

**KJZZ Café October 23, 2008  
Interview with Chad Hardy**

Registrar's Office

**Steve Anderson:** A Las Vegas man behind a calendar featuring shirtless returned Mormon missionaries has had his diploma yanked by Brigham Young University. When a student enrolls at BYU, there's this pesky little thing called the honor code that students have to agree to. Joining us now is Chad Hardy, creator of Mormons Exposed, he graduated officially from BYU on August 15 and walked with his class, he finished up his credits for graduation in June, on July 13 you were excommunicated as I understand from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints for publishing the calendar that we've all been talking about. I'm sure it's all been a surprise too. What are your feelings about it right now?

**Chad Hardy:** At this point it's, to me it just seems like now it's becoming way too extreme so and um... at this point now I want to fight it.

**Steve Anderson:** Were you ever given any warning that you were on a trail or a track that might lead to some sort of repercussions either with the church or with BYU itself.

**CH:** Not at all. No. I did meet with my stake president and my bishop in my home back in April and we talked about the calendar, the stake president did let me know that he felt it was inappropriate but other boys' stake presidents didn't have a problem with it so I just figured it was just mine. And at the end of our two hour conversation I thought that we left it very positive that we both had our own viewpoints but that we could come to an understanding of why I did this and the message behind it and it was about a month later that he really became aggressive with me to stop production of it which I couldn't 'cause I have a non-Mormon business partner that put all his money into this, my money did not go into producing this, and at that point it became personal, they started to then try to find things wrong in my personal life that could be reasons to discipline me, but it was never like "stop this or else," and then once it became personal I asked them to please stop contacting me because they started making some really outrageous claims about me that were just completely false

**SA:** You're talking about the ecclesiastical authorities from your stake and your ward, not BYU,

**CH:** Yeah, no, from my ward in Las Vegas. At that point, he slapped me with a summons for a disciplinary counsel.

**Brandy Vega:** Let's go back just a tiny bit, now we know you were excommunicated in July but you received this letter and we've got a copy of the letter from BYU it was dated September 30<sup>th</sup> and it says "this correspondence is to inform you that your name has been deleted from the August 2008 graduation list and you will not be rewarded a degree," here it is right here, so you're not going to get this degree...

**CH:** No..

Ok. Let's talk about that a bit because you say you finished up all your credits when?

**CH:** Um I actually, I finished all of my major studies in 2002, I actually walked at that point as well 'cause I thought I was done but then came to find out I was short four required religion courses and they wouldn't waive them because you have to take them when you go to BYU. I was told just take them anytime Independent Study and you'll get your degree as simple as that.

**BV:** So you did that and you say you completed those in June?

**CH:** June yeah, finally I had the time and money to do it this past year, so I decided you know I want to get this done.

**BV:** o, k, cause we, kinda, what's important here also is sticking to this timeline. So in June you say you finished your required courses for graduation

**CH:** Which I did Independent Study, yeah.

**BV:** Yeah and you know we even have a picture, your parents attended you graduation, you walked with BYU's graduating class, there it is right there, this was August 15<sup>th</sup>?

**CH:** Um yes uh-hmm.

**BV:** Is that correct? And now August 15 you walk with the class but they're saying—now we got a quote, and I want to share this, we talked with byu to get their side of the story and according to Carri Jenkins, BYU spokesperson, "beginning with admission all students agree to uphold the honor code," which you did, right?

**CH:** Mhmm

**BV:** And you know the rules of the school

**CH:** Oh absolutely, yeah

**BV:** And it says that "throughout the university experience in order to qualify for a diploma." She says the media reported that you were excommunicated July 13, this occurred before you completed your online courses.

**CH:** No.

**BV:** This is what we just got from, this is what we just received from BYU in regards to this. It says that this was done before you completed your courses.

**CH:** No I actually took my finals and completed them prior to ever having the council or receiving the letter um I was done and at that point all I needed to do was just wait for my diploma. The only reason why I decided to walk again is cause my sister was getting married in august and I was in town and I thought it would be a great opportunity this time it's for real , I'm officially graduated and I wanted to walk.

**BV:** Did you have anything in writing from the school saying that you had graduated?

**CH:** Um, well I talked to my advisor, her and I have been friends throughout the years, and she was so excited that I was finally getting this done cause she's retiring and she wanted to see this happen before she left um and I received everything that would make me believe that I was graduating, letters from financial aid saying that I needed to do an exit interview, I was getting emails every week from the president of the school for a survey, to survey my experience at BYU, so everything to me was on the up and up when I graduated and I figured you know, to me at that point it really meant a lot to me because I had been excommunicated and here was something that I could at least hold onto and get.

**SA:** there's something that I wonder about. It seems to me that there are a couple of things. You have some questions about whether in your own mind it's clear that you had finished the courses, BYU says that it hadn't been completed July 13<sup>th</sup> when you were excommunicated. But they also point this out and having gone to byu I'm familiar with somewhat with the honor code. "Beginning with admission to BYU, all students agree in writing to uphold the honor code throughout their university experience in order to qualify for a diploma. It seems to me that there were two things here in question. One is whether you completed the courses on time, you seem to have some proof to indicate that you had, the other thing though is that you have to maintain the honor code to the very point where the degree is awarded, and it seems that when you were excommunicated and then the people at BYU receiving notification of that, they would not say that you had completed the honor code if you were excommunicated from the church so that's where the problem has come in, don't you think that there's a question about you and the honor code because you can't be excommunicated and having lived the honor code because living the honor code means to be everything that keeps you an active member of the LDS Church.

**CH:** Right so basically what happened is that the church censored me, because they didn't like my project, even though it's been very positive, very well-received around the world. Um, we have really changed perceptions and created a bridge between the gap between the "us and them" mentality. But they didn't like it because it showed the human, sensual side of these men. Because of that, they censored me and kicked me out of the Church and because of that I no longer qualify for my degree.

**BV:** So, how are you feeling righty now? Do you believe in the church? And what are your feelings about BYU?

**CH:** Well, you know, it's really interesting, the classes that I took Independent Study were Church History, so I got to do a lot of study about the origins of the Church and what was really interesting to me was that there were so many things that I didn't know and I went on a mission. And as I'm reading this stuff, I'm also seeing that it just seems...like it was the Swiss cheese version of Church History—there's a lot of holes, so I went online and started doing my own study. So, at this point, I have a lot of questions and wanting to know why. I'd like the Church to let me know why they withheld information from me.

**BV:** Well, if you want to get a message out there that Mormon's aren't different, let's take a look: Here's the '08 one, this is the first one you did. This is the new one coming out for -09, this was just printed, what? A month ago, or so?

**CH:** Yeah, it came out in September.

**BV:** The pictures, some people feel, are inappropriate, I mean, if you're trying to get people to embrace the Church, you've got pictures of sexy guys. And when you look at them...I'm not gonna lie..it give you this number (she fans herself with the calendar) and you go "wow" and I'm a married woman, maybe I shouldn't be looking at these guys going "they're pretty hot," I mean, what sort of message are you trying to get out there with a calendar that shows images that may cause people to have impure thoughts?

**CH:** Well, that's really up to their own perception, because some people look at this and go "I see more in a JCPenney catalog," I mean, you could find those types of things anywhere. Why I wanted to do this, was to in a way, disrupt the status quo about image and about what really is important and about why you have to look a certain way to have faith. And to also challenge the "us against them" mentality. I've experienced it on both sides of my life. I've been persecuted for being a Mormon when my Born-Again Christian friends told me I was going to hell and then I've been persecuted for being a Mormon because I've always been very liberal and because I don't fit the status quo, I'm going to hell. You know, it's that kind of "us against them" and I finally was like "enough," so this was my statement to the world.

**BV:** and so you stand behind it? You're proud of your work?

**CH:** absolutely.

**BV:** No regrets?

**CH:** No regrets.

**BV:** If you want information about Chad Hardy, you can go to his Web site. It's chadhardy.com There's information regarding your stance. And you're fighting BYU?

**CH:** Yes, I'm in the process of putting all my ducks in a row for that. There's been a lot of, uh, support, people wanting to donate to a legal fund, so we're going to be setting that up. And if people want more information about the calendar or to learn about the boys that are in the calendar, they can go to mormonsexposed.com.

**BV:** Well, thank you for coming in, and I'm sure we'll be following this closely. We'll be in touch with you, Chad (she shakes his hand). I appreciate it.

(handshakes all around)

# Of calendars and graduations

A recent flap has put one of Brigham Young University's policies, and its connection with the LDS Church, squarely in the spotlight.

Chad Hardy made a splash by marketing calendars in which former Mormon missionaries pose without their shirts. He attended BYU but says he hasn't been on campus for years. He finished his BYU classes by correspondence last summer and walked in the August commencement ceremonies.

Just before the ceremony, he was excommunicated by The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints for conduct unbecoming a member of the church. The ecclesiastical charges were reportedly rooted in Hardy's failure to pay tithing, a lapse in other religious obligations and, according to a senior church elder, his involvement with the 2008 "Men on a Mission" topless-missionary calendar.

Now BYU is withholding his degree.

All students are supposed to heed the school's Honor Code. In fact, admission depends upon a periodic certification from a local religious leader that a student is worthy in all respects to uphold the BYU image. Unworthy candidates — or at least those whose unworthiness is detected — are barred from enrollment.

Because Hardy behaved in a way that got him kicked out of the church, he cannot be considered a student in good standing under the school's current interpretation of the rules.

BYU is well within its legal rights to hold up Hardy's degree. It's a private school, owned by a church, and that gives it carte blanche to make and enforce any rules it likes, from haircuts to speech to off-campus activities. Moreover, it should be

## What do you think?

Should BYU give Clay Hardy his degree? Send your comments to [dhpolls@heraldextra.com](mailto:dhpolls@heraldextra.com) or call 344-2942. Please leave your name, hometown and phone number with your comments. E-mail comments should not exceed 100 words; voicemail comments should be no longer than 30 seconds. Anonymous and unverifiable responses will not be published. You can also comment online at our home page at [heraldextra.com](http://heraldextra.com).

The Daily Herald will publish results on Nov. 9.

When a university, as an institution, positions itself as the enforcer of a religious opinion, some secular eyebrows may go up.

Publishing a controversial calendar is, after all, not the same thing as having an incomplete class or a parking ticket — deficiencies many schools may hold over a student's head. If Hardy had left the university failing to correct some concrete harm, or failing to complete the course work, no one would think the withholding of his diploma unjust.

But this is different. It's just about opinion. On their face, Hardy's calendars are no more obscene than "shirts and skins" in pickup basketball game. His problem is one of perception — that he connected missionaries with a sort of beefcake sensuality — and it was not appreciated by the church.

It should be noted that Hardy's calendars have been in the news for at least a year. Yet BYU did not find

Daily Herald

Provo, UT

OCT 31 2008

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# Mormon excommunicated over calendar appeals for BYU diploma

**Entrepreneur** » He got into trouble by publishing photos of shirtless returned LDS missionaries.

By JENNIFER DOBNER

Associated Press Staff

**Salt Lake City** » The Las Vegas entrepreneur excommunicated by the Mormon church after publishing a calendar featuring shirtless returned missionaries on Friday appealed a decision by Brigham Young University to withhold his diploma.

Clark Hardy was told that his July excommunication from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made him ineligible for graduation. He had participated in the school's August commencement ceremonies.

In a letter sent Friday to the office of Norman Fin-  
hinson, executive director

of BYU's Student, Academic and Advisement Services, Salt Lake City attorney Stephen C. Clark demanded the school award the diploma or hold a formal appeals process, which Hardy never had.

Failing to give Hardy a fair hearing could prompt legal action, Clark's letter said.

Clark said BYU violated its own policies in its handling of Hardy's case, which includes failing to warn Hardy in advance that his eligibility was in jeopardy before taking disciplinary action, he said.

BYU spokeswoman Carri Jenkins confirmed receipt of the letter Friday, but said she could offer no further comment.

Hardy, 31, is the creator of the "Men on a Mission" calendar featuring returned missionaries posing shirtless in black suit slacks.

He was excommunicated July 13 by a council of Las Vegas-based church leaders.

Officially, the loss of membership was for conduct unbecoming a church member. In addition to the 2008 calendar, the charges were rooted in his failure to pay tithing and a lapse in other religious obligations, a senior church elder involved in the proceedings told The Associated Press in July.

School officials have said in the past that to be in good standing, students are required to be in compliance with a school honor code that dictates conduct and behavior standards that mirror the religious principles of the church.

Hardy attended BYU full-time between 1999 and 2002, but left before completing all graduation requirements. He finished his last four units — a religion course in church history — through an independent study program online in June.

Clark also said Hardy should have been awarded a

diploma because the school doesn't require independent study students to be in compliance with the honor code.

Copies of the letter to BYU and a letter sent Friday to church headquarters were obtained by AP.

Clark's second letter asked the church to publicly state the reasons for Hardy's excommunication, so that he can "clear his good name."

Hardy has said the disciplinary hearing that led to his expulsion centered on the calendar. In Clark's letter, he said the church has disputed that assertion, which he said creates the impression that Hardy engaged in other "serious immoral or illegal conduct" that led to his expulsion. Hardy denies any such conduct.

A church spokeswoman said she couldn't comment on the letter Friday because it had not yet been received.

to continue his classes. Not covered, other participants in the calendar project, including at least one of the models, have not been disciplined.

But when you push the buttons of an institution that's as protective of its image as BYU, you should not be surprised when you get a negative reaction. And Hardy did.

Yet the question is not whether Hardy was acting in good faith or whether he was goading BYU for the sake of publicity. (He sold some 10,000 copies of his calendar at \$14.99 each).

Nor is the question whether BYU has a right to play technical hardball with a student who has completed years of work, or even whether Hardy holds orthodox religious views.

The question is whether the school's reaction is proportionate to the perceived moral crime.

Certainly the LDS Church has a right to determine that an individual member's behavior is incompatible with its teachings, or that the behavior might damage the church. Excommunication is a drastic step that any church may take in its own defense.

But is adding a secular punishment to the religious one proportionate?

The question here may come down to private vs. public behavior. A church spokesman said that "any church discipline is the result of actions, not beliefs." Note the phrase "church discipline," as opposed to discipline from an educational institution that includes a religious component in a largely secular mission.

Hardy's joy about his excommunication (he has been inactive for years) makes a clear statement about his lack of devotion to his church. That's a good enough reason to kick him out, it seems. But is it a reason to hold up his diploma?

As much as the identities of BYU and the LDS Church are intertwined in public discourse and as a matter of legal record, the two entities do not have precisely the same function. To oversimplify, a school administrator is not a bishop.

While part of BYU's mission is to help foster the strength of the LDS Church, it must also play in a secular world. It is governed by many secular laws in academics and athletics.

