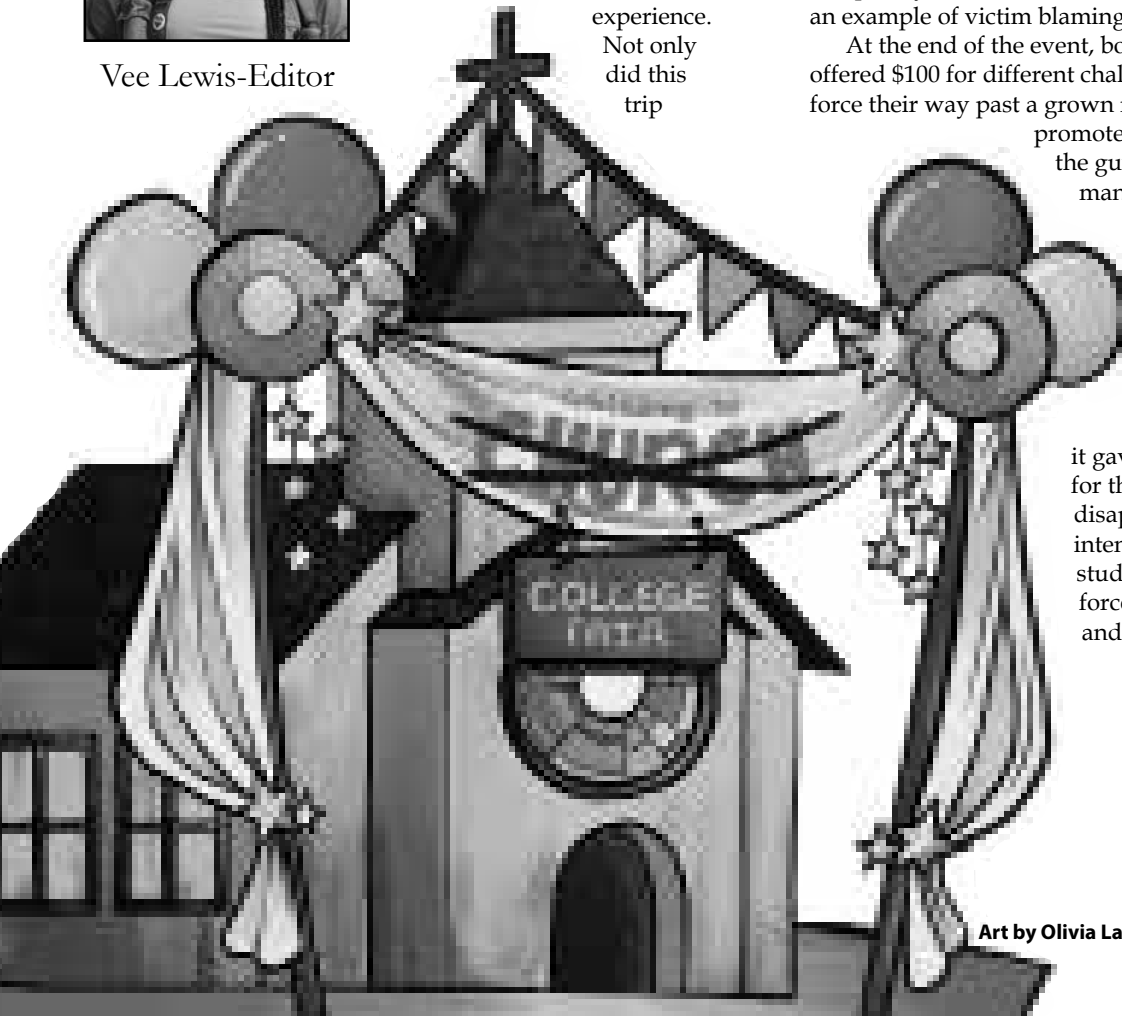
The host basically told these young women that being sexually assaulted was their fault, which completely invalidates the feelings of the victims and is an example of victim blaming.

At the end of the event, both the boys and girls were offered \$100 for different challenges. The girls had to force their way past a grown man, leading the event to promote domestic violence, and the guys were forced to do as many pushups as possible in the scorching heat.

This trip did nothing but hurt, traumatize and encourage men and women to not care about sexual assault, gender identity and it gave a false sense of hope for the future. I am heavily disappointed that this school intentionally put their students in danger just to force their homophobic beliefs and teachings.



Vee Lewis-Editor



Art by Olivia Lake