‘Christianity is for thinking people and is a reasonable, logical faith’

Natalie Blanchet
The Battalion

ike Ferrer, an inquisitive man from a southern Christian home, knew he wanted to help people. “I went into apologetics not even knowing what apologetics were. I knew I wanted to help others come to conclusions on tough questions,” Ferrer said.

Now a Christian apologist and doctoral student at Southwestern University, Ferrer will participate in the God Dialogues Thursday representing Ratio Christi, a student apologetics organization on campus. Ferrer said philosophy and the idea of how God has inspired him. However, it was his brother’s atheist worldview that pushed him to explore his own faith.

“He looked at the bad examples in Christianity and thought he could do better through Christianity. I looked at the bad examples and found around them and found a fixer-upper example,” Ferrer said. “He helped me enough to find answers about the faith and I’d like to say I dug deeper and found hard answers underneath those tough questions.”

Ferrer teaches church history and philosophy at several universities. “I will be teaching as an impact on course with the Apologetics and Argument Student Group, facilitating group discussions at meetings for the past five semesters. The only time I’ve mentioned [my beliefs] is to preface a conflict,” Hanrahan said. “Revealing that you’re an atheist doesn’t always end up well; religious topics can be taboo and discussions are not talked about as often as they should be.”

Ferrer said the God Dialogues have sparked honest discussions and are important for everyone.

‘Islam is and can be a force of social and religious good in the world’

Justin Machera
The Battalion

 חדש Mensdorf’s long journey to the God Dialogues began in the small city of Haifa in northern Israel. “I was in the least of a long line of such families in my history. Mensdorf’s family has historically preserved a fostering international and open-minded culture, and was also growing up steeped in the Marxist concept of Prussia during the 6th century. It is not a very religious place, despite the majority of the population identifying as Modern, but Mensdorf is an exception.

As the age of 13, Mensdorf realized he was being bullied. He realized his beliefs didn’t hold special significance “since so many people are in the same boat.”

“The only time I’ve mentioned [my beliefs] is to preface a conflict,” Hanrahan said. “Revealing that you’re an atheist doesn’t always end up well; religious topics can be taboo and discussions are not talked about as often as they should be.”

Mensdorf said the issue boils down to cold hard facts. "The lack of strength of any other argument makes me an atheist,” Mensdorf said. “Hanrahan grew up and spent my whole life in a secular household.”

Hanrahan splits his time as an entomology doctoral student, as he is a low ball in such numbers in his family. “I went into apologetics not even knowing what apologetics were. I knew I wanted to help people.”

Hanrahan brings a laidback attitude, a steadfast commitment to his ideology and an eagerness to encourage discussion to the God Dialogues. “I went into apologetics not even knowing what apologetics were. I knew I wanted to help people.”

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Hanrahan said open education is a unique approach to the idea. “The lack of strength of any other argument makes me an atheist,” Mensdorf said. “Hanrahan grows up and spent my whole life in a secular household.”

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Tradition volunteers

MFL affiliates to talk baseball at the Bush Library
The George Bush Presidential Library Foundation will present "A Night of Baseball," a discussion about America's Pastime and the Fall Classic, at 6 p.m. Friday at the Abramson Presidential Conference Center at the George Bush Presidential Library. The event features Robert "Rocky" Jr., chairman of Rich Products Corp. and owner of the Buffalo Bisons minor league team; został "Mike" Hamilton, voice of the Houston Astros and Baseball Hall of Fame inductee; and Hall of Famer, Joe Garagiola Jr., Major League Baseball color commentator and sports author. Wally Moon, a Texas A&M graduate and former MLB outfielder for the St. Louis Cardinals and the Los Angeles Dodgers, and former MLB owner of the Buffalo Bisons minor league team, Ron Lumbardo will sign books following the discussion. Free tickets for this event are available at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

Roland Ruiz, staff writer

Texas Sports Hall of Fame inducts Blair
The Texas Sports Hall of Fame Induction Committee announced its class of 2011, which included Texas A&M women's basketball head coach Gary Blair. A Dallas native, Blair led the Aggies women to their first national championship in program history in 2011. He closed out the season with a school-record 33 wins and a program-best No. 7 national ranking. Blair also produced A&M's first All-American in Dawnade Adams. "I grew up a fan of sports and was always fascinated by the Greek gods," Blair said. "It's an honor beyond my wildest dreams that something like this could happen to an old, broken-down baseball player like me." Blair, a 1968 graduate of Bryan Adams High School in Dallas, earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Tech and played baseball for the Red Raiders.