Is Hardy being singled out merely because his offense was more public than usual? Perhaps. But it's hard to get more public than quarterback Jim McMahon, whose Honor Code violations were legendary. Yet he was allowed to remain in school until his football eligibility ran out.

It also may be argued that Hardy earned his degree before being excommunicated. If true, this raises a relevant timing issue. By analogy, a football game isn't over until the game clock officially runs out, yet quarterbacks fall on the ball and players all walk off the field because the game is over for all practical purposes. For a referee to penalize a team for unsportsmanlike conduct under these circumstances would be unreasonable.

Hardy believes his game at BYU was over, that the clock had run out and that he had completed his work. So this boils down to perspective. It's doubtful there'd be any fuss if Hardy were an anonymous student who kept his ideas to himself. He didn't. He went public. But public with what? Ex-missionaries showing off their abs? Is this really a big deal?

The generous thing would be to give Hardy his degree, then wave a welcome goodbye as he leaves town. It might also make for better public relations.

## BYU STUDENT RECORD

This is a copy released at the student's request. Their educational records file at Brigham Young University.



**BYU Responses**

**Oct. 23, 2008**

**Did BYU revoke Mr. Hardy's diploma?**

Because a hold was placed on Mr. Hardy's record for failure to meet a non-academic standard, he has never received a diploma from Brigham Young University. BYU is not unique in requiring a student to be in good standing with the university before receiving a diploma. Like many universities, BYU must determine if a student is in good standing not only with respect to academic standards, but also with respect to other important non-academic standards of the institution before issuing diplomas.

**Why was there a non-academic hold on his record?**

It is the long-standing, published policy of BYU that a person must be in both good academic and good honor code standing to be eligible for the awarding of a degree. BYU explained the reasons for this hold in a letter to Mr. Hardy, which he has chosen to share with the public. The letter to Mr. Hardy states: "The University became aware that you were not in good honor code standing to graduate because you had been excommunicated from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

**Does a BYU student have to uphold the honor code to receive a diploma?**

Beginning with admission to BYU, all students agree in writing to uphold the honor code throughout their university experience in order to qualify for a diploma. The media reported that Mr. Hardy was excommunicated on July 13, 2008. This occurred before he completed his online courses, one of which the final exam was taken on July 17<sup>th</sup> and another on July 18<sup>th</sup>, and before the university's final review of those meeting all requirements to receive a diploma.

**Could Mr. Hardy ever receive his diploma?**

As was stated in the letter to Mr. Hardy, he can receive his diploma if he returns to good honor code standing in the future.

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*Final copy sent  
to KJZZ 10/22/08*

## **BYU Responses for KJZZ TV**

**Oct. 22, 2008**

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*Alison  
He will be  
on at 7:00 & a.m.  
(7:00)  
7:00 to 7:30  
KSLA copy*

*final review  
of work done  
submitted  
meeting all  
requirements to  
receive a diploma*

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Brigham Young University is not unique in requiring a student to be in good standing with the university before receiving a diploma. Like all universities, BYU must determine if there are any academic or non-academic holds placed on a student's record before issuing diplomas. Because a non-academic hold was placed on Mr. Hardy's record, has never received a diploma from BYU. BYU explained the reasons for this in a letter to Mr. Hardy, which he has chosen to share with the public. The letter states that the "University became aware that you were not in good honor code standing to graduate because you had been excommunicated from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

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Registrar's Office

Chad Hardy



Sunday, October 26, 2008

**Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness**

Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness

The following is from a 1994 Ensign Article "Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness" by Robert J. Matthews:

"Thou shalt not bear false witness" plainly is more than a prohibition against inventing falsehoods. The language of the commandment requires that an honest and straightforward answer be given whenever we are asked to share our knowledge of the truth, as in a court of law when being questioned under oath. Lying under oath is called perjury. The ninth commandment's broad injunction forbids this and all other forms of giving false evidence or manipulating information. Our words are to agree with the facts.

Thus, the ninth commandment is a strong declaration against covenant breaking, oath breaking, and all forms of untruth, including exaggeration, gross understatement, fabrication, or the willful giving of any explanation not supported by the facts. Even sharing the truth can have the effect of lying when we tell only half-truths that do not give a full picture. We can also be guilty of bearing false witness and lying if we say nothing, particularly if we allow another to reach a wrong conclusion while we hold back information that would have led to a more accurate perception. In this case it is as though an actual lie were uttered.

Lying and misrepresentation in all of their forms are wrong, no matter how they may be rationalized, and those who silently let these evils pass unchallenged are also doing wrong. James explained: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). On that basis, it is clear that when someone is slandered, or evil is spoken of them falsely, and we know an injustice has been done, we are morally and scripturally bound to step forward and defend the injured party. To keep silent in such circumstances is a type of bearing false witness ourselves.

On July 13th, 2008, I was excommunicated from the LDS church for producing the infamous "Men on a Mission" calendar. The LDS church has since claimed in a commentary in their newsroom with the assumption that I was excommunicated for reasons other than the calendar based on the false witness of my Stake President, Frank Davie. No other personal reasons or issues other than the calendar were brought before the council of elders in my disciplinary council on July 13. Any allegations of being excommunicated for reasons other than the calendar are completely false. Mr. Davie bore false witness to the Associated Press by his silence of the details yet saying there were other reasons for my excommunication. The reason I was told for my disciplinary council was for "conduct unbecoming." When I asked Mr. Davie for a clarification of what that meant, he told me it was for not paying tithing, not wearing the garments, and being involved in the calendar. Any LDS person would know you are not excommunicated for not paying tithing or wearing the garments. There were no "other reasons" besides this.

Mr. Davie has born false witness against me. By saying I was excommunicated for anything less than the calendar is completely false. The LDS church, by their silence and limited information they have given to the press, has made me look as if I am the one bearing false witness to the press by withholding information. I have been 100% truthful. I have shared everything that led up to and went on that day. I have not censored anything.

Do not forget that Mr. Davie made false accusations about me and my relationship with my friend Heather and refused to share the source. This spying tactic and withholding information is also considered bearing false witness.

The LDS church and Mr. Davie get to stop bearing false witness against me, and get to do the right thing and set the records straight. Mr. Davie has put his membership and leadership position in the LDS church on the line by bearing false witness. He should be held accountable for this unfortunate lie, and a church disciplinary council should be held

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Oct 26, 2008

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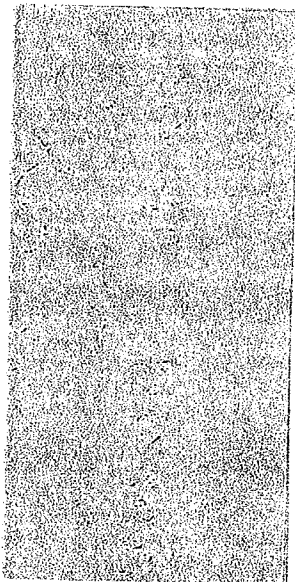
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### **BYU yanks degree of Mormon calendar maker**

SALT LAKE CITY — Brigham Young University has yanked the diploma of a man who created a calendar featuring shirtless Mormon missionaries and was later excommunicated from the church.

Chad Hardy of Las Vegas attended graduation ceremonies Aug. 15 after finishing up his last four units of study online in June. But on July 13, in between completing his studies and the graduation ceremony, he was excommunicated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

A Sept. 30 letter from Norman B. Finlinson, the school's executive director of student academic and advisement services, said a nonacademic hold was placed on Hardy's record after the church-owned university learned of the excommunication.

"If in the future you are reinstated as a member of the church in good standing, you are invited to contact my office regarding your possible eligibility for the awarding of a degree," Finlinson wrote.

Hardy, 31, plans to challenge the school's decision.

"I intend to fight this tooth-and-nail," he said.

Hardy's excommunication for conduct unbecoming a church member was rooted in his failure to pay tithing, a lapse in other religious obligations and, according to Las Vegas regional church elder Frank E. Davie, his involvement with the 2008 "Men on a Mission" calendar.

Hardy's calendar sold nearly 11,000 copies and features 12 returned church missionaries in mostly modest poses, minus their trademark white shirts, ties and black plastic name badges.

The calendar was intended to shake up the stuffy, cookie-cutter stereotype often associated with Mormons, Hardy said.

News reports of his excommunication helped sales of the 2008 calendar and have landed Hardy larger U.S. and international distribution contracts for the just-released 2009 edition, which carries a disclaimer that it is not directly affiliated with or endorsed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Jennifer Dobner  
Associated Press

[2:21 AM](#) - [1 Comments](#) - [0 Kudos](#) - [Add Comment](#)

**Wednesday, October 15, 2008**

### **BYU is denying Chad's degree**

As many of you know, Chad Hardy graduated officially from BYU on Aug 15 and walked with his class. He finally got his credits finished independent study so he could be awarded his degree.

On July 13, Chad was excommunicated from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for publishing the infamous "Men on a Mission Calendar". The excommunication made headlines around the world.

Chad received a letter dated Sept 30 from BYU informing him that his name has been removed from the Aug 15 graduation because he was excommunicated from the church prior to the posting of his degree. The letter also states that if Chad wants to receive his degree, he would have to come back to the church in good standing.

So, we really need all of your help with something. BYU needs to know that there are people not happy with their decision to treat Chad like a criminal and not give him his degree.

We would appreciate it if you could write a letter or e-mail addressed to:

Norm Finlinson, PH.D.

Executive Director  
Student Academic and Advisement Services  
Brigham Young University  
B-202 ASB  
Provo, UT 84602  
email: norm\_finlinson@byu.edu  
phone: 801-422-3641

Call, write, email. Let's bombard his office with complaints. If you write a letter or email, please call his office to make sure that they received it.

Also these people also deserve phone calls, who were cc'd to Chad's letter:

Michael R.  
Orme  
Janet S.  
Scharman  
Vernon L.  
Heperi  
Jeffery Bunker

Also, call the president of the school.

You can call school info to be directed to their offices:  
801-422-4636

Forward this information to everyone you know, and have them start calling. Let's try to get 100 or more phone calls a day. Let's show them that this is unacceptable for any student who worked for their degree to be discriminated against based on religious affiliation.

BYU is a private school, and they make and break their own rules. However, they ARE accredited, which allows them to receive federal money for its students to go the school there. They must abide by ethical standards to remain accredited. This is why they had to do away with segregation at their schools.

We really appreciate anything you can all do.  
There is strength in numbers! Let's make our voice be heard!

[12:13 AM](#) - [2 Comments](#) - [0 Kudos](#) - [Add Comment](#)

**Monday, July 21, 2008**

### **What inspired the calendar?**

A lot of people have asked what inspired me to produce such a thought-provoking "controversial" art piece. Though some would claim it was the devil, it was years of life experiences that sum up its creation; from growing up in a non-LDS community where being Mormon was taboo, to submerging myself into the heart of Mormondom by attending BYU and serving a full-time mission - to eventually running as fast as I could to the Nevada border after being chased out of a provincial Southern Utah town for being too progressive.

The calendar has been a continuation of a life-long journey. I have experienced being on both sides of religious prejudice being a Mormon. As a young man, I will never forget attending a Christian Jubilation in Southern California with my Born Again Christian friends. Once the word was out among the other youth that I was LDS, I literally was surrounded by a group of teens and pastors that started screaming at me that I belonged to a church of the devil, that Joseph Smith was a liar, and that my eternal salvation meant "hell" if I stayed in the church. It scared me to death. This was the beginning of my testimony in the LDS church - for how it seemed apparent to me that the Born Agains were possessed with the devil because of their hostility towards me.

It wasn't until I attended the church-owned Ricks College in Idaho (now BYU-I) that I actually experienced this same sort of hostility from church members when I came off as being not fitting the mold. I didn't quite speak the proper lingo, and while I was on my mission, I just wasn't cheesy enough. I refused to play the self-righteous game. This went on for 8 years living in Utah. I admit I have never been a conformer. I blame that on my mother - she always taught me to have my own voice, and to never be afraid to walk my

own path. It must be the pioneer blood in me that made me terribly afraid to be just like everyone else - especially when everyone else seemed judgmental and hateful.

So I reached a dilemma: People hate Mormons because they are different and weird, and Mormons hate Mormons when they are different and weird.

So what do I do?

Create a calendar that shows the world that Mormons are still weird, but they are also human and not always uptight and rigid - and show Mormons that there is such thing as "individual" expression within the faith. Not everyone has to fit the perfect image that everyone is trying to obtain (but failing miserably with a smile - enter Prozac nation).

All of these experiences summed up into one word: Tolerance. If I were to create the calendar, it would need to have a message of religious and cultural tolerance with a sense of humor, since laughter is a universal language of friendship.

I decided to take a risk and step outside the status quo of the stereotypes surrounding being a Mormon and create a humorous "beefcake" calendar featuring muscled up Mormon men that had one thing in common besides 'no carbs'. They all served full-time service missions.

Now this is where the controversy came in. People in general compartmentalize their lives. At work they are one person, at home another, and a church, a completely different person. They rarely combine all their worlds, especially if your career might be deemed as "unbecoming of a member of your church" (such as the Marriotts selling XXX porn in their hotels. It is OK to sell the porn as long as you don't advertise that the person selling you porn is a Mormon in good standing, and just before you purchase your porn a message comes up on the screen telling you that 10% of the proceeds from your porn addiction will go to the LDS Church by way of the Marriott's tithes and donations to BYU). You see, the LDS faithful would have no problem with these good LDS lads stripping off their shirts for charity if they did not advertise that they are Mormons. The most grievous of sins would be if they stripped off their shirts for charity, and then advertised that they once were full-time missionaries for the LDS church. That might even make national news, and wouldn't that just ruin the image of the church!

Now, in all seriousness, this calendar has created a really cool phenomenon. It has created interfaith dialog all over the world, and have exposed their stories of service and love, as well as their perfect abs. ?

I understand that some are offended as they feel we have misrepresented the church as a whole - but these men are not the entire church. They are representing themselves as individual men of faith that belong to the same religion. They are not afraid to say they are models AND Mormons - and are sexy AND spiritual. The men in the calendar have reached out to the world in a brave and bold way without the intention to convert anyone, except present a message of friendship and tolerance - and show that they are imperfect and human just like everyone else. (And can have a sense of humor about their religion.) They have raised awareness while they have dared to remove the superiority complex and bring themselves to a level that others can relate to and show the world that not every member of the church is uptight and exclusive like so many people believe. (And unfortunately so many members of the church continue to give reason for people to believe this - just read the blogs and comments from the news stories if anyone ever challenges their comfort zone.)

This calendar has reached out to all corners of the earth. We have been interviewed by top tier media around the world. The media has been very friendly to this project as I think, for once, gave them something positive and fun to write about the LDS people, rather than stories of scandal, polygamy and Mormon political propaganda.

