

# More Than Mainstream

Students find solace in lesser known religions words & layout | Shabana Gupta illustrations | Jay Reece



## Jehovah's Witness

As a Jehovah's Witness, Cadence May '18 does not attend homecoming or prom. "We mainly associate with Jehovah's Witnesses just to encourage us, build us up," May said. "Because people can sometimes be a negative influence."

Because she does not attend any parties or go over to friends' houses, some people think May does not have many friends. "A lot of people just think that I'm a loner," she said. "But I have plenty of friends and I'm very happy with the way things are."

May feels many people do not understand what Jehovah's Witnesses do. "A lot of people think that we're selling something and we're not," she said. "We're just providing encouragements from the bible. We aren't trying to sell anything."

Without a doubt, May is happy to be Jehovah's Witnesses. "Jehovah is God's name and I'm just happy to bear that name," she said.



## Wicca

Wicca was introduced to Margie Valentine '17 by one of her older friends. She enjoys the freedom of worship, where there is not a set god for practitioners.

Greek and Roman gods are where some Wiccan find their place. Valentine prays to Goddess Diana, the Roman goddess of the hunt.

Valentine does not practice witchcraft, which she says is only a stereotype of Wiccans. "Some people connect witchcraft to Wicca, when really witchcraft isn't involved in Wicca," Valentine said. "[Wicca] is how you worship yourself and nature around you. Witchcraft is a practice."

There are Wiccans who practice witchcraft.

Valentine focuses more on theory. "I am focused on more of the research side because otherwise things can actually fall apart," she said.



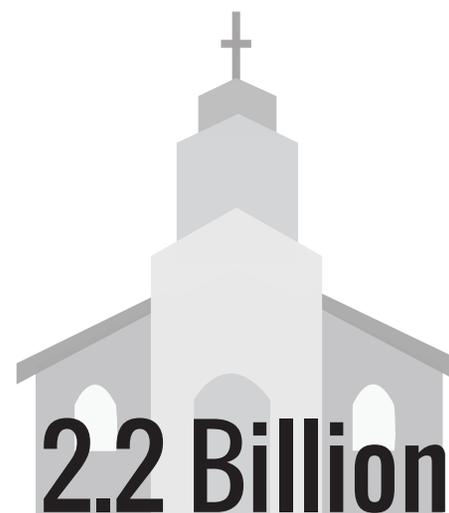
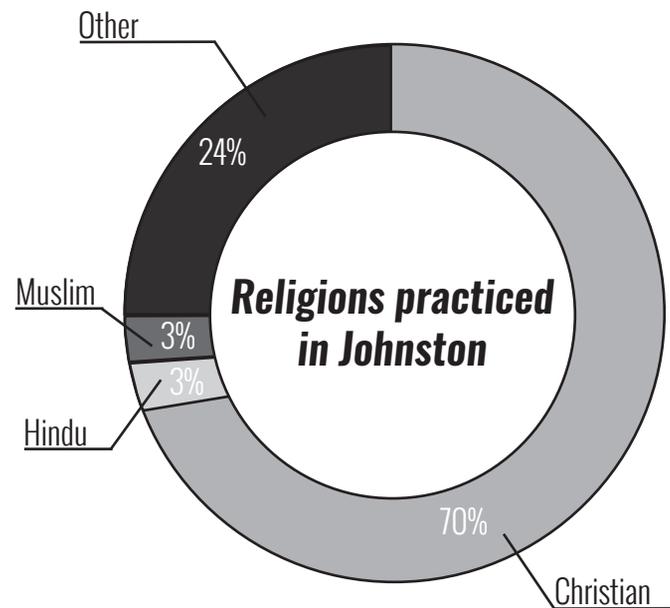
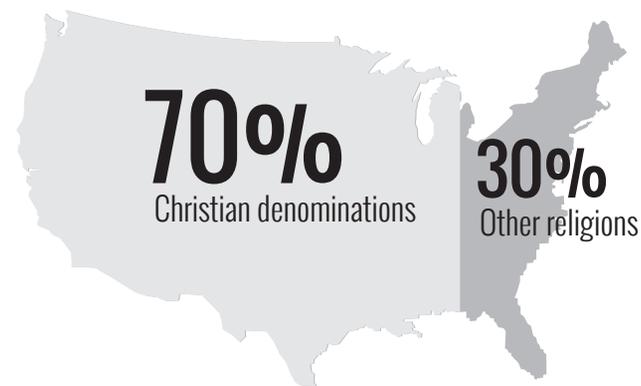
## LeVeyan Satanism

LeVeyan Satanism has become a passage of expression for Jay Reece '18. "We use Satan as more of a figure head," she said.

In Roman mythology, Lucifer (another name for Satan) is said to be the god of wisdom and knowledge. "We use him to represent freeing yourself from what all these other religions tell you what you can and can't do," Reece said.

According to Reese, LeVeyan Satanism is about enlightening oneself. "It's the most moral religion I've found," she said. "It's more like breaking you out of the stereotypes that typically fit into religion. It makes you into your own god."

LeVeyan Satanism encourages selfishness over selflessness. "It wants you to embrace your carnal desires and self preservation and do what you want to do," Reese said. "Do what makes you happy and don't care what anyone else thinks."



**2.2 Billion**  
Christianity is the worlds largest religion with approximately 2.2 Billion adherents