

THE SEWANEE PURPLE

The University of the South

Sewanee, Tennessee 37375

Controversy Over Consultants

Regents Ask Cash Be Raised for Land Use

The Sewanee Purple
News Staff

Outside consultants will be hired to conduct a professional "land use" study for the Domain, but the Board of Regents wants the \$150,000 cost to be covered by money from outside the University plant fund, officials said last week.

"The board has reaffirmed the desire to do a professional land use study," said Tom Kepple, University vice president for business and community relations. "We are probably going to delay it, however, in order to find another way to fund it."

A land use study includes planning new buildings, houses, and community facilities as well as projecting future University construction.

"The Regents want us to find other

sources to pay for some, or all, of the study," said Vice-Chancellor Samuel R. Williamson last week. "Some foundations have helped in town and urban planning, and we are going to try those first."

Whether the University should spend the money to hire an out-of-town firm has been the focus of recent controversy, and the College faculty voted overwhelmingly in January to recommend not hiring consultants.

Kepple, however, is recommending going outside the University for planners and advice.

"There's no question in my mind about that," said Kepple. "An outside planner brings some objectivity to the process that we don't have if we do it ourselves."

But the faculty resolution advising against hiring consultants, which was

signed by 19 professors and endorsed by a strong majority of the full faculty, takes issue with that.

"We have in the past tried various times using 'planning experts' to do surveys and the experience has always been poor," said Professor of Spanish Eric W. Naylor, who signed and voted for the resolution. "The consultants eventually take their orientation from the persons who hire them or pay them, and never dominate the lay of the land—in all its senses."

The faculty vote was the reason the matter was brought back before the Regents, who had approved such a study in October. One of the arguments against hiring consultants was that local studies in the past have been sound plans, but were never implemented.

"We believe that planning of this sort should be based on local expertise

and opinion and should depart from that perspective for specific advice," said Naylor.

"We brought it back up again, taking into consideration the view of the faculty that we have limited resources," said Kepple.

According to Kepple, bringing in an outside firm gives the planning process a perspective and potential options that are missing from a strictly local plan.

"Essentially, the board said 'yes, we should go ahead,' and we should find some of that money from gifts and grants," said Kepple.

According to numerous remarks and reports over the past year, a central concern of the Regents has been the cost of operating the University and its various programs.

1991 Budget Approved

Regents Meet, Discuss Costs and Budget

The Sewanee Purple
News Staff

The winter meeting of the Board of Regents ended last week with the board approving the University's 1991 budget and with the expectation that it will hear arguments about proposed curriculum revisions at their spring meeting.

The budget was approved as recommended, and the meeting produced "a fairly free flow of ideas," Vice-Chancellor Samuel R. Williamson said after the two-day session ended last week.

Asked about what issues the Regents had specifically addressed, Williamson said that tuition and the question of financial aid had been discussed, as well as the budget and the potential land use study. (see related story on this page)

"The issue of scholarships and how we can finance education for middle-income students was important," Williamson said. "We spent lots of time talking about this."

A report of the College Budget Priorities Committee asked that the Regents remember "that essentially all colleges are communities of teachers and students attempting to master a curriculum. We urge you to place primary economic emphasis on these essential components of this University."

"We warn against spending whatever that is peripheral or unessential to our academic endeavors, or that might weaken the economic

support available to fund them," the report said. "Specifically we are concerned with such issues as the expansion of non-academic areas of the University corporation, multiplication of so-called support staff, which places undue economic stress on the academic life of the University, and with plans for expanding and developing this community in ways that make no immediate contribution to its intellectual mission."

According to the Vice-Chancellor, "The Regents listened with interest and thanked the faculty for their views."

The proposed curriculum revisions were raised at a Monday luncheon with the Regents and the Student Life Committee, a group of various student officeholders who traditionally meet with the Regents once during the board's sessions. (see related story on page 3)

"They (the Regents) want to be thoroughly informed about what's going on," said Williamson of the curriculum issue. "But there's not much very precisely to have a discussion about."