This project has opened up the beauty and the ugliness of religion. It has given the models involved a chance to share their stories of service and what they believe in, and in return, given others to share what they believe in. On the flip side, it has given an opportunity for many LDS folks to share their deep rooted feelings of hate, prejudice and fear as they have written the most appalling hate mail. The same goes from non-LDS and anti-Mormons. Someday, I will publish the reactions. It is fascinating, and frightening. Can't we all just be more tolerant of each other? The Born Again Christians have screamed at me that I was going to hell for being a Mormon. Now the Mormons are screaming at me that I am going to hell because I don't act just like them. At this point, I think I would prefer hell because all the screamers won't be there and I can drink my Mormon Coffee in peace! One way ticket to hell! Who is with me?!



One thing I have learned in this project, is not to judge others because of their ignorance. Remember, people only know what they have been taught. It takes an enlightened person to take the risk to go beyond the boundaries of the status quo to find their own truth, which might not be what you have been taught. What is truth or not can only be determined by the individual because we all create our own reality. I hope we all find our own truth as we continue to search for it. I found it. It came by ways of a calendar, but I found it. And in case you are wondering, I will still continue to stand up for what I believe in... and the 2009 Calendar will go on sale September 1, and each year following as long as we have people that will buy it and support the cause.

I know there are people who think what I have done is terrible. I hope if you take the time to see the good that we have done with the dialog we have created all over the world, your initial knee-jerk reaction to instantly dislike anything outside the norm, might just change. Also remember, just because someone no longer attends church does not mean you should assume it is because they lack faith, or should be treated any less of a "saint". Celebrate each individual journey, and do not judge.

Seek not so much to be loved, but to love. Seek not so much to be understood, but understand. Seek not so much to build walls, but penetrate them.

God Bless!

[3:31 AM - 2 Comments - 4 Kudos - Add Comment](#)

**Sunday, July 20, 2008**

### **Setting the Records Straight**

I know everyone is speculating about my excommunication, and thinking there must be more to the story that I am not telling. Well I am the only one who can ever openly say what went on in the court that day, but I will say this, and say it by swearing on the Bible and everything that is good and holy on this planet: There was NO talk of ANY form of personal transgression AT ALL during my disciplinary council. The "other" charges that Frank Davie casually broke confidence and slyly shared with the Associated Press to create this assumption was simply that I do not honor my priesthood (by not attending church meetings) and do not honor my temple covenants (by choosing to remove the sacred garment.) The entire meeting was about the calendar, and after I spoke, all the questions that were asked by the council ALL had to do with the calendar. Just for the record, my reasons for leaving the church had nothing to do with transgression.

Now the Church did try very hard to try to find a moral transgression by spying on me so they could excommunicate me for that instead of having to embarrass themselves by excommunicating me over the calendar. After initially meeting with me in my home about the calendar, a few weeks later Frank Davie requested to meet with me one-on-one to discuss some "personal matters." I have attached the email correspondence below so you can read just how this unfolded.

After refusing to meet with Mr. Davie several times as he would never tell me what the "personal matter" was, he finally agreed to tell me over the phone. He flat out asked me if I was living with my (female) coworker, and if we were having sex!!!! I was speechless. Not only do I not live with her, the closest we have ever come to sex is when she has shared her sex life with me. We are really good friends, and that is about it. I asked him where he got this information, and he said he could not share that with me, just simply that it had been brought to his attention. I work out of my home, and she comes and goes from my house all the time, so I could only imagine they had been spying on me, especially when he would not share the source. He went on to ask me if I had been involved in any inappropriate relations with anyone of the opposite sex. He was digging, and it was obvious. This was the third time I have been falsely accused of erroneous transgressions, and then of course being denied to know the source of the inaccurate information. That is why, when I received my summons for a disciplinary court, I went to the press. The back story has never been published, which has in turn created much speculation.

Before my court started, I met with Mr. Davie in his office where he went over the proceedings of the court so I would know what to expect. Once again he asked me if I had been involved with my coworker and brought up a myspace message that I had written to her about being my hot sexy mama, or something flirtatious like that. So they were looking at my myspace friends to see what kind of comments I was leaving??!!! He also then asked me once again if I had any inappropriate relations with anyone else of the opposite sex. I then honestly and accurately answered. This was NEVER brought up in the council. Not even a hint of it. It was simply the two things I mentioned above, and

the "inappropriate project" (AKA the Calender) that I was involved in

Here is email coorespondance as it unfolded over the past several weeks:

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From: Frank Davie [mailto:frankernstdavie@]  
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2008 2:00 PM  
To: Chad@  
Subject: Missionary Calendars?

Brother Hardy,

Bishop Olds and I appreciated the opportunity we had to come to your home last April 15. As you may recall, we discussed with you the publishing of the returned missionary calendar.

During our visit, I mentioned to you that the calendar was inappropriate and asked that you give careful consideration to terminate its publication. It simply does not represent the Church or Church missionaries in the right way.

You shared with Bishop and I that you would discuss this with your work partner.

I would welcome an opportunity to come to your home again or you may wish to visit with me otherwise to further discuss your decision.

Please give me a call at XXX-XXXX or answer to this email.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you,  
President Davie

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On Thu, Jun 5, 2008 at 6:45 PM, Chad Hardy wrote:

Hi President Davie,

The Men on a Mission Calendar is owned by CMH Entertainment, LLC. I am not full owner of this company. This company is backed by financial investors that are invested in the publication and distribution of the calendars and other products it produces. The 2008 Men on a Mission Calendar was one of the top 10 best selling model calendars in the 2007 season. Its success is being followed up by the 2009 Calendar which has already been guaranteed distribution across the US for the 2008 buying season.

We are standing behind the project, its message and philanthropic purposes. Though we understand not everyone agrees with the project, the individual expressions of those involved have reshaped perceptions, removed walls, and shown an outpour of acceptance and tolerance around the world. Everyone involved has experienced the positive ripple effect of what this project has created. This project in no way is meant to demean, disrespect or misrepresent the LDS church fundamental beliefs. The project is based on individual models who at one time in their life served a full-time service mission. It was their choice to appear in the calendar and share their personal experiences and stories.

I understand and appreciate your personal concerns and thank you for your understanding of my decision to stand behind my project and business venture.

Best,

CHAD

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From: Frank Davie [mailto:frankernstdavie@]  
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2008 9:24 AM  
To: Chad Hardy  
Subject: Re: Missionary Calendars?

Dear Brother Hardy,

Thank you for your response and explanation of why you are maintaining this calendar project.

I still need to visit with you one-on-one, regarding you personally of which I do not wish to share via email or over the phone. It is important that you and I have some time together.  
I am available this Sunday, June after 9:00a, at the conclusion of early morning meetings.  
Please give me a call as soon as possible as I will be looking forward to meeting with you.  
You may call me directly at XXX-XXXX.

Thank you,  
President Davie

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On Fri, Jun 6, 2008 at 12:08 PM, Chad Hardy wrote:

I appreciate your consideration; however your intentions at this point are unclear. I do not feel there is anything more I need to discuss. If you can clarify your intentions, or the purpose for wanting to meet with me, I will consider a meeting.

Thank you for the understanding.

Best,  
CHAD HARDY

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On Fri, Jun 6, 2008 at 6:55 PM, Frank Davie wrote:

Brother Hardy,

Please give me a call and I will be pleased to discuss this matter with you, so as to clarify my reason for wanting to meet with you in person.

Thank you,  
President Davie

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From: Frank Davie [mailto:frankernstdavie@]  
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2008 8:54 AM  
To: Chad Hardy  
Subject: Re: Missionary Calendars?

Brother Hardy,

I would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

Time is moving along and we need to visit with each other even by phone.

Please give me a call at XXX-XXXX.

President Davie

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On Mon, Jun 16, 2008 at 9:39 AM, Chad Hardy wrote:

I have tried to call you a couple times and got no answer. What is the urgency?

Best,  
CHAD

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From: Frank Davie [mailto:frankernstdavie@]

Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2008 8:21 AM  
To: Chad Hardy  
Subject: Re: Missionary Calendars?

Brother Hardy,

I am on vacation and will be returning to the US, June 27.  
For some reason, I have not received any of your calls or voice messages but that is OK as I still want to visit with you in person for what we need to talk about.  
I again would be pleased to come to your home or you can meet me at the stake president's office. When I return, I will look forward to setting an appt. with you.  
Sorry you keep you wondering what this is all about, however, it needs to be talked about between the two of us as it is quite personal.

Thank you,  
President Davie

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I THEN SPOKE TO MR. DAVIE ON THE PHONE AS OUTLINED ABOVE AND THEN RESPONDED WITH THIS EMAIL:

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On Tue, Jul 1, 2008 at 4:26 PM, Chad Hardy wrote:

Hi President Davie,

I have been giving it some thought, and I no longer see a value or purpose to speaking with you anymore in regards to my personal life or my business affairs. I appreciate you taking false accusations and misinformation to the source and hope you are satisfied with the correct information.

Regards,

Chad Hardy

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From: Frank Davie [mailto:frankernstdavie@]  
Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2008 7:56 AM  
To: Chad Hardy  
Subject: Re: Further Contact

Dear Brother Hardy,

I had hoped that from our conversation yesterday, previous emails and with our visit to your home, that we would be able to continue meeting with each other and that I might have the opportunity to work with you.  
It is apparent that you have chosen the path that you have.  
You have broken your priesthood and temple covenants and engaged yourself in a project that is considered inappropriate.  
As you would hopefully understand, this is all considered as 'conduct unbecoming of a member of the Church'.  
In the near future, I will have two elders deliver to your home or sent to you by registered mail, a Notice of a Church Disciplinary Council to be held in your behalf. The date and time will be indicated in the notice.  
Again, I had hoped that we would have further conversation, that I might help you to come to an understanding of your Church responsibilities. Since you have chosen not to meet with me any further, I have the responsibility to take this action in your behalf.  
I thank you for sharing all that you have thus far. It is my intent to do all that I can to help you and will look forward to any opportunity to do so, should you change your mind.  
Please give me a call if you wish to do so.

**doug wallace said...**

My opinion is based on the assumption that Chad was still enrolled at BYU when he was excommunicated. IF this is the case, then BYU has the right to kick him out at their discretion and refuse to award him his diploma. However, if he had already completed the semester back in May BEFORE he was excommunicated, and therefore was no longer enrolled, then BYU has NO grounds for withholding his diploma and he should contact a lawyer. Please tell me it is the former not the latter. If not, this could get very messy for the LDS church and BYU.

September 29, 2008 3:31 PM

**anonymous said...**

Good reason not to go to BYU. Academic freedom???

September 29, 2008 5:16 PM

**molly mormon said...**

Doug,

This is what Chad wrote in August, so it looks like he walked, but then the actual diploma never arrived,

"I wanted to let everyone know that I will be walking across the stage at BYU to receive my BS in Communications on August 15!! Everything is set with my student counselor, I got an email yesterday. I order my cap and gown tomorrow, and I could not be more thrilled. How many people can say they walked across the stage at BYU and got their diploma as an excommunicate?"

September 29, 2008 7:16 PM

**molly mormon said...**

Here's his post on not getting his diploma:

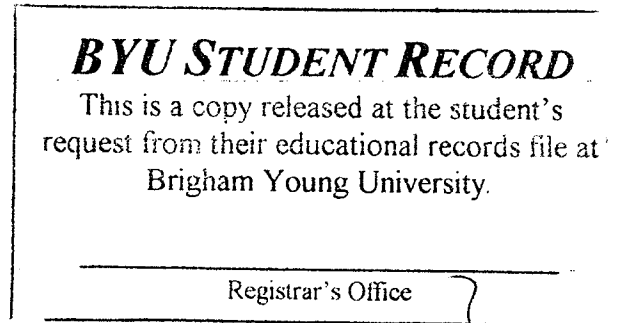
Hello - it's been a while since I have posted, have had a super busy month!

First of all, I want to say WAY TO GO FLAT LANDER! It appears the church is sending a very strong message that it's their way or the highway, and they obviously do not care about bad PR.

Which is why I am posting today -

I have not received my diploma from BYU, so I called yesterday to check on the status as to when I should expect it. Well, the records office said my graduation had not been submitted and that I needed to speak to my adviser. So I called the advisement center and they could not tell me why my graduation had not been posted, and said I had to schedule a meeting with my adviser. So that was today.

My adviser told me that she was informed that my diploma and my records have a "non-academic hold" on them, and that I was to speak to the Executive Director of Student Academic & Advisement Services. She also told me that I have fulfilled all requirements for graduation and had no other information.



**KJZZ Café October 23,2008  
Interview with Chad Hardy**

**Steve Anderson:** A Las Vegas man behind a calendar featuring shirtless returned Mormon missionaries has had his diploma yanked by Brigham Young University. When a student enrolls at BYU, there's this pesky little thing called the honor code that students have to agree to. Joining us now is Chad Hardy, creator of Mormons Exposed, he graduated officially from BYU on August 15 and walked with his class, he finished up his credits for graduation in June, on July 13 you were excommunicated as I understand from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day saints for publishing the calendar that we've all been talking about. I'm sure it's all been a surprise too. What are your feelings about it right now?

**Chad Hardy:** At this point it's, to me it just seems like now it's becoming way too extreme so and um... at this point now I want to fight it.

**Steve Anderson:** Were you ever given any warning that you were on a trail or a track that might lead to some sort of repercussions either with the church or with BYU itself.

**CH:** Not at all. No. I did meet with my stake president and my bishop in my home back in April and we talked about the calendar, the stake president did let me know that he felt it was inappropriate but other boys' stake presidents didn't have a problem with it so I just figured it was just mine. And at the end of our two hour conversation I thought that we left it very positive that we both had our own viewpoints but that we could come to an understanding of why I did this and the message behind it and it was about a month later that he really became aggressive with me to stop production of it which I couldn't 'cause I have a non-Mormon business partner that put all his money into this, my money did not go into producing this, and at that point it became personal, they started to then try to find things wrong in my personal life that could be reasons to discipline me, but it was never like "stop this or else," and then once it became personal I asked them to please stop contacting me because they started making some really outrageous claims about me that were just completely false

**SA:** You're talking about the ecclesiastical authorities from your stake and your ward, not BYU,

**CH:** Yeah, no, from my ward in Las Vegas. At that point, he slapped me with a summons for a disciplinary counsel.

**Brandy Vega:** Let's go back just a tiny bit, now we know you were excommunicated in July but you received this letter and we've got a copy of the letter from BYU it was dated September 30<sup>th</sup> and it says "this correspondence is to inform you that your name has been deleted from the August 2008 graduation list and you will not be rewarded a degree," here it is right here, so you're not going to get this degree...

## **BYU STUDENT RECORD**

This is a copy released at the student's request from their educational records file at Brigham Young University.

Registrar's Office

**CH:** No..

Ok. Let's talk about that a bit because you say you finished up all your credits when?