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Arkham City

Bigger, better, battier

Review: Batman sequel lives up to hype

Henry, you do follow a major blockbuster game? Make another one of course, and that's exactly what Rocksteady Studios did with its second outing, Batman: Arkham City.

I’m sure trying to be a Batman and video game hero, you have always made up your mind to buy Arkham City — and rightfully so. Arkham Asylum was the best superhero video game ever until its sequel came onto the scene. Randomly-structured side missions and the non-linear story created and inspired it in almost every way possible.

Story

The time around the higher-ups in Gotham City decided it would be a great idea to section off an isolated part of the city and put every crook in town in a super-jail dubbed “Arkham City.” From small pickpockets to big names like The Penguin and Mr. Freeze, the city was thrown into chaos.

Bruce Wayne, billionaire playboy — a now more skilled playboy — goes through Arkham City as a political prisoner, and thus enters the Batman world. You will race across the gritty streets as you try to stop the Joker from unleashing a deadly disease. Find out who really is running Arkham City and the mystery behind “Protocol 10.”

There is a lot of work put into the story, and it will keep you guessing until the end. With Mark Hamill (Star Wars) returning to voice the Joker, and the rest of the voice actors delivering every line in the game with perfection, making the game’s story better than Batman’s cinematic counterparts.

Gameplay

Though the main story of the game will take you around 50 hours to complete, there is a lot to do in Arkham City, so don’t be fooled. With plenty of side missions, more than 250 enemies, and a variety of vehicles to play as Catwoman, you will be busy for a very long time.

Traveling around the city and the rooftops is a fast thing that would not work on our friendly neighborhood Spiderman mutant. And, if you purchase the Catwoman downloadable content, you will experience a completely new way to stop and interact across Arkham City in your favorite feline.

Combat became more intense in Arkham City. While the concept of taking out waves of enemies remains the same, there’s one big difference this time — Batman is done playing Batman games and is now Batman. With too many combat states to count and ninjas, assassins with sniper rifles, and body armor and some surprises I won’t spoil, the combat never stays the same. This action keeps you guessing with different enemies and increasing difficulty.

Arkham City gives you the chance to play and develop Batman as you see fit. With upgrades, gadgets, and skills through augmented reality training, you are going to want to take the time to help Gotham’s Dark Knight.

Graphics

So you always have fun talking about graphics and how they enhance the game? I can do more than just explain and add to the overall look of the game. With its modern redesign of your favorite bad guys and heroes, Arkham City is not just a game anymore. And when it comes to the ladies of the game, all I can say is that sex sells.

With a story that will shock you, gameplay that will rock you and an art style that will move you, Batman: Arkham City is a no-brainer for anybody.

Summary

The final verdict is that Batman: Arkham City is a great game! Don’t mean good — it really is one of the best games of the year. On par with the heavy-hitting blockbusters of this quarter, this is a title that will shock you, gross you out, and body armor and some surprises I won’t spoil, the combat never stays the same. This action keeps you guessing with different enemies and increasing difficulty.

Arkham City gives you the chance to play and develop Batman as you see fit. With upgrades, gadgets, and skills through augmented reality training, you are going to want to take the time to help Gotham’s Dark Knight.

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With a story that will shock you, gameplay that will rock you and an art style that will move you, Batman: Arkham City is a no-brainer for anybody.
World

Thousands leave flooded Thai capital

BANGKOK—Tens of thousands of people jammed highways to leave Thailand’s capital as floodwaters turned more grave and the first official evacuations were ordered. Floodwaters leaving the Ban Pak Kret area this week flooded 330,000 people in July, causing billions of dollars in damage and shut down Bangkok’s second-largest airport. The capital has mostly escaped encasement, but residents are preparing for flooding that seems all but inevitable. Bangkok Gov. Sukhumbhand Paribatra said Wednesday residents of two of the city’s 56 districts — Don Muang and Bang Phlat, both already partially submerged — should leave for safer cities elsewhere. “This is the first time I am using the term ‘evacuate,’ the first time I’m really asking you to leave,” Sukhumband said. Elsewhere in the city, thousands of people packed Bangkok’s Mo Chit bus terminal, trying to leave before floodwaters overwhelmed them. The government declared five-day public holiday to avoid a possible watery siege. Thailand’s north. The mass exodus to Bangkok, Thailand’s second-largest airport, is expected to have occurred by the end of the week. The airport, which is expected to reopen Monday, will be operated by the military. The airport’s closure is expected to have led to the breakdown of the city’s airport service.Airports around the city have been closed for the past week, causing thousands of passengers to be stranded. The airport’s closure is expected to have led to the breakdown of the city’s airport service. The airport’s closure is expected to have led to the breakdown of the city’s airport service.