"We've got lots of long discussions on the curriculum still to go," said Williamson.

According to a source familiar with the situation, the Regents are asking that a variety of viewpoints on the proposed reductions in both faculty course load and undergraduate requirements be presented to them at their next meeting in the spring.

In addition to action regarding the College, the Regents, according to

Williamson, were encouraged by an improved budgetary situation at the School of Theology. There have been several reports over the past few years that the seminary was in poor financial condition.

The Vice-Chancellor will report on the meeting to the Joint Faculties this week.

PLEASE SEE BUDGET PAGE 5

'Crimes' at Sewanee Reported in Articles

By Ben Zeigler
Associate Editor

A front-page article in *The Nashville Tennessean* last week alleged that Sewanee's crime rate was the highest of any Tennessee college campus during the period from August to December of last year.

Using statistics gathered by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the article compares the crime rates at 23 private and public colleges in the state, ranking them according to the number of crimes per 1,000 people that occurred during the period surveyed.

"It is completely and totally misleading to say that Sewanee has a crime problem," said Vice-Chancellor Samuel R. Williamson last week. "I think Sewanee's the safest campus in the South to go to school on."

The findings characterized as "crimes" all incidents that required police action, and there was no

distinction drawn between violent crimes and more benign ones.

Austin Peay State University led public colleges with 32.9 crimes per 1,000 people, and Sewanee's 57 crimes during the five-month period put it at the top of the private list with a rate of 38.0.

"As alarming as the headline sounds, it is misleading in that we are not reporting here offenses such as assault, robbery, arson, burglary, or rape," said Sewanee Police Chief H. Wayne McBee. "The offenses reported were for the greatest part larceny, theft of bicycles, billfolds, and other small items, and there have been no instances of violent crime reported, no crimes against another person."

A press release from the Office of Public Relations points out that the article mentions other campuses with higher crime rates than Sewanee

PLEASE SEE CRIMES PAGE 3

NEWS

Rain Fails to Dampen Spirits

Women's Rush Ends, 116 Pledge Sororities

The Sewanee Purple
News Staff

Sorority rush concluded on Saturday, Feb. 3, after a week of house visits and other rush events. A performance by the well-known band "Indecision" at Cravens Hall, sponsored by all the sororities and a host of other University organizations, capped off Shake Day festivities. The inclement weather also made "mud wrestling" a popular activity for pledges and active members alike.

The women who pledged the six local sororities are listed below.

Alpha Delta Theta (29): Deborah Aspria, Diane Berry, Jennifer Bess, Becki Brown, Leticia Christison, Keri Downing, Catherine Edwards, Amy Gerbracht, Melissa Hartley, Tammy Haston, Mary Henry, Ashley Heyer, Leslie Hires, Stacy Juckett, Carolyn Kannwisher, Elizabeth Mallonace, Kathleen Mandato, Kathy Morris, Susan Mueller, Shannon Prothro, Maria Ranieri, Mary Margaret Roberts, Mary Sanders, Lindy Schill, Elena Soto, Anne Steilberg, Sara Terry, Melanie Thompson, Jennifer Wheeler

Alpha Tau Zeta (11): Cindy Gentry,

Kathe Hochling, Catherine Kaiser, Cara Prevatt, Helen Prior, Kate Rehkopf, Kim Shear, Heather Sterling, Tagana Terados, Faith Tibbals, Joann Wyant

Gamma Tau Upsilon (3): Lisa Amelise, Erin Warmack, Dawn Wilkins

Phi Kappa Epsilon (27): Beth Batton, Elizabeth Bell, Jennifer Bennet, Ann Carmen Butler, Whitney Cain, Jade Davis, Paige Ford, Anne Grimsley, Morgan Healey, Camille Jones, Julie Jenkins, Jennifer Maddox, Victoria Manley, Jill McClure, Robbin Milan, Rebecca Miller, Paige Parvin, Mary K. Perkins, Jules Phelps, Annie Reinert, Laura Rich, Leslie Rummel, Alex Seblanigg, Anna Sims, Elizabeth Tindal, Chris Worley, Betsy Yeckel