**CH:** Um I actually, I finished all of my major studies in 2002, I actually walked at that point as well 'cause I thought I was done but then came to find out I was short four required religion courses and they wouldn't waive them because you have to take them when you go to BYU. I was told just take them anytime Independent Study and you'll get your degree as simple as that.

**BV:** So you did that and you say you completed those in June?

**CH:** June yeah, finally I had the time and money to do it this past year, so I decided you know I want to get this done.

**BV:** o, k, cause we, kinda, what's important here also is sticking to this timeline. So in June you say you finished your required courses for graduation

**CH:** Which I did Independent Study, yeah.

**BV:** Yeah and you know we even have a picture, your parents attended you graduation, you walked with BYU's graduating class, there it is right there, this was August 15<sup>th</sup>?

**CH:** Um yes uh-hmm.

**BV:** Is that correct? And now August 15 you walk with the class but they're saying—now we got a quote, and I want to share this, we talked with byu to get their side of the story and according to Carri Jenkins, BYU spokesperson, "beginning with admission all students agree to uphold the honor code," which you did, right?

**CH:** Mhmm

**BV:** And you know the rules of the school

**CH:** Oh absolutely, yeah

**BV:** And it says that "throughout the university experience in order to qualify for a diploma." She says the media reported that you were excommunicated July 13, this occurred before you completed your online courses.

**CH:** No.

**BV:** This is what we just got from, this is what we just received from BYU in regards to this. It says that this was done before you completed your courses.

**CH:** No I actually took my finals and completed them prior to ever having the council or receiving the letter um I was done and at that point all I needed to do was just wait for my diploma. The only reason why I decided to walk again is cause my sister was getting married in august and I was in town and I thought it would be a great opportunity this time it's for real , I'm officially graduated and I wanted to walk.

**BV:** Did you have anything in writing from the school saying that you had graduated?

**CH:** Um, well I talked to my advisor, her and I have been friends throughout the years, and she was so excited that I was finally getting this done cause she's retiring and she wanted to see this happen before she left um and I received everything that would make me believe that I was graduating, letters from financial aid saying that I needed to do an exit interview, I was getting emails every week from the president of the school for a survey, to survey my experience at BYU, so everything to me was on the up and up when I graduated and I figured you know, to me at that point it really meant a lot to me because I had been excommunicated and here was something that I could at least hold onto and get.

**SA:** there' something that I wonder about. It seems to me that there are a couple of things. You have some questions about whether in your own mind it's clear that you had finished the courses, BYU says that it hadn't been completed July 13<sup>th</sup> when you were excommunicated. But they also point this out and having gone to byu I'm familiar with somewhat with the honor code. "Beginning with admission to BYU, all students agree in writing to uphold the honor code throughout their university experience in order to qualify for a diploma. It seems to me that there were two things here in question. One is whether you completed the courses on time, you seem to have some proof to indicate that you had, the other thing though is that you have to maintain the honor code to the very point where the degree is awarded, and it seems that when you were excommunicated and then the people at BYU receiving notification of that, they would not say that you had completed the honor code if you were excommunicated from the church so that's where the problem has come in, don't you think that there's a question about you and the honor code because you can't be excommunicated and having lived the honor code because living the honor code means to be everything that keeps you an active member of the LDS Church.

**CH:** Right so basically what happened is that the church censored me, because they didn't like my project, even though it's been very positive, very well-received around the world. Um, we have really changed perceptions and created a bridge between the gap between the "us and them" mentality. But they didn't like it because it showed the human, sensual side of these men. Because of that, they censored me and kicked me out of the Church and because of that I no longer qualify for my degree.

**BYU STUDENT RECORD**

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**BV:** So, how are you feeling righty now? Do you believe in the church? And what are your feelings about BYU?

**CH:** Well, you know, it's really interesting, the classes that I took Independent Study were Church History, so I got to do a lot of study about the origins of the Church and what was really interesting to me was that there were so many things that I didn't know and I went on a mission. And as I'm reading this stuff, I'm also seeing that it just seems...like it was the Swiss cheese version of Church History—there's a lot of holes, so I went online and started doing my own study. So, at this point, I have a lot of questions and wanting to know why. I'd like the Church to let me know why they withheld information from me.

**BV:** Well, if you want to get a message out there that Mormon's aren't different, let's take a look: Here's the '08 one, this is the first one you did. This is the new one coming out for -09, this was just printed, what? A month ago, or so?

**CH:** Yeah, it came out in September.

**BV:** The pictures, some people feel, are inappropriate, I mean, if you're trying to get people to embrace the Church, you've got pictures of sexy guys. And when you look at them...I'm not gonna lie..it give you this number (she fans herself with the calendar) and you go "wow" and I'm a married woman, maybe I shouldn't be looking at these guys going "they're pretty hot," I mean, what sort of message are you trying to get out there with a calendar that shows images that may cause people to have impure thoughts?

**CH:** Well, that's really up to their own perception, because some people look at this and go "I see more in a JCPenney catalog," I mean, you could find those types of things anywhere. Why I wanted to do this, was to in a way, disrupt the status quo about image and about what really is important and about why you have to look a certain way to have faith. And to also challenge the "us against them" mentality. I've experienced it on both sides of my life. I've been persecuted for being a Mormon when my Born-Again Christian friends told me I was going to hell and then I've been persecuted for being a Mormon because I've always been very liberal and because I don't fit the status quo, I'm going to hell. You know, it's that kind of "us against them" and I finally was like "enough," so this was my statement to the world.

**BV:** and so you stand behind it? You're proud of your work?

**CH:** absolutely.

**BV:** No regrets?

**CH:** No regrets.

***BYU STUDENT RECORD***

This is a copy released at the student's request from their educational records file at Brigham Young University.

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Registrar's Office

**BV:** If you want information about Chad Hardy, you can go to his Web site. It's chadhardy.com There's information regarding your stance. And you're fighting BYU?

**CH:** Yes, I'm in the process of putting all my ducks in a row for that. There's been a lot of, uh, support, people wanting to donate to a legal fund, so we're going to be setting that up. And if people want more information about the calendar or to learn about the boys that are in the calendar, they can go to mormonsexposed.com.

**BV:** Well, thank you for coming in, and I'm sure we'll be following this closely. We'll be in touch with you, Chad (she shakes his hand). I appreciate it.

(handshakes all around)

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This is a copy released at the student's  
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Registrar's Office

## **BYU Responses for KJZZ TV**

**Oct. 22, 2008**

### **Did BYU revoke Mr. Hardy's diploma?**

Because a hold was placed on Mr. Hardy's record for failure to meet a non-academic standard, he has never received a diploma from Brigham Young University. BYU is not unique in requiring a student to be in good standing with the university before receiving a diploma. Like many universities, BYU must determine if a student is in good standing not only with respect to academic standards, but also with respect to other important non-academic standards of the institution before issuing diplomas.

### **Why was there a non-academic hold on his record?**

It is the long-standing, published policy of BYU that a person must be in both good academic and good honor code standing to be eligible for the awarding of a degree. BYU explained the reasons for this hold in a letter to Mr. Hardy, which he has chosen to share with the public. The letter to Mr. Hardy states: "The University became aware that you were not in good honor code standing to graduate because you had been excommunicated from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

### **Does a BYU student have to uphold the honor code to receive a diploma?**

Beginning with admission to BYU, all students agree in writing to uphold the honor code throughout their university experience in order to qualify for a diploma. The media reported that Mr. Hardy was excommunicated on July 13, 2008. This occurred before he completed his online courses and before the university's final review of those meeting all requirements to receive a diploma.

### **Could Mr. Hardy ever receive his diploma?**

As was stated in the letter to Mr. Hardy, he can receive his diploma if he returns to good honor code standing in the future.

### ***BYU STUDENT RECORD***

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# COPY

Chad Hardy '99-'02  
 - needed only 2 classes to graduate  
 - took those classes on-line several  
 term)  
 - applied for graduation - cleared

Profile edit Friends Inbox

### Chad Hardy's BYU Graduation

Only the good die Young...

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#### Why online college rocks



1) Convenient 2) Some employers pay tuition 3) Higher salary with higher degree - 4) Top schools online.

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#### Information

##### Event Info

Host: Men on a Mission Calendar  
 Type: Causes - Rally

##### Time and Place

Date: Friday, August 15, 2008  
 Time: 8:00am - 9:30am  
 Location: HFAC Building at BYU  
 City/Town: Provo, UT

did not need an endorsement because took the classes  
 → diploma won't be issued



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#### Description

##### Graduation Information

Friday, August 15  
 8:00am  
 deJong Concert Hall  
 HFAC Building  
 BYU  
 Provo, Utah

~~Chad cheer on Mormonism's most infamous excommunicate as he walks across the stage at BYU to receive his well-deserved diploma!~~

Chad will be meeting friends and family afterwards outside the south side of the HFAC on the courtyard for hugs and pictures!

#### Photos

No one has uploaded any photos.

#### Videos

No one has uploaded any videos.

#### Posted Items

No one has posted any items.

#### Confirmed Guests

This event has 3 confirmed guests [See All](#)



Chad Hardy



Jana Baldwin



Danilo Rodriguez

#### The Wall

Displaying 10 of 14 wall posts [See All](#)

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#### Your RSVP

- Attending
- Maybe Attending
- Not Attending

#### Other Information

- Guests are allowed to bring friends to this event.

#### Other Invites

Maybe Attending (9) [See All](#)



Kristi Waite



Eric Turner



Carrie Ann

Not Attending (59) [See All](#)



Jen Marco Handy



Karla Anderson



Janae Hardy Brady

Awaiting Reply (80) [See All](#)



Online Friends (0)





Liz Lisonbee (Inland Empire, CA) wrote at 3:56pm on August 15th, 2008

Can't make it. I have to work....Lame

Report



Sharlene Gibb (Provo, UT) wrote at 3:03am on August 15th, 2008

I got my wisdom teeth out sorry. cant come...

Report



Rachel Killpack (Salt Lake City, UT) wrote at 3:32pm on August 14th, 2008

Puppy piddle! I won't be able to attend, I'm out of town until Friday afternoon. WTF? Who graduates at 8:00am these days anyway!! Argggghh!! Is there an after party or anything?  
Eternally yours,  
#1 Wife out of 87

Report



Amber Porter Cox (Chicago, IL) wrote at 4:12pm on August 13th, 2008

What the hell - you tell me last minute!! Congrats! I hope you have fun taunting them. ;0

What's the degree in? ;)

Report



Jennifer Klenk (Salt Lake City, UT) wrote at 6:09am on August 13th, 2008

Chad, I so want to attend, unfortunately I have a hospital date with Grandma. True story! Congrats on graduating! Is this your Master's or Bachelor degree?

Report



Erin McArthur wrote at 5:44am on August 13th, 2008

Get to be at a wedding in San Diego that weekend, but Congratulations!

Report



Jaime Kimball Grant (San Diego, CA) wrote at 3:58am on August 13th, 2008

if only...

congrats cuz. much love.

muah.

Report



Chelsea Stevens (Salt Lake City, UT) wrote at 1:37am on August 13th, 2008

Congrats! BYU? since when?

Report



Eric Turner wrote at 1:14am on August 13th, 2008

I have tickets to see Joshua Radin at 6pm... I'll see what I can pull off...

Report

Christopher Carr Susan Jack Yvonne Petty

Event Type

This is an open event. Anyone can join and invite others to join.

Admins

- Men on a Mission Calendar (creator)

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Online Friends (0)



**doug wallace said...**

My opinion is based on the assumption that Chad was still enrolled at BYU when he was excommunicated. IF this is the case, then BYU has the right to kick him out at their discretion and refuse to award him his diploma. However, if he had already completed the semester back in May BEFORE he was excommunicated, and therefore was no longer enrolled, then BYU has NO grounds for withholding his diploma and he should contact a lawyer. Please tell me it is the former not the latter. If not, this could get very messy for the LDS church and BYU.

September 29, 2008 3:31 PM

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**anonymous said...**

Good reason not to go to BYU. Academic freedom???

September 29, 2008 5:16 PM

**molly mormon said...**

Doug,

This is what Chad wrote in August, so it looks like he walked, but then the actual diploma never arrived,



"I wanted to let everyone know that I will be walking across the stage at BYU to receive my BS in Communications on August 15!! Everything is set with my student counselor, I got an email yesterday. I order my cap and gown tomorrow, and I could not be more thrilled. How many people can say they walked across the stage at BYU and got their diploma as an excommunicate?"

September 29, 2008 7:16 PM

**molly mormon said...**

Here's his post on not getting his diploma:

Hello - it's been a while since I have posted, have had a super busy month!



First of all, I want to say WAY TO GO FLAT LANDER! It appears the church is sending a very strong message that it's their way or the highway, and they obviously do not care about bad PR.

Which is why I am posting today -

I have not received my diploma from BYU, so I called yesterday to check on the status as to when I should expect it. Well, the records office said my graduation had not been submitted and that I needed to speak to my adviser. So I called the advisement center and they could not tell me why my graduation had not been posted, and said I had to schedule a meeting with my adviser. So that was today.

My adviser told me that she was informed that my diploma and my records have a "non-academic hold" on them, and that I was to speak to the Executive Director of Student Academic & Advisement Services. She also told me that I have fulfilled all requirements for graduation and had no other information.

So I called this guy named Norm Finlinson. He said that he apologized that I had not received a letter, but that one was being drafted to explain the hold. I asked if he could tell me the reason, and he said he does not "discuss matters over the phone."

Wow, the church has no mercy.

September 29, 2008 7:23 PM

 anonymous said...


If he was excommunicated while attending BYU, he should not be able to graduate. Everyone knows the standards required before attending BYU and should adhere to them. Since the school is funded by LDS \$\$ they have a right to enforce the rules governed by them.

September 30, 2008 8:10 PM

 anonymous said...

He was excommunicated prior to graduation, from the sounds of it, so "them's the breaks, kid." What bothers me more than anything is his half-bragging that he was going to walk as an excommunicate. Does he expect applause, admiration, and a pat on the back?

October 2, 2008 7:00 AM

 djinn said...

This is crazy, guys. He finished his course work prior to the excommunication, right? They're just being mean; they're just sticking it to him because they can? Where did he break BYU Standards?



This is a very sore point for me because something similar almost happened to a friend of mine; her bishop decided, without a shred of evidence, that she was sinning and just about got her thrown out of BYU and the church. Her family had some connections, though, so .....

October 3, 2008 1:42 AM

 anonymous said...

He broke BYU standards because he broke the Honor Code that he signed every year that he enrolled! What the heck?

October 3, 2008 11:06 AM

 anonymous said...

Here are the basics of the Honor Code:

- Be honest Observe Dress and Grooming Standards
- Obey the law and all campus policies Participate regularly in church services
- Live a chaste and virtuous life
- Use clean language
- Respect others
- Abstain from alcoholic beverages, tobacco, tea, coffee, and substance abuse
- Encourage others in their commitment to comply with the Honor Code

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I can see 5 different ways that it could be considered that Chad Hardy broke his own commitment to BYU's standards.

