

## “Slut-shaming,” continued

Several students from the Chi Alpha organization called the gathered students to pray for Sister Cindy, which they did in a solemn and serious manner. After this, Sister Cindy was replaced by her husband, Brother Jed, who continued to shame females on campus for their promiscuous outfits while also spouting quotes such as “If you have too much sex the vagina will grow teeth,” “I love gay people but not in the gay way,” “the anus is an exit, not an entrance,” and “masturbation is man-to-man sex.” These quotes were mocked by the crowd of students.

Sex was one of the major topics the couple wished to touch on, though they also gave their views on homosexuality, drinking, and not following Jesus Christ. At one point, Brother Jed said that he believed “Christians are better than other humans, it’s evil not to believe in Jesus.”

Sister Cindy returned to the makeshift pulpit, putting on a one-woman show depicting a girl who shared intimate photos and text conversations with a boy, “accidentally” had sex with said boy while attempting to give him a massage, and then wound up in Hell. Afterward, Brother Jed returned to preach, though this time, a media student asked him for an interview, and the crowd went from a large, loud throng to a small handful of people.

In this interview, Brother Jed shared his history of preaching. Brother Jed, born George Edward Smock in 1943, began preaching in 1974 at Indiana University. He met his wife, Cynthia Lasseter Smock, in 1978 while preaching, and over the course of a year converted her to his cause and married her.

According to Brother Jed’s website, Sister Cindy was a promising reporter before meeting Jed, and was convinced to quit school to join Brother Jed. Brother Jed said that when he met his wife she was “trailer trash” and brought nothing to their marriage but student loans, then proceeded to tell the gathered students that the best thing about his wife getting pregnant with their first child was that “her breasts doubled in size.” The couple has five daughters, none of whom were on campus that day.

In 1984, Brother Jed formed Campus Ministry USA, a church organization that

has visited major universities in all 50 states as well as some other countries. Brother Jed has his own website, [www.brojed.org](http://www.brojed.org), where more of his doctrine can be read. He also has a YouTube channel, where a clip under the title of “Northern Arkansas University” can be found that documents the beginning of the couple’s preaching.

“Believe me, every question I’ve been asked today, if I’ve been asked it once I’ve been asked it thousands of times,” Brother Jed said. “The line of questioning I’ve gotten out here, even from the Christians, doesn’t show a lot of maturity...I find a lot of people don’t really know the Jesus of the Bible, they have sort of a Sunday school, very elementary view of Jesus. You need to mature and study his life diligently...If we’re gonna be Christian, we have to embrace the cross, we have to embrace a life of self denial, of suffering, willing to die for the cause of Christ... few are willing to do that. Most people are out to maximize pleasure and minimize pain.”

Brother Jed told students, “If you’re not a believer, you were condemned before I got here. I’m warning you...I’m pronouncing God’s judgement.”

Interest continued to shrink from there, and both the Smocks and the students watching them were gone by 5:30. However, discussion about the event still continued on the A-State app, where Christian students made a point of showing their disdain for the Smocks and their antics and other students shared jokes about the day’s events.

This is not the first time the Smocks have visited A-State’s campus. In November 2015, the couple visited campus for two days, bringing with them a handful of other preachers with names like “Sister Kirsten” and “Brother Ross”. Preachers under these names could not be found on the Brother Jed website.

While it is unclear when the Smocks will return to campus next, one can be sure that their return, much like the days they spent on our campus this year and in 2015, will be a day where students can bond over making fun of the “arch screechers.”



Photo by: Alitza Cabibi-Wilkin | Opinion Editor  
Sister Cindy and her husband Brother Jed stand in front of the graduation arch on Arkansas State University campus. The two have been seen at this spot many times over the years.

### BROWN, CONTINUED

As the Tulsa’s World chief energy reporter, he was able to learn the oil and gas business, the stock market and financial writing from the ground up. In the 1990s when the nation’s oil industry almost collapsed, Brown won several awards for his reporting on companies like Exxon, Mobil and others oil giants like Arco, Phillips and Amoco that went out of business or were acquired by larger companies. His award-winning reporting cover Oklahoma’s oil industry helped him land a job on Wall Street in the late 1990s as the chief energy correspondent for Bridge News and Reuters business newswires, where he covered OPEC and most of the top global oil companies.

The endowed Joel Gambill Distinguished Speaker Series is named after the 1965 A-State graduate who wanted to bring the media world to A-State students. Gambill was the first instructor in journalism hired and spent four decades building the department into a national powerhouse. He served as Department Chair for 36 years.

His numerous awards and recognitions include being named Outstanding Educator by the Arkansas Press Association as well as the organization’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. Along with his dedication to education and journalism, he has devoted his time and talent as official scorekeeper for ASU men’s and women’s basketball for the past quarter of a century, missing only three games since 1975. Equally passionate about tennis, he captained five Jonesboro teams to the state championship.

Though he has many interests, he is most

well-known, as one newspaper editor said, as Arkansas’s foremost journalism educator. It has been said that editors and publishers looking to fill positions on the staff were accustomed to calling Gambill first.



Photo courtesy of A-State  
Wesley Brown

### MCPHERSON, CONTINUED

McPherson is the director of Temple University’s Center for the Study of Force and Diplomacy and a historian of U.S.-Latin American relations and global activism. He is an award-winning author who has written widely on U.S. interventions in Latin America but also on the advocacy of rock band U2.

His most recent book, “Ghosts of Sheridan Circle: How a Washington Assassination Brought Pinochet’s Terror State to Justice,” discusses the assassination of Chilean ambassador Orlando Letelier, killed in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 21, 1976, by a car bomb. The U.S. government was hesitant to blame Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, a Cold War ally.

McPherson proves that Pinochet had ordered

the murder, providing a definitive account of this assassination that forever changed the course of counterterrorism and democracy in the western hemisphere.

His appearance at A-State is presented with additional funding support from the College of Liberal Arts and Communication, Department of History, and Department of Political Science.

The Lecture-Concert Series serves Arkansas State and the surrounding communities by bringing notable guest speakers and performers of diverse backgrounds and wide appeal to the campus.

For more details about the series, interested individuals may visit the Lecture-Concert Series website, [AState.edu/LectureConcert](http://AState.edu/LectureConcert).

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