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Teacher quits over anti-Catholic tracts

Fourth Year C&G student and civil engineering major Robert B. Mousavi was fired last month after appearing on a classmate’s Facebook page posting that was critical of the university’s Catholic Student Center. Mousavi said he deals with cultural misunderstandings every day and looks forward to the God Dialogues as an opportunity to better discuss his faith.

“I have been living with this for quite some time,” said Mousavi. “I have been thinking about my own faith since I first came here and I have been thinking about my faith in a way that is consistent with my day-to-day life.”

Mousavi said that in his role as an engineering student, he is responsible for being tactful with non-believers, providing opportunities for Muslims to understand the Quran and Christianity and providing opportunities for Muslims to understand the Quran and Christianity.

“I want to stress open dialogue like in political debates because when people debate about religious issues, everyone will fall into their own sides. They aren’t being outspoken, instead they are still romping for their own sides,” said Mousavi. “We were very open-minded to political debates where you can have people from different sides at a table, each with their own claims and at the end of the day they can walk away easily.”

Agnostic & Atheist Student Group of A&M

The Agnostic and Atheist Student Group meets to bring together students of different views and share ideas.

“By having this discussion hopefully we can break the ice and have people learn the truths and discuss different views,” said Mousavi.

The discussions in Weil Hall focus on various faiths. Each of the three panels will present their stance on various topics.

“I would consider it a success if all sides on the panel represent their positions intelligently, respectfully and consistently within their own beliefs and the audience members are able to take some of the ideas presented and think for themselves,” said Mousavi.

Atheism

Continued from page 1

“Help desks are just that — helpful,” Harris said. “I want to stress open dialogue like in political debates because when people debate about religious issues, everyone will fall into their own sides. They aren’t being outspoken, instead they are still romping for their own sides,” said Mousavi. “We were very open-minded to political debates where you can have people from different sides at a table, each with their own claims and at the end of the day they can walk away easily.”

The Group is led by Christopher Cliver and Dennis Grimes and C.S. Lewis, “As far as I can tell there is nothing that pushes me to want to stress open dialogue like in political debates because when people debate about religious issues, everyone will fall into their own sides. They aren’t being outspoken, instead they are still romping for their own sides,” said Mousavi. “We were very open-minded to political debates where you can have people from different sides at a table, each with their own claims and at the end of the day they can walk away easily.”

Islamic Study Group

The Islamic Study Group is a collection of Muslims that meet on the BC-5 area and are dedicated to understanding the Quran and promoting opportunities for Muslims and non-Muslims to learn about the faith.

Meet at 7 p.m. on Friday at the BC-5 area.

The group is led by Emad Mousavi

For information, call 979-846-2237

http://islamicstudy.tamu.edu/
The offense is much more fun to watch and the defensive pressure looks to be a turnover machine. Defensively, the team was jumping passes and getting steals instead of whiffs like in previous seasons. The offense showed some of the excitement we should expect from this team with a few alley-oops (more on this later) and improved three-point shooting.

No. 2 Naji Hibbert
Started slightly timid on some shots and still has the tendency to get a little out of control on drives, however, he found a rhythm after he calmed down a bit. He finished third in scoring with 15 on the night and hit two from deep. He's a shut-down defender so expect more of what he did against Lace Darius Dunn in the second half last season against Baylor.

No. 5 Dash Harris
I think the biggest question for Harris is his shooting. He looked smoother last Friday but I don't know if he's a 10 points per game player. I could see him putting up six consistently. His passing was good and defense was as expected.

No. 10 David Loubeau
Looks good. Quick, good shot from 16 feet out. Seems to have done some work on finishing as he had a couple really tough shots fall. The senior scored 21 points, and I expect him to thrive in Coach Kennedy’s more up-tempo offense.

No. 11 Jamal Branch
WOW. Branch might have the best court vision on the team. Offensively, I don’t see him being too much of an impact scorer, but he’s only a freshman. He looked crisp handling the ball, dribbling the ball and making the right decisions. He has a really good nose for the game and found his teammates all night. But he’s only a freshman, so I could see him finding the going a little tough at times.

No. 22 Khris Middleton
He looks to have lost some of his “baby fat” and leaned up during the off-season. Still silky smooth and busts out a few good moves last Friday. He didn’t stand out to me, but I think it’s because others were producing and we weren’t having to rely on him.

No. 31 Elston Turner
The University of Washington transfer is a beast. He’s a good defensive player and excellent three-point shooter. He was taking NBA-range threes and hitting. It’s bold, but I could see Turner leading us in scoring. Keep in mind he is the son of the Phoenix Suns’ assistant Elston Turner Sr.

Read the full analysis online at thebatt.com.