**anonymous said...**

I think this is just wrong on the part of BYU. It isn't easy to get a bachelor's degree. And sometimes people change as they grow up. Yes, it was a stupid move for Chad to do the calendar before he graduated, but he finished the classes he paid for, and he even walked at graduation. I think BYU should be ashamed for pulling this crap. Is it not enough that they ex-communicated the guy? They are going to make all the time and effort he put into school null and void? What happened to loving your enemies, and being kind to those who mistreat you?

October 6, 2008 1:44 PM

### Leave your comment

You can use some HTML tags, such as `<b>`, `<i>`, `<a>`


#### Choose an identity

Google/Blogger

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No Google Account? Sign up here.  
You can also use your Blogger account.

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**PUBLISH YOUR COMMENT**

**PREVIEW**

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 November 1-3  
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Chad Hardy



Sunday, October 26, 2008

### Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness

Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness

The following is from a 1994 Ensign Article "Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness" by Robert J. Matthews:

"Thou shalt not bear false witness" plainly is more than a prohibition against inventing falsehoods. The language of the commandment requires that an honest and straightforward answer be given whenever we are asked to share our knowledge of the truth, as in a court of law when being questioned under oath. Lying under oath is called perjury. The ninth commandment's broad injunction forbids this and all other forms of giving false evidence or manipulating information. Our words are to agree with the facts.

Thus, the ninth commandment is a strong declaration against covenant breaking, oath breaking, and all forms of untruth, including exaggeration, gross understatement, fabrication, or the willful giving of any explanation not supported by the facts. Even sharing the truth can have the effect of lying when we tell only half-truths that do not give a full picture. We can also be guilty of bearing false witness and lying if we say nothing, particularly if we allow another to reach a wrong conclusion while we hold back information that would have led to a more accurate perception. In this case it is as though an actual lie were uttered.

Lying and misrepresentation in all of their forms are wrong, no matter how they may be rationalized, and those who silently let these evils pass unchallenged are also doing wrong. James explained: "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). On that basis, it is clear that when someone is slandered, or evil is spoken of them falsely, and we know an injustice has been done, we are morally and scripturally bound to step forward and defend the injured party. To keep silent in such circumstances is a type of bearing false witness ourselves.

On July 13th, 2008, I was excommunicated from the LDS church for producing the infamous "Men on a Mission" calendar. The LDS church has since claimed in a commentary in their newsroom with the assumption that I was excommunicated for reasons other than the calendar based on the false witness of my Stake President, Frank Davie. No other personal reasons or issues other than the calendar were brought before the council of elders in my disciplinary council on July 13. Any allegations of being excommunicated for reasons other than the calendar are completely false. Mr. Davie bore false witness to the Associated Press by his silence of the details yet saying there were other reasons for my excommunication. The reason I was told for my disciplinary council was for "conduct unbecoming." When I asked Mr. Davie for a clarification of what that meant, he told me it was for not paying tithing, not wearing the garments, and being involved in the calendar. Any LDS person would know you are not excommunicated for not paying tithing or wearing the garments. There were no "other reasons" besides this.

Mr. Davie has born false witness against me. By saying I was excommunicated for anything less than the calendar is completely false. The LDS church, by their silence and limited information they have given to the press, has made me look as if I am the one bearing false witness to the press by withholding information. I have been 100% truthful. I have shared everything that led up to and went on that day. I have not censored anything.

Do not forget that Mr. Davie made false accusations about me and my relationship with my friend Heather and refused to share the source. This spying tactic and withholding information is also considered bearing false witness.

The LDS church and Mr. Davie get to stop bearing false witness against me, and get to do the right thing and set the records straight. Mr. Davie has put his membership and leadership position in the LDS church on the line by bearing false witness. He should be held accountable for this unfortunate lie, and a church disciplinary council should be held

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Oct 26, 2008

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on his behalf.

3:08 PM - 0 Comments - 0 Kudos - Add Comment

**BYU yanks degree of Mormon calendar maker**

SALT LAKE CITY — Brigham Young University has yanked the diploma of a man who created a calendar featuring shirtless Mormon missionaries and was later excommunicated from the church.

Chad Hardy of Las Vegas attended graduation ceremonies Aug. 15 after finishing up his last four units of study online in June. But on July 13, in between completing his studies and the graduation ceremony, he was excommunicated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

A Sept. 30 letter from Norman B. Finlinson, the school's executive director of student academic and advisement services, said a nonacademic hold was placed on Hardy's record after the church-owned university learned of the excommunication.

"If in the future you are reinstated as a member of the church in good standing, you are invited to contact my office regarding your possible eligibility for the awarding of a degree," Finlinson wrote.

Hardy, 31, plans to challenge the school's decision.

"I intend to fight this tooth-and-nail," he said.

Hardy's excommunication for conduct unbecoming a church member was rooted in his failure to pay tithing, a lapse in other religious obligations and, according to Las Vegas regional church elder Frank E. Davie, his involvement with the 2008 "Men on a Mission" calendar.

Hardy's calendar sold nearly 11,000 copies and features 12 returned church missionaries in mostly modest poses, minus their trademark white shirts, ties and black plastic name badges.

The calendar was intended to shake up the stuffy, cookie-cutter stereotype often associated with Mormons, Hardy said.

News reports of his excommunication helped sales of the 2008 calendar and have landed Hardy larger U.S. and international distribution contracts for the just-released 2009 edition, which carries a disclaimer that it is not directly affiliated with or endorsed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Jennifer Dobner  
Associated Press

2:21 AM - 1 Comments - 0 Kudos - Add Comment

**Wednesday, October 15, 2008**

**BYU is denying Chad's degree**

As many of you know, Chad Hardy graduated officially from BYU on Aug 15 and walked with his class. He finally got his credits finished independent study so he could be awarded his degree.

On July 13, Chad was excommunicated from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint s for publishing the infamous "Men on a Mission Calendar". The excommunication made headlines around the world.

Chad received a letter dated Sept 30 from BYU informing him that his name has been removed from the Aug 15 graduation because he was excommunicated from the church prior to the posting of his degree. The letter also states that if Chad wants to receive his degree, he would have to come back to the church in good standing.

So, we really need all of your help with something. BYU needs to know that there are people not happy with their decision to treat Chad like a criminal and not give him his degree.

We would appreciate it if you could write a letter or e-mail addressed to:

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Norm Finlinson, PH.D.

Executive Director  
Student Academic and Advisement Services  
Brigham Young University  
B-202 ASB  
Provo, UT 84602  
email: norm\_finlinson@byu.edu  
phone: 801-422-3641

Call, write, email. Let's bombard his office with complaints. If you write a letter or email, please call his office to make sure that they received it.

Also these people also deserve phone calls, who were cc'd to Chad's letter:

Michael R.  
Orme  
Janet S.  
Scharman  
Vernon L.  
Heperi  
Jeffery Bunker

Also, call the president of the school.

You can call school info to be directed to their offices:  
801-422-4636

Forward this information to everyone you know, and have them start calling. Let's try to get 100 or more phone calls a day. Let's show them that this is unacceptable for any student who worked for their degree to be discriminated against based on religious affiliation.

BYU is a private school, and they make and break their own rules. However, they ARE accredited, which allows them to receive federal money for its students to go the school there. They must abide by ethical standards to remain accredited. This is why they had to do away with segregation at their schools.

We really appreciate anything you can all do.  
There is strength in numbers! Let's make our voice be heard!

[12:13 AM - 2 Comments - 0 Kudos - Add Comment](#)

**Monday, July 21, 2008**

**What inspired the calendar?**

A lot of people have asked what inspired me to produce such a thought-provoking "controversial" art piece. Though some would claim it was the devil, it was years of life experiences that sum up its creation; from growing up in a non-LDS community where being Mormon was taboo, to submerging myself into the heart of Mormondom by attending BYU and serving a full-time mission - to eventually running as fast as I could to the Nevada border after being chased out of a provincial Southern Utah town for being too progressive.

The calendar has been a continuation of a life-long journey. I have experienced being on both sides of religious prejudice being a Mormon. As a young man, I will never forget attending a Christian Jubilation in Southern California with my Born Again Christian friends. Once the word was out among the other youth that I was LDS, I literally was surrounded by a group of teens and pastors that started screaming at me that I belonged to a church of the devil, that Joseph Smith was a liar, and that my eternal salvation meant "hell" if I stayed in the church. It scared me to death. This was the beginning of my testimony in the LDS church - for how it seemed apparent to me that the Born Agains were possessed with the devil because of their hostility towards me.

It wasn't until I attended the church-owned Ricks College in Idaho (now BYU-I) that I actually experienced this same sort of hostility from church members when I came off as being not fitting the mold. I didn't quite speak the proper lingo, and while I was on my mission, I just wasn't cheesy enough. I refused to play the self-righteous game. This went on for 8 years living in Utah. I admit I have never been a conformer. I blame that on my mother - she always taught me to have my own voice, and to never be afraid to walk my

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own path. It must be the pioneer blood in me that made me terribly afraid to be just like everyone else - especially when everyone else seemed judgmental and hateful.

So I reached a dilemma: People hate Mormons because they are different and weird, and Mormons hate Mormons when they are different and weird.

So what do I do?

Create a calendar that shows the world that Mormons are still weird, but they are also human and not always uptight and rigid - and show Mormons that there is such thing as "individual" expression within the faith. Not everyone has to fit the perfect image that everyone is trying to obtain (but failing miserably with a smile - enter Prozac nation).

All of these experiences summed up into one word: Tolerance. If I were to create the calendar, it would need to have a message of religious and cultural tolerance with a sense of humor, since laughter is a universal language of friendship.

I decided to take a risk and step outside the status quo of the stereotypes surrounding being a Mormon and create a humorous "beefcake" calendar featuring muscled up Mormon men that had one thing in common besides 'no carbs'. They all served full-time service missions.

Now this is where the controversy came in. People in general compartmentalize their lives. At work they are one person, at home another, and a church, a completely different person. They rarely combine all their worlds, especially if your career might be deemed as "unbecoming of a member of your church" (such as the Marriotts selling XXX porn in their hotels. It is OK to sell the porn as long as you don't advertise that the person selling you porn is a Mormon in good standing, and just before you purchase your porn a message comes up on the screen telling you that 10% of the proceeds from your porn addiction will go to the LDS Church by way of the Marriott's tithes and donations to BYU). You see, the LDS faithful would have no problem with these good LDS lads stripping off their shirts for charity if they did not advertise that they are Mormons. The most grievous of sins would be if they stripped off their shirts for charity, and then advertised that they once were full-time missionaries for the LDS church. That might even make national news, and wouldn't that just ruin the image of the church!

Now, in all seriousness, this calendar has created a really cool phenomenon. It has created interfaith dialog all over the world, and have exposed their stories of service and love, as well as their perfect abs. ?

I understand that some are offended as they feel we have misrepresented the church as a whole - but these men are not the entire church. They are representing themselves as individual men of faith that belong to the same religion. They are not afraid to say they are models AND Mormons - and are sexy AND spiritual. The men in the calendar have reached out to the world in a brave and bold way without the intention to convert anyone, except present a message of friendship and tolerance - and show that they are imperfect and human just like everyone else. (And can have a sense of humor about their religion.) They have raised awareness while they have dared to remove the superiority complex and bring themselves to a level that others can relate to and show the world that not every member of the church is uptight and exclusive like so many people believe. (And unfortunately so many members of the church continue to give reason for people to believe this - just read the blogs and comments from the news stories if anyone ever challenges their comfort zone.)

This calendar has reached out to all corners of the earth. We have been interviewed by top tier media around the world. The media has been very friendly to this project as I think, for once, gave them something positive and fun to write about the LDS people, rather than stories of scandal, polygamy and Mormon political propaganda.

This project has opened up the beauty and the ugliness of religion. It has given the models involved a chance to share their stories of service and what they believe in, and in return, given others to share what they believe in. On the flip side, it has given an opportunity for many LDS folks to share their deep rooted feelings of hate, prejudice and fear as they have written the most appalling hate mail. The same goes from non-LDS and anti-Mormons. Someday, I will publish the reactions. It is fascinating, and frightening. Can't we all just be more tolerant of each other? The Born Again Christians have screamed at me that I was going to hell for being a Mormon. Now the Mormons are screaming at me that I am going to hell because I don't act just like them. At this point, I think I would prefer hell because all the screamers won't be there and I can drink my Mormon Coffee in peace! One way ticket to hell! Who is with me?!

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One thing I have learned in this project, is not to judge others because of their ignorance. Remember, people only know what they have been taught. It takes an enlightened person to take the risk to go beyond the boundaries of the status quo to find their own truth, which might not be what you have been taught. What is truth or not can only be determined by the individual because we all create our own reality. I hope we all find our own truth as we continue to search for it. I found it. It came by ways of a calendar, but I found it. And in case you are wondering, I will still continue to stand up for what I believe in... and the 2009 Calendar will go on sale September 1, and each year following as long as we have people that will buy it and support the cause.

I know there are people who think what I have done is terrible. I hope if you take the time to see the good that we have done with the dialog we have created all over the world, your initial knee-jerk reaction to instantly dislike anything outside the norm, might just change. Also remember, just because someone no longer attends church does not mean you should assume it is because they lack faith, or should be treated any less of a "saint". Celebrate each individual journey, and do not judge.

Seek not so much to be loved, but to love. Seek not so much to be understood, but understand. Seek not so much to build walls, but penetrate them.

God Bless!

[3:31 AM - 2 Comments - 4 Kudos - Add Comment](#)

**Sunday, July 20, 2008**

**Setting the Records Straight**

I know everyone is speculating about my excommunication, and thinking there must be more to the story that I am not telling. Well I am the only one who can ever openly say what went on in the court that day, but I will say this, and say it by swearing on the Bible and everything that is good and holy on this planet: There was NO talk of ANY form of personal transgression AT ALL during my disciplinary council. The "other" charges that Frank Davie casually broke confidence and slyly shared with the Associated Press to create this assumption was simply that I do not honor my priesthood (by not attending church meetings) and do not honor my temple covenants (by choosing to remove the sacred garment.) The entire meeting was about the calendar, and after I spoke, all the questions that were asked by the council ALL had to do with the calendar. Just for the record, my reasons for leaving the church had nothing to do with transgression.

Now the Church did try very hard to try to find a moral transgression by spying on me so they could excommunicate me for that instead of having to embarrass themselves by excommunicating me over the calendar. After initially meeting with me in my home about the calendar, a few weeks later Frank Davie requested to meet with me one-on-one to discuss some "personal matters." I have attached the email correspondence below so you can read just how this unfolded.