Theta Kappa Phi (21): Tracie Armstrong, Lori Black, Kelley Bruner, Amy Ditsler, Alison Dorman, Edie

Dubose, Carolyn Evans, Sarah Gilbert, Ashley Griffin, Ann McDaniel, Libba Manning, Nicki Oliver, Melissa Parrot, Katie Patton, Miriam Street, Anne Tamsberg, Meredith Temple, Molly Toole, Suzanne Vann, Ginny Ware, Mary Bell Wasden



JUBILANT MEMBERS OF Theta Kappa Phi take part in Shake Day revelry. Shake Day activities included sorority parties and a band at Cravens. (Photo by Ly Hutchinson)

Theta Pi (25): Judy Balis, Katherine Cloninger, Dale Colmore, Catherine Creagh, Julie Fowler, Jennie Goodrum, Lori Hackleman, Heather Howell, Angi Johnson, Elizabeth Kelleher, Margaret Knight, Cameron Lewis, Missy May,

Mara Morreale, Laura Beth Neely, Megan Noriega, Louise Rice, Amanda Samson, Donna Sharp, Sara Sheppard, Page Shurgar, Margaret Smith, Robert Synder, Cameron Tyer, Jennifer Warren

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Students and Regents Discuss Various Issues

The Sewanee Purple
News Staff

Possible curriculum revisions and a request to increase the student activity fee by \$20 highlighted the traditional meeting between the Board of Regents and the Student Life Committee on Monday, Feb. 19.

What direction the College should take on curriculum revisions was raised by two undergraduates at the meeting. Current proposals include the possibility of reducing faculty teaching load and undergraduate course load by 10-20 percent.

The details of the proposals, a subject of debate for over two years, are uncertain at this time, numerous officials say.

"After Jon Meacham (the editor of The Sewanee Purple) spoke on the history of the revisions, I talked about how they might fit with the academic traditions here," said Trey Moye, president of the Order of Gownsmen. "Sewanee has always been a teaching college, and the 5-clip per semester system allows the student to take a variety of courses that enable him to enhance his experience here."

Lane Williams, speaker of the Student Assembly, proposed raising the student activity fee to fund student organizations more fully. The fund pays for projects as diverse as student publications, WUTS, and all club sports, among many others.

"There are 51 organizations that petitioned for money from the Student Activity Fee Committee last year, and only 12 got the full amount they requested," Williams said. "The University needs to continue financial support of these organizations because they play a vital role in Sewanee life." S. A. F. C. chairman Rondal

Richardson supports a \$10 increase.

Loretta Shantley, chairman of both the Honor Council and the Inter-Sorority Council, discussed the status of the women's field hockey team, a source of controversy for several years.

At issue is whether the team should be restored to varsity status, a condition that would give them the funds necessary to hire a coach and play a full schedule of matches. Arguments for varsity status include using the sport as a recruitment tool and giving female undergraduates another sport in which to participate.

The University was urged to move quickly to secure an operator for either a restaurant or coffee shop to fill the space beside the new "Tiger Pantry" on University Avenue by Junior Student Trustee Marney Walker.

Senior Student Trustee Katy Morrissey commended the current system of allocating financial aid for undergraduates, particularly the policy of reducing required loans for students with higher grade point averages.

The continuing discussions of the nature of undergraduate social life were commented on by Williams and Moye, who disagreed over the direction the talks were taking.

"I think the task force is doing an

PLEASE SEE ISSUES PAGE 5

Health Services Now Expanded for Students

By Ashley Heyer
Staff Writer

A newly completed restructuring of the University Health Service includes the hiring of a nurse practitioner who can prescribe medicine and provide some gynecological care, officials say.