After refusing to meet with Mr. Davie several times as he would never tell me what the "personal matter" was, he finally agreed to tell me over the phone. He flat out asked me if I was living with my (female) coworker, and if we were having sex!!!! I was speechless. Not only do I not live with her, the closest we have ever come to sex is when she has shared her sex life with me. We are really good friends, and that is about it. I asked him where he got this information, and he said he could not share that with me, just simply that it had been brought to his attention. I work out of my home, and she comes and goes from my house all the time, so I could only imagine they had been spying on me, especially when he would not share the source. He went on to ask me if I had been involved in any inappropriate relations with anyone of the opposite sex. He was digging, and it was obvious. This was the third time I have been falsely accused of erroneous transgressions, and then of course being denied to know the source of the inaccurate information. That is why, when I received my summons for a disciplinary court, I went to the press. The back story has never been published, which has in turn created much speculation.

Before my court started, I met with Mr. Davie in his office where he went over the proceedings of the court so I would know what to expect. Once again he asked me if I had been involved with my coworker and brought up a myspace message that I had written to her about being my hot sexy mama, or something flirtatious like that. So they were looking at my myspace friends to see what kind of comments I was leaving???? He also then asked me once again if I had any inappropriate relations with anyone else of the opposite sex. I then honestly and accurately answered. This was NEVER brought up in the council. Not even a hint of it. It was simply the two things I mentioned above, and

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the "inappropriate project" (AKA the Calender) that I was involved in  
Here is email coorespondance as it unfolded over the past several weeks:

---

From: Frank Davie [mailto:frankernstdavie@]  
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2008 2:00 PM  
To: Chad@  
Subject: Missionary Calendars?

Brother Hardy,

Bishop Olds and I appreciated the opportunity we had to come to your home last April 15. As you may recall, we discussed with you the publishing of the returned missionary calendar.

During our visit, I mentioned to you that the calendar was inappropriate and asked that you give careful consideration to terminate its publication. It simply does not represent the Church or Church missionaries in the right way.

You shared with Bishop and I that you would discuss this with your work partner.

I would welcome an opportunity to come to your home again or you may wish to visit with me otherwise to further discuss your decision.

Please give me a call at XXX-XXXX or answer to this email.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you,  
President Davie

---

On Thu, Jun 5, 2008 at 6:45 PM, Chad Hardy wrote:

Hi President Davie,

The Men on a Mission Calendar is owned by CMH Entertainment, LLC. I am not full owner of this company. This company is backed by financial investors that are invested in the publication and distribution of the calendars and other products it produces. The 2008 Men on a Mission Calendar was one of the top 10 best selling model calendars in the 2007 season. Its success is being followed up by the 2009 Calendar which has already been guaranteed distribution across the US for the 2008 buying season.

We are standing behind the project, its message and philanthropic purposes. Though we understand not everyone agrees with the project, the individual expressions of those involved have reshaped perceptions, removed walls, and shown an outpour of acceptance and tolerance around the world. Everyone involved has experienced the positive ripple effect of what this project has created. This project in no way is meant to demean, disrespect or misrepresent the LDS church fundamental beliefs. The project is based on individual models who at one time in their life served a full-time service mission. It was their choice to appear in the calendar and share their personal experiences and stories.

I understand and appreciate your personal concerns and thank you for your understanding of my decision to stand behind my project and business venture.

Best,

CHAD

---

From: Frank Davie [mailto:frankernstdavie@]  
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2008 9:24 AM  
To: Chad Hardy  
Subject: Re: Missionary Calendars?

Dear Brother Hardy,

Thank you for your response and explanation of why you are maintaining this calendar project.

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I still need to visit with you one-on-one, regarding you personally of which I do not wish to share via email or over the phone. It is important that you and I have some time together.  
I am available this Sunday, June after 9:00a, at the conclusion of early morning meetings.  
Please give me a call as soon as possible as I will be looking forward to meeting with you.  
You may call me directly at XXX-XXXX.

Thank you,  
President Davie

---

On Fri, Jun 6, 2008 at 12:08 PM, Chad Hardy wrote:

I appreciate your consideration; however your intentions at this point are unclear. I do not feel there is anything more I need to discuss. If you can clarify your intentions, or the purpose for wanting to meet with me, I will consider a meeting.

Thank you for the understanding.

Best,  
CHAD HARDY

---

On Fri, Jun 6, 2008 at 6:55 PM, Frank Davie wrote:

Brother Hardy,

Please give me a call and I will be pleased to discuss this matter with you, so as to clarify my reason for wanting to meet with you in person.

Thank you,  
President Davie

---

From: Frank Davie [mailto:frankernstdavie@]  
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2008 8:54 AM  
To: Chad Hardy  
Subject: Re: Missionary Calendars?

Brother Hardy,

I would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

Time is moving along and we need to visit with each other even by phone.

Please give me a call at XXX-XXXX.

President Davie

---

On Mon, Jun 16, 2008 at 9:39 AM, Chad Hardy wrote:

I have tried to call you a couple times and got no answer. What is the urgency?

Best,

CHAD

---

From: Frank Davie [mailto:frankernstdavie@]

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Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2008 8:21 AM  
To: Chad Hardy  
Subject: Re: Missionary Calendars?

Brother Hardy,

I am on vacation and will be returning to the US, June 27.  
For some reason, I have not received any of your calls or voice messages but that is OK as I still want to visit with you in person for what we need to talk about.  
I again would be pleased to come to your home or you can meet me at the stake president's office. When I return, I will look forward to setting an appt. with you.  
Sorry you keep you wondering what this is all about, however, it needs to be talked about between the two of us as it is quite personal.

Thank you,  
President Davie

---

I THEN SPOKE TO MR. DAVIE ON THE PHONE AS OUTLINED ABOVE AND THEN RESPONDED WITH THIS EMAIL:

---

On Tue, Jul 1, 2008 at 4:26 PM, Chad Hardy wrote:

Hi President Davie,

I have been giving it some thought, and I no longer see a value or purpose to speaking with you anymore in regards to my personal life or my business affairs. I appreciate you taking false accusations and misinformation to the source and hope you are satisfied with the correct information.

Regards,

Chad Hardy

---

From: Frank Davie [mailto:frankernstdavie@]  
Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2008 7:56 AM  
To: Chad Hardy  
Subject: Re: Further Contact

Dear Brother Hardy,

I had hoped that from our conversation yesterday, previous emails and with our visit to your home, that we would be able to continue meeting with each other and that I might have the opportunity to work with you.  
It is apparent that you have chosen the path that you have.  
You have broken your priesthood and temple covenants and engaged yourself in a project that is considered inappropriate.  
As you would hopefully understand, this is all considered as 'conduct unbecoming of a member of the Church'.  
In the near future, I will have two elders deliver to your home or sent to you by registered mail, a Notice of a Church Disciplinary Council to be held in your behalf. The date and time will be indicated in the notice.  
Again, I had hoped that we would have further conversation, that I might help you to come to an understanding of your Church responsibilities. Since you have chosen not to meet with me any further, I have the responsibility to take this action in your behalf.  
I thank you for sharing all that you have thus far. It is my intent to do all that I can to help you and will look forward to any opportunity to do so, should you change your mind.  
Please give me a call if you wish to do so.

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Sincerely,  
 Frank Davie  
 Stake President  
 Warm Springs Stake

9:36 AM - 0 Comments - 0 Kudos - Add Comment

Friday, July 18, 2008

### "Men on a Mission" in the Media

I wanted to post this blog about where the "Men on a Mission" project has been since it launched in September of last year, up until the latest and greatest excommunication scandal (which has made our initial news coverage look like a classified ad.)

We officially launched the project on September 10 by sending out a press release on business wire. As soon as it hit, Arizona media was all over this like flies to honey and the Houston Chronicle grabbed the story and posted on the top of their website. MSNBC saw the headline on the Chron, and immediately scheduled me and one of the models for a satellite interview the next day to scoop the story first. From there, an avalanche of top tier media requests came flooding through our website ([www.mormonsexposed.com](http://www.mormonsexposed.com)) from all over the world - from Russia to Finland, Australia, Italy, Germany and New Zealand, just to name a few.

ABC World News Now reported it, Fox News had us on with Shepard Smith, and later ABC News had us on a program called 'Influential's' which highlights people that are making headlines in the news. Rolling Stone Magazine called us and featured us in the 2007 "Hot Issue" as the HOT calendar for 2008. TMZ.com featured us as well and called us the "hottest calendar for 2008." We also had feature stories in the Washington Post, New York Daily News, The Sydney Morning Herald, The London Times and Penthouse Forum (for shame!)

Ironically, Utah pretty much ignored the buzz - for a while, though the BYU and BYU-I papers did eventually run a story.

Because of the media buzz, we were contacted by Calendar Club and they carried our calendar in all the stores and mall kiosks across the US, which they will be carrying it again this year in the US and Australia/New Zealand. I do have to mention - the store owner for Calendar Club in the Sandy Mall and Ogden Mall in Utah refused to sell the calendar, even though by contract has to. My mom went in the store to ask for it and he replied by saying "I'm not going to sell that filthy crap!" and was very hostile towards her. She then picked up the "Bikini Buns" calendar and asked him if he thought the bare asses on the calendar was considered filthy crap. (I love my mom! It's all her fault I turned out this way!) The Mall in St George, UT carried the calendar, which had the highest sales for our calendar of any mall in the US.

After the holidays, things quieted down a bit and I could focus on my "real" job, which was needed as I had neglected my company. Media requests would come in here and there, mostly from foreign countries. I was interviewed in New Zealand on national radio in the Spring as I was casting the 09 calendar. On April 9, we had our first shoot in Las Vegas. 6 guys were flown in for the shoot. Stephen Fry, a well respected UK celebrity, came to the shoot filming his BBC documentary called "Stephen Fry in America" which airs on prime time BBC in the UK this fall. Entertainment Tonight Canada was also there filming a segment - and TMZ.com covered it as well. We were juggling 3 camera crews, sound guys and technicians. You can check out the behind the scenes photos at [www.myspace.com/menonamissioncalendar](http://www.myspace.com/menonamissioncalendar)

Stephen Fry was so gracious, and he talks with really big words that I can not understand. It was so cool to listen to him interview one of the guys while he was sitting in the makeup chair, and he was sharing his core beliefs with this influential celebrity... with his shirt off. It was a really cool moment. The energy in the studio was indescribable. The guys had the time of their life, and they were so excited to be a part of this great project. One of the models had his mom, sisters and grandparents there. In fact, it was his mom that sent in his audition photos. The producer of the show emailed me a little while ago telling me he was editing our segment, and told me how much he and Stephen loved their experience with us. Funny thing, another BBC documentary company called me wanting to do a segment on the Mormon Church, and wanted to know if I could help them find good material to shoot. I pointed them in some good directions, and they will be filming my family as well during their visit to Utah. ~~Wouldn't that just be the feather in Monson's cap!~~

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Little did Salt Lake know, but I was actually a good advocate for the church. People asked us the tough questions that they were too afraid to ask other Mormons because we were out of the box, and normal. We got to dispel a lot of myths about polygamy, garments (as the men down under call them "magic underpants") and Mormon sex on national radio in Australia, New Zealand, and the UK.

It does not surprise me looking back on all the good we have done, and the amazing energy that surrounded what we were doing, that the recent events have backfired on the Church in not just a small way, but in a HOLY ^\$% way!!! Karma? I don't think the universe takes too lightly to hypocrisy.

I am absolutely blown away at how the Media has taken to this excommunication story. In 2 days, my media clippings are twice the size of a 4 month campaign from last year. The AP story was a top headline and most emailed on AOL.com, MSN.com, CNN.com, USAToday.com, FoxNews.com, ABCNews.com, MSNBC.com just to name a few. The story appeared in print in newspapers across the country - including random towns like Modesto, Ca. The story has also appeared online on the LA Times, Boston.com, San Francisco Chronicle, The Telegraph in the UK, The New Zealand Herald - and so many, many more, not even mentioning Blogosphere. My brain hurts just thinking about it.

I was interviewed by Newsweek today for Monday's issue- and we have been invited to have one of the models on Sunrise morning show in Australia via satellite next week. I also have been asked to be on a News Talk Radio in Ireland tomorrow as well as to be interviewed for a publication in Brazil. This morning another request has come in from London to talk on a radio show to go along with the opening of "Confessions of a Mormon Boy" in London. Yesterday I was invited back to be on Australia's number 1 morning radio show and they gave me at least 5 minutes of live air time. Since Sunday, I have been interviewed by the AP (obviously), was on BBC radio in the UK, CNN & CBS syndicated radio in the US, had a feature on Inside Edition that was being teased all day long as the headlining story and was interviewed and featured in a story in the Chicago Tribune and Religion News Service, which went out on the wire to all the newspapers across the world. In addition I have responded to media kit requests for broadcast and print to Norway, Sweden, Brazil and the UK. Tomorrow morning I will be on a 30 minute program in Las Vegas called "Face to Face" where I will be discussing the recent happenings. Another cable TV news show started by Al Gore has also contacted me and are in the approval phase to shoot a 8 minute story. I will keep you posted on that one. Everyday - all day - the media requests have been flying in.

I don't think the church had ANY idea the storm they were about to unleash. Had Hinckley been alive, he would have never allowed this to happen. He was a very media savvy man. Remember, this all came about after Monson took office. After all the media we had before, why was I never contacted earlier? We were in the Salt Lake Tribune months before the calendar even launched when we were in Utah for auditions. KSL Nightside radio came to the auditions, and then bashed us on air for an entire hour. (KSL is owned by the LDS Church.) Where was my phone call then?

I did warn my Stake President what could happen if I got called into a church court, and I pleaded with him to please not go through with it and to just let me be. I told him this calendar has been very high profile, and that I would have no choice but to go to the press if he continued. He acted like he didn't believe me. He was only doing what was commanded of him - and so he obeyed, without question. I feel bad for him. He is a very sweet old man, and I actually thought of delivering him some flowers or something, because I am sure he has to feel pretty sad right now as the spotlight has been on him in his circles as well. (I should send him a gift certificate to a nice dinner because our exposure has been monumental since Saturday.)

All in all, I felt so strongly that I needed to produce this project. I have no regrets and I would do it all over again. I knew it would take something like this to wake people up, and it blows my mind that it actually worked. And because I have done nothing to tear down the core beliefs of Mormonism, if anything celebrated and honored them - it put me in a very interesting position.

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Registrar's Office

*Chad Hardy 8/19/08  
- needed only 2 classes to graduate  
- took 10th class on-line summer  
term  
- applied for graduation - cleared*

Profile edit Friends Inbox

### Chad Hardy's BYU Graduation

Only the good die Young...

#### Information

#### Event Info

Host: Men on a Mission Calendar  
Type: Causes - Rally

#### Time and Place

Date: Friday, August 15, 2008  
Time: 8:00am - 9:30am  
Location: HFAC Building at BYU  
City/Town: Provo, UT

#### Description

##### Graduation Information

Friday, August 15  
8:00am  
deJong Concert Hall  
HFAC Building  
BYU  
Provo, Utah

Come cheer on Mormondom's most infamous excommunicate as he walk across the stage at BYU to receive his well deserved diploma!!

Chad will be meeting friends and family afterwards outside the south side of the HFAC on the courtyard for hugs and pictures!

#### Photos

No one has uploaded any photos

#### Videos

No one has uploaded any videos.

#### Posted Items

No one has posted any items.

#### Confirmed Guests

This event has 3 confirmed guests

See All



Chad Hardy



Jana Baldwin



Danilo Rodriguez

#### The Wall

Displaying 10 of 14 wall posts

See All

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Share

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#### Your RSVP

- Attending
- Maybe Attending
- Not Attending

#### Other Information

- Guests are allowed to bring friends to this event.

#### Other Invites

Maybe Attending (9)

See All



Kristi Waite



Eric Turner



Carrie Ann

Not Attending (59)

See All



Jen Marco Handy



Karla Anderson



Janae Hardy Brady

Awaiting Reply (80)

See All



Online Friends (0)

1

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**Liz Lisonbee** (Inland Empire, CA) wrote at 3:56pm on August 15th, 2008

Can't make it. I have to work....Lame

Report



**Sharlene Gibb** (Provo, UT) wrote at 3:03am on August 15th, 2008

I got my wisdom teeth out sorry. cant come...

Report



**Rachel Killpack** (Salt Lake City, UT) wrote at 3:32pm on August 14th, 2008

Puppy piddle! I won't be able to attend, I'm out of town until Friday afternoon. WTF? Who graduates at 8:00am these days anyway!! Argggghh!! Is there an after party or anything?

Eternally yours,  
#1 Wife out of 87

Report



**Amber Porter Cox** (Chicago, IL) wrote at 4:12pm on August 13th, 2008

What the hell - you tell me last minute!! Congrats! I hope you have fun taunting them. ;0

What's the degree in? ;)

Report



**Jennifer Klenk** (Salt Lake City, UT) wrote at 6:09am on August 13th, 2008

Chad, I so want to attend, unfortunately I have a hospital date with Grandma. True story! Congrats on graduating! Is this your Master's or Bachelor degree?

Report



**Erin McArthur** wrote at 5:44am on August 13th, 2008

Get to be at a wedding in San Diego that weekend, but Congratulations!

Report



**Jaime Kimball Grant** (San Diego, CA) wrote at 3:58am on August 13th, 2008

if only...

congrats cuz. much love.

muah.

Report



**Chelsea Stevens** (Salt Lake City, UT) wrote at 1:37am on August 13th, 2008

Congrats! BYU? since when?

Report



**Eric Turner** wrote at 1:14am on August 13th, 2008

I have tickets to see Joshua Radin at 6pm... I'll see what I can pull off...

Report

Christopher Carr Susan Jack Yvonne Petty

**Event Type**

This is an open event. Anyone can join and invite others to join.

**Admins**

- Men on a Mission Calendar (creator)

Online Friends (0)



Report Event

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Online Friends (0)



# Deseret News

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Registrar's Office

## Calendar-maker ousted by LDS

### *Church leaders disliked portrayal of missionaries*

**Associated Press**

*Published: July 14, 2008*

The creator of a 2008 calendar that featured shirtless Mormon missionaries was excommunicated Sunday after a disciplinary meeting with local church leaders in Las Vegas.

Chad Hardy says he bears no ill will toward the council of leaders from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He says an official letter severing his ties with the 13 million-member Salt Lake City-based church should arrive in about two weeks.

Sunday's meeting lasted about two hours, and the 12-member council deliberated about 45 minutes before making its decision.

"I felt like I spoke my truth," the 31-year-old entertainment entrepreneur said. "Bottom-line, they still felt the calendar is inappropriate and not the image that the church wants to have."

"Men on a Mission," which has sold nearly 10,000 copies at \$14.99 each, included pictures of 12 returned missionaries wearing black slacks, but not their trademark white shirts, in modest poses. The men are also photographed in traditional missionary garb and share their religious beliefs in biographical sketches.

Some of the 12 models have also been called to disciplinary meetings, but none was punished.

"I have no ill feelings toward any of those people," Hardy said of the church council. "They did what they believed was right, and I really do feel it was the best decision for both of us."

Frank E. Davie, the senior leader over a group of Mormon congregations in the Las Vegas area, confirmed the council's decision in a telephone call to The Associated Press. He declined further comment.

Regional church leaders who called the meeting raised three concerns with Hardy during the meeting: the calendar and his failure to keep some church covenants.

Hardy has been inactive in the LDS Church for the past six years. He no longer pays tithing or wears the religious undergarments considered sacred. In an interview last week, Hardy said he had always struggled to fit in and live up to the expectations of membership.

Hardy said he considered resigning his membership to avoid the hearing, but decided against it out of respect for his family. Hardy is a sixth-generation Mormon. His parents live in Utah.

"I really feel sorry for my family," said Hardy. "They are going to be so sad. But I feel empowered and free and I feel like I no longer have to apologize for anything."

Hardy insists that the purpose of the calendar has never been to tear down the church or its 13 million members.

"The project is about stepping outside the stereotypes and stepping outside of the image,"

Hardy said. "Not everybody fits the image, and I let them know we're not trying to portray an image for the entire church."

Since its debut last year, the calendar has generated plenty of buzz on the social networking Internet sites MySpace and Facebook. Some have criticized Hardy for painting missionaries as "sex symbols" and contradicting church teachings that promote modesty. Others have rejoiced at his attempt to give young Mormon men a new image.

The LDS Church takes disciplinary action when leaders believe a person's behavior or actions are openly incompatible with the faith's teachings and could potentially damage the church.

On Friday a church spokeswoman declined to comment on Hardy or the calendar but said that "any church discipline is the result of actions, not beliefs." Decisions are made at the local level and are based on individual circumstances and merits, spokeswoman Kim Farah said.

Council hearings are designed to help members, not simply punish, and are considered a necessary step in repentance and part of a process of returning to full fellowship in the church, she said.

An excommunicated person is removed from official church rolls, although they are still welcome at church services. Excommunicated members are prohibited from receiving the sacrament and can't perform church callings such as teaching or preaching during meetings. They also cannot enter church temples.

The 2009 calendar — which drew 100 inquiries from interested missionaries — will be released in September.

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## Mormon missionary calendar-maker excommunicated

July 13, 2008



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# Deseret News

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"I really feel sorry for my family," said Hardy. "They are going to be so sad. But I feel empowered and free and I feel like I no longer have to apologize for anything."

Hardy insists that the purpose of the calendar has never been to tear down the church or its 13 million members.

"The project is about stepping outside the stereotypes and stepping outside of the image,"

ACTIONS/TO DO:

Why did they even let me in school?

You don't have to have an academic achievement to be enrolled in college education but you do have to be in good honor code standing to receive a diploma.

She was not aware you were not in good h.c. standing

Following there is an academic and non-academic evaluation that takes place before diplomas

It is very clear that you need to be a student in good honor code standing to graduate receive a diploma.

My letter <sup>is published in the student intelligence</sup> private records

and discuss personal records w/ his parents

→ long standing policy that students cannot graduate who are not in good standing.

an copy of the records sent accurate  
 Federal law of 1970 prohibits commenting  
 in a student's private educational record.

Thank you for your letter and for your concern.

## *News Blog*

Higher-education news from around the Web

**October 17, 2008**

### **BYU Yanks Diploma From Publisher of Calendar Showing Hunky Mormon Missionaries**

Brigham Young University has withheld the diploma of a man who was excommunicated from the Mormon Church after publishing "Men on a Mission," a calendar of shirtless Mormon missionaries, the Associated Press reported today.

The man, Chad Hardy, told the AP that in June he finished his last four credits at the university, which is owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as the Mormon Church is formally known. He then walked across the stage with classmates at graduation.

But in September, Mr. Hardy received a letter from a Brigham Young official stating that a nonacademic hold had been placed on his record. The letter said he might be eligible to receive the degree if he were reinstated as a member of the church in good standing.

Mr. Hardy was excommunicated from the church in July. A church elder told the AP that the calendar had been a factor in that decision.

A Brigham Young spokeswoman told the AP she wouldn't discuss the specific case, for privacy reasons, but she said that all students "must be in good standing from an academic point of view and from an honor-code point of view." The university's behavioral honor code aligns with church teachings.

As for the calendar, a 2009 edition has now been published, along with a disclaimer saying that it is not affiliated with or endorsed by the Mormon Church. —*Beckie Supiano*

# Who's Who and Who's Where

[1]

Lanny and Heather Smartt (*Birmingham*)

[14]

Dennis and Ann Barney (*Gilbert*)  
 Newell and Katherine Barney (*Queen Creek*)  
 Leo and Annette Beus (*Phoenix*)  
 Ross N. and Anita Farnsworth (*Mesa*)  
 Ira A. and Mary Lou Fulton (*Chandler*)  
 Elbert W. and Kathleen Gardner (*Mesa*)  
 Paul E. and Susan Gilbert (*Paradise Valley*)  
 Rex and Ruth Maughan (*Phoenix*)  
 David and Lora McAllister (*Mesa*)  
 Todd and Amy Nelson (*Phoenix*)  
 R. Don and Shirley Oscarson (*Scottsdale*)  
 Theora Shelley (*Scottsdale*)  
 Barry and Julia Smith (*Paradise Valley*)  
 Roger and Marilyn Victor (*Scottsdale*)

[24]

Fritz B. Burns Foundation (*Burbank*)  
 Fred and Glenda Carpenter (*La Crescenta*)  
 Tei Fu and Oi-Lin Chen (*Palos Verdes Estates*)  
 David S. and Mary Christensen (*Alamo*)  
 Jim and Sandy Cook (*Lodi*)  
 Robert and JoAnne Edwards (*Pleasanton*)  
 Paul and Jeralyn Favero (*Sacramento*)  
 Reed E. and Christine Halladay (*Newhall*)  
 Ron and Joyce Hanson (*Laguna Beach*)  
 King and Diane Husein (*Pebble Beach*)  
 Harold and Rebecca Jensen (*Valley Center*)  
 Sy Kimball (*Baiboa Island*)  
 Joe and Joanne Livingston (*Airberton*)  
 Alex and Pamela Martinez (*Capistrano Beach*)  
 David A. and Linda Nearon (*Alamo*)<sup>\*\*\*\*\*</sup>  
 The Dorothy J. Nielson Charitable Trust (*LaVerne*)  
 Representatives: Frank and Susan Bentley  
 Paul and Susie Nobmann (*Sonoma*)  
 Richard B. and Nadene Oliver (*Carmel*)  
 Kim and JaLayne Pugmire (*Yorba Linda*)  
 Eric and Meg Roach (*Rancho Santa Fe*)  
 John and Stephanie Sorensen (*Laguna Niguel*)  
 Steve and Shannon Sorensen (*Santa Barbara*)  
 Richard and Cindy Thawley (*Lodi*)  
 Jack and Mary Lois Wheatley (*Carmel*)

[2]

William and Cheryl Bryant (*Greenwich*)  
 David W. and Deb Checketts (*New Canaan*)

[3]

Tony and Joyce Burns (*Miami*)  
 Robert and Lynette Gay (*Wellington*)  
 Helen Leon (*Orlando*)

[1]

S. Hubert and Norma Humphrev (*Cumming*)

[1]

Menlo F. and Mary Jean Smith (*St. Louis*)

[12]

Don and Carolyn Ahern (*Las Vegas*)  
 Bruce and Laurie Bayne (*Las Vegas*)  
 Jay and Fran Bingham (*Las Vegas*)  
 Howard and Cristi Bulloch (*Las Vegas*)  
 Garth and Jerri Frelhner (*Las Vegas*)  
 Bill and Amy Hirschi (*Las Vegas*)  
 Dix and Kaleen Jarman (*Las Vegas*)  
 Stan and Judi Nielson (*Las Vegas*)  
 Jeff and Lisa Parker (*Las Vegas*)  
 Brent and Linda Phillips (*Las Vegas*)  
 Ed and Shauna Smith (*Las Vegas*)  
 Gene and Allvson Yamagata (*Las Vegas*)

# Mormon Beefcake

Did a frisky calendar get an LDS member excommunicated?

Steve Friess

NEWSWEEK WEB EXCLUSIVE

Jul 18, 2008 | Updated: 5:08 p.m. ET Jul 18, 2008

It's always March in Loree Moser's living room in Redmond, Calif. That is, it's always March according to the calendar that features a shirtless photo of her 22-year-old son, Matthew, with one bicep-bulging arm hanging from a tree branch. Pin-up calendars are nothing new, but this one has a twist: it shows handsome, recently returned Mormon missionaries both in and out of traditional missionary garb.

That fusion of sexuality and religion in "Men on a Mission" was so combustible that last weekend the calendar's creator, Chad Hardy of Las Vegas, was excommunicated by a disciplinary council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. LDS authorities won't discuss the matter since the church treats disciplinary matters confidentially. But Hardy said the church's move was motivated by LDS officials' desire to scare the flock away from expressing their sexuality and disobeying their edicts. Hardy had been instructed by his local stake president (a Mormon clerical leader) to stop producing the calendar; instead he moved ahead with the 2009 edition, due out in September, and is conducting auditions for the 2010 version.

"To them, the excommunication process is a repentance process," said Hardy, 31, who said he and a business partner have sold 10,000 of the 2008 calendars at \$15 apiece, with some proceeds being donated to the charity of each model's choice. "What do I have to repent of? For producing a calendar? Giving money to charity? I believe in what I did, what I'm doing, and I'm not going to stop it."

Hardy says the church has accused him of using religion to sell sex. But he prefers to think of it as the other way around: he's using eye-catching and unexpected images of usually buttoned-up men to draw attention to the charitable and civic contributions of the faith. Until his excommunication, Hardy was a sixth-generation Mormon who some six years ago stopped attending church, tithing or wearing the requisite sacred undergarments, but he insisted he still admires the church and wanted to use the calendar a form of outreach. "I have my own feelings about the church; they're personal," he said. "I don't want to make the church look bad. I want this to be a positive thing for these guys."

Each page of "Men on a Mission" shows a shirtless man, along with a shot of the same fellow in the traditional uniform that Mormons wear during their two-year missions--a white button-down-collared shirt and tie, black pants and a black name badge. The calendar also features a biography of each model, mentioning the place where he served his mission and some thoughts on his faith. None are particularly provocative poses by beefcake calendar standards, although Mr. October 2008 does have a finger tugging down his belt and exposing the elastic of his underwear.

"I thought it could be a pretty cool idea to strip off some stereotypes and hopefully build some bridges between different groups of people," says Hardy, who also owns a Vegas-based company that puts on team-building exercises for companies.

That is what attracted Christopher Hayes, 23, of Marysville, Wash., who posed for the 2009 edition. Hayes's mother, in fact, urged him on after the 2008 edition was cited as the "Hot Calendar" of the year by Rolling Stone magazine. Hayes's mother and grandparents even attended the photo shoot in Las Vegas in March. "What we're doing is showing people that Mormons aren't the weird, sheltered people that people think we are. It was more of an acceptance of us as people."

Hayes, Moser and the other models say they're not concerned that the church would discipline them for participating in the endeavor, and there is no indication that the church has taken any action against them. Indeed, Moser said a stake leader (the equivalent of a parish priest) in his

## BYU STUDENT RECORD

This is a copy released at the student's request from their educational records file at Brigham Young University.

Registrar's Office

area quizzed him about it before telling him it would not be a problem. "You don't see anything in this calendar that you wouldn't see at a church pool party," says Cody Bloomfield, 21, of Irvine, Calif., who is the 2009 cover model. "Actually, you see more at a church pool party."

Each man said he received a reassuring e-mail from Hardy telling them that his excommunication was the result of personal conduct issues--his lapsed attendance and tithing--rather than the calendar.

But Mormon scholar Richard Lyman Bushman of Claremont Graduate University School of Religion in California believes the calendar was the real problem, noting that "a third or half of the church doesn't tithe or go and they don't discipline all of those people." The issue for LDS authorities, Bushman says, is probably the juxtaposition between the chaste look of the missionaries and the "introduction of faintly erotic themes into that image. To say, 'Listen to the missionaries because they're also powerhouse bodies and pulsating sexual beings,' that's not what the church wants."

Melissa Proctor of the Harvard Divinity School thinks Hardy's excommunication could also be "calculated as a warning message from the leadership to Mormons who bought the calendar or to the returned missionaries who hope to pose in the next issue that such behavior is unbecoming." If so, Hardy said it failed; none of the 2009 models have tried to back out. (They couldn't even if they wanted to at this point, he says; the 2009 calendar is already at the printer's.)

The fact that the calendar has been a hit among gays--and that the 2008 and 2009 editions feature two openly gay men each--is undoubtedly somewhat discomfiting to a faith that accepts gay members only if they are chaste, Bushman said. Hardy estimates that half the 2008 calendars were bought by men. He and some of the models have been interviewed by gay publications. "I like to joke that this is the tamest beefcake calendar a gay man could ever own," Hardy quips.

Still, Bushman doesn't think the calendar's gay appeal was the deciding factor for the church. "If they had done this with lady missionaries, it would have had the same results," he says. That proposition may be tested soon. Hardy is planning a 2010 calendar of women he's calling "Mormon Muffins: A Taste of Motherhood," in which mothers will pose and offer their favorite recipes. Bushman predicted that "turning mothers into hot babes" would disgust most Mormons including himself, owing to the faith's reverent attitude toward women. Cover model Bloomfield expressed his own concerns. Says Bloomfield, "There's a very fine line here and [Hardy's] gotten close to it with the one with us, but when you start to do it with women, you start to get into the danger zone."

URL: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/147061>

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# Deseret News

## Calendar-maker ousted by LDS

*Church leaders disliked portrayal of missionaries*

**Associated Press**

*Published July 14, 2008*

The creator of a 2008 calendar that featured shirtless Mormon missionaries was excommunicated Sunday after a disciplinary meeting with local church leaders in Las Vegas.

Chad Hardy says he bears no ill will toward the council of leaders from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He says an official letter severing his ties with the 13 million-member Salt Lake City-based church should arrive in about two weeks.

Sunday's meeting lasted about two hours, and the 12-member council deliberated about 45 minutes before making its decision.

"I felt like I spoke my truth," the 31-year-old entertainment entrepreneur said. "Bottom-line, they still felt the calendar is inappropriate and not the image that the church wants to have."

"Men on a Mission," which has sold nearly 10,000 copies at \$14.99 each, included pictures of 12 returned missionaries wearing black slacks, but not their trademark white shirts, in modest poses. The men are also photographed in traditional missionary garb and share their religious beliefs in biographical sketches.

Some of the 12 models have also been called to disciplinary meetings, but none was punished.

"I have no ill feelings toward any of those people," Hardy said of the church council. "They did what they believed was right, and I really do feel it was the best decision for both of us."

Frank E. Davie, the senior leader over a group of Mormon congregations in the Las Vegas area, confirmed the council's decision in a telephone call to The Associated Press. He declined further comment.

Regional church leaders who called the meeting raised three concerns with Hardy during the meeting: the calendar and his failure to keep some church covenants.

Hardy has been inactive in the LDS Church for the past six years. He no longer pays tithing or wears the religious undergarments considered sacred. In an interview last week, Hardy said he had always struggled to fit in and live up to the expectations of membership.

Hardy said he considered resigning his membership to avoid the hearing, but decided against it out of respect for his family. Hardy is a sixth-generation Mormon. His parents live in Utah.

"I really feel sorry for my family," said Hardy. "They are going to be so sad. But I feel empowered and free and I feel like I no longer have to apologize for anything."

Hardy insists that the purpose of the calendar has never been to tear down the church or its 13 million members.

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"The project is about stepping outside the stereotypes and stepping outside of the image," Hardy said. "Not everybody fits the image, and I let them know we're not trying to portray an image for the entire church."

Since its debut last year, the calendar has generated plenty of buzz on the social networking Internet sites MySpace and Facebook. Some have criticized Hardy for painting missionaries as "sex symbols" and contradicting church teachings that promote modesty. Others have rejoiced at his attempt to give young Mormon men a new image.

The LDS Church takes disciplinary action when leaders believe a person's behavior or actions are openly incompatible with the faith's teachings and could potentially damage the church.

On Friday a church spokeswoman declined to comment on Hardy or the calendar but said that "any church discipline is the result of actions, not beliefs." Decisions are made at the local level and are based on individual circumstances and merits, spokeswoman Kim Farah said.

Council hearings are designed to help members, not simply punish, and are considered a necessary step in repentance and part of a process of returning to full fellowship in the church, she said.

An excommunicated person is removed from official church rolls, although they are still welcome at church services. Excommunicated members are prohibited from receiving the sacrament and can't perform church callings such as teaching or preaching during meetings. They also cannot enter church temples.

The 2009 calendar — which drew 100 inquiries from interested missionaries — will be released in September.

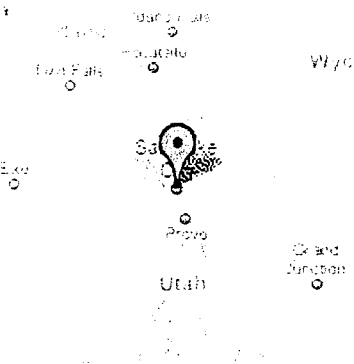
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## Ex-Mormon calendar-maker has BYU diploma yanked

By JENNIFER DOBNER - 1 day ago

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Brigham Young University has yanked the diploma of a man who created a calendar featuring shirtless Mormon missionaries and was later excommunicated from the church.

Chad Hardy of Las Vegas attended graduation ceremonies Aug. 15 after finishing up his last four units of study online in June. But on July 13, in between completing his studies and the graduation ceremony, he was excommunicated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

A Sept. 30 letter from Norman B. Finlinson, the school's executive director of student academic and advisement services, said a nonacademic hold was placed on Hardy's record after the church-owned university learned of the excommunication.

"If in the future you are reinstated as a member of the church in good standing, you are invited to contact my office regarding your possible eligibility for the awarding of a degree," Finlinson wrote.

Hardy, 31, plans to challenge the school's decision.

"I intend to fight this tooth-and-nail," said Hardy, who learned about the hold a month after graduation.

For reasons of confidentiality, BYU spokeswoman Carri Jenkins said she couldn't discuss Hardy's specific case. But Jenkins said all universities require students to be in good standing before a diploma is issued.

At BYU, that includes abiding by an honor code that dictates student conduct and behavior standards that mirror the religious principles of the church.

"We do make it clear that even though a student is cleared to walk at graduation, a student must still be in good standing from an academic point of view and an honor code point of view," she said.

Hardy's excommunication for conduct unbecoming a church member was rooted in his failure to pay tithing, a lapse in other religious obligations and, according to Las Vegas regional church elder Frank E. Davie, his involvement with the 2008 "Men on a Mission" calendar.

Hardy's calendar sold nearly 11,000 copies and features 12 returned church missionaries in mostly modest poses, minus their trademark white shirts, ties and black plastic name badges.

The calendar was intended to shake up the stuffy, cookie-cutter stereotype often associated with Mormons, Hardy said.

News reports of his excommunication helped sales of the 2008 calendar and have landed Hardy larger U.S. and international distribution contracts for the just-released 2009 edition, which carries a disclaimer that it is not directly affiliated with or endorsed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

On the Net:

- LDS Church: <http://www.lds.org>
- Calendar site: <http://www.mormonsexposed.com>

Google

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ksl.com

## No BYU diploma for creator of calendar

October 17, 2008



The man who created the controversial "Men on a Mission" calendar has completed his college classes, but he's not getting a degree from Brigham Young University.

That calendar featured former LDS missionaries posing shirtless. It was one of the reasons Chad Hardy was excommunicated from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in July. Hardy walked in August but was told in September he will not receive his diploma. A BYU spokesperson says a student must be in good standing with the university and the LDS church when they apply for graduation.

The Deseret News reports Hardy has not been active in the church for six years but completed his last two required religion courses at BYU over the summer.

The paper says the 2008 "Men on a Mission" calendar sold nearly 10,000 copies.

E-mail: [mrichards@ksl.com](mailto:mrichards@ksl.com)

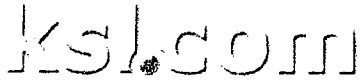
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## Ex-Mormon calendar-maker has BYU diploma yanked

October 20, 2008

By JENNIFER DOBNER  
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Brigham Young University has yanked the diploma of a man who created a calendar featuring shirtless Mormon missionaries and was later excommunicated from the church.

Chad Hardy of Las Vegas attended graduation ceremonies Aug. 15 after finishing up his last four units of study online in June. But on July 13, in between completing his studies and the graduation ceremony, he was excommunicated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

A Sept. 30 letter from Norman B. Finlinson, the school's executive director of student academic and advisement services, said a nonacademic hold was placed on Hardy's record after the church-owned university learned of the excommunication.

"If in the future you are reinstated as a member of the church in good standing, you are invited to contact my office regarding your possible eligibility for the awarding of a degree," Finlinson wrote.

Hardy, 31, plans to challenge the school's decision.

"I intend to fight this tooth-and-nail," he said.

Hardy's excommunication for conduct unbecoming a church member was rooted in his failure to pay tithing, a lapse in other religious obligations and, according to Las Vegas regional church elder Frank E. Davie, his involvement with the 2008 "Men on a Mission" calendar.

Hardy's calendar sold nearly 11,000 copies and features 12 returned church missionaries in mostly modest poses, minus their trademark white shirts, ties and black plastic name badges.

The calendar was intended to shake up the stuffy, cookie-cutter stereotype often associated with Mormons, Hardy said.

News reports of his excommunication helped sales of the 2008 calendar and have landed Hardy larger U.S. and international distribution contracts for the just-released 2009 edition, which carries a disclaimer that it is not directly affiliated with or endorsed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

On the Net:

LDS Church: <http://www.lds.org>

Calendar site: <http://www.mormonsexposed.com>

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# Deseret News

## Shirtless calendar costs creator his BYU degree

Published October 16, 2008

PROVO — Selling a calendar of shirtless returned missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints first cost Chad Hardy his membership in the church.

Now it's cost him his Brigham Young University degree.

Hardy walked in BYU commencement ceremonies in August, but a BYU administrator informed him in a letter dated Sept. 30 that he had been deleted from the August graduation list and would not be awarded his degree in broadcasting.

BYU spokeswoman Carri Jenkins confirmed BYU has not granted Hardy a diploma.

"When a student applies for graduation, he or she must be in good standing with the university," Jenkins said.

The BYU letter said Hardy's degree is on hold because he was not in good honor code standing because of his excommunication. The LDS Church owns and operates BYU. The letter invited Hardy to contact the executive director of student academic and advisement services about his degree if he returns to good standing in the church.

Hardy completed the final requirements for his degree over the summer by completing two religion courses. Hardy was excommunicated by the church on July 13. Hardy had not been active in the church for six years.

The 2008 "Men on a Mission" calendar sold nearly 10,000 copies. The 2009 version was released in September.

— Tad Walch

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# BYU denies diploma for calendar maker

Jennifer Dobner  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — The Las Vegas man behind a calendar featuring shirtless returned LDS missionaries has been denied a diploma by Brigham Young University.

Chad Hardy said he finished his last four units for graduation in June. On Aug. 15, he crossed the stage with other graduates during ceremonies at the Provo school.

In between, he was excommunicated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A Sept. 30 letter from BYU Executive Director of Student Academic & Advisement Services Norman B. Finlinson states that a nonacademic hold was placed on Hardy's record after the university learned of the excommunication.

"If in the future you are reinstated as a member of the church

See **DIPLOMA**, A6

## Diploma

Continued from A1

in good standing, you are invited to contact my office regarding your possible eligibility for the awarding of a degree," Finlinson wrote.

Hardy said he'll challenge BYU's position.

"I intend to fight this tooth-and-nail," the 31-year-old entrepreneur said.

Hardy was excommunicated July 13 by a council of Las Vegas-based church leaders. Officially, the loss of membership was for conduct unbecoming a church member.

The charges were rooted in his failure to pay tithing, a lapse in other religious obligations and, according to a senior church elder, his involvement with the 2008 "Men on a Mission" calendar.

Hardy questioned BYU's timing in withholding the diploma. He said he hasn't been on campus since 2002 and finished up four units of religion courses through an online program in June.

"I registered before all of this drama started happening and I finished [the classes] prior to getting served the let-



AP file

Chad Hardy

ter about my church council. I was done," he said.

Hardy said he learned about the hold in a telephone call with his guidance counselor about a month after the graduation ceremony.

For reasons of confidentiality, BYU spokeswoman Carrie Jenkins said she couldn't discuss Hardy's specific case.

But Jenkins said all universities require students to be in good standing before a diploma is issued.

At BYU, that includes abiding by an honor code that dictates student conduct and behavior standards that mirror the religious principles of

the church.

"This is not unique to BYU," Jenkins stressed. "We do make it clear that even though a student is cleared to walk at graduation, a student must still be in good standing from an academic point of view and an honor code point of view."

Hardy's "Men on a Mission" calendar sold nearly 11,000 copies at \$14.99 each. The calendar features 12 returned church missionaries in mostly modest poses, minus their trademark white shirts, ties and black plastic name badges.

The calendar was intended to shake up the stuffy, cookie-cutter stereotype often associated with Latter-day Saints, Hardy said.

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