The Health Service has recently been approved as a primary care center by the state primary care board. A primary care center is a nurse practitioner-based health service where the nurse practitioner can perform many services that a doctor normally would.

"Our licensed nurse practitioner, Anne Sitz, can now prescribe medications and do full examinations," said Dean of Women Mary Susan Cushman last week.

This will leave more time for the doctors to do more thorough physical examinations and will also increase the hours a student can go to the Health Service for prescriptions from 12 p.m.-2 p.m. to 8 p.m.-4 p.m.

The doctor services will still be available to University students at no cost, excluding laboratory fees. The doctors and Nurse Sitz will now be able to complete work, school and overseas travel physicals.

Whether the Health Service will be

authorized to prescribe birth control to female undergraduates is a subject of current discussion in various parts of the University at the moment, sources say.

"This issue keeps coming up in different forums," said an official familiar with the situation.

No definite decision on this, however, has been made.

According to Mrs. Cushman, the goal of the restructuring that began in 1987 is "to provide as responsive, efficient and comprehensive a program of health services for our students as possible in a primary care system with the nurse practitioner serving as the first line of health care."

While the Health Service wanted to begin nurse practitioner services as early as 1987, it took the University three years to hire one. During the restructuring, the Health Service moved from the old post office building next to the bookstore to the physicians' building at Emerald Hodgson Hospital.

Their space in that building has been expanded and an overnight infirmary has been added in the hospital. In the office expansion, a "holding space," like an observation wing, has been added for students with nausea or requiring IV's to be watched for a period of time.

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CRIMES FROM PAGE 1

(Tennessee Temple, for instance, had a rate of 72.8 per 1,000 people), that are not included in the rankings.

This press release also notes that, unlike most of the campuses in the survey, Sewanee is "an open, residential campus with much traffic from people outside of the University community, who were often involved in the offenses cited in this report."

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OPINION

An Open and Affable System

With so much controversy surrounding the ongoing efforts of the "task force" appointed to examine undergraduate social life, it seems that many people have failed to realize what is essentially at issue in this extensive and time-consuming endeavor. Months of tiresome student-faculty dialogues and ludicrously minute examinations of every aspect of student life beyond the classroom have served to obscure how much is actually at risk for students in the College and Sewanee as a whole.

The impetus for the committee was provided by the Vice-Chancellor, who, at the end of his first year at Sewanee, expressed concern about "the quality of extracurricular life." In the intervening months the committee's attitude seems to have become more and more unfavorable to the social system currently enjoyed by the majority of students. Allegations of serious shortcomings in extracurricular life at Sewanee have been levelled, and attacks have been made upon our lack of social "alternatives," "elitist" fraternities, and even the way students chose to seat themselves at Gailor.

Calls for a restructuring of the traditional social life of Sewanee are now being made by a vocal, and apparently influential, few. They see the open and affable social life centered around the fraternity system that has prospered for over a century as oppressive, elitist, and generally detrimental to the lives of students. They want increased social "alternatives," and believe that by breaking up many longstanding social organizations, or at least by severely limiting their activities, every discontented person will be happy and all undergraduates will become friends.

What this powerful minority fails to realize is that these people who are discontented with the social life at Sewanee, while they are free to express their grievances, have essentially made their own bed. Every student who comes to Sewanee is aware, or at least should be, that ours is an isolated, basically rural campus that offers few social activities other than those centering around the fraternity houses. This should be an important consideration to those applying to attend Sewanee, and thus each student, and not the nature of this place, should be held ultimately responsible for his own happiness. For anyone seeking a variety of "alternatives" there are thousands of colleges across the country in metropolitan areas from which to choose.

The founders chose this remote location for the University of the South with the express purpose of getting the student away from the abundance of distracting "alternatives" found in more populous areas. As a result Sewanee has evolved into a place markedly different from other colleges of its size. Our social structure perhaps reflects this the best, and in changing it as radically as many suggest, we would gravely compromise our identity.

Sewanee is an unusual place and not everyone is going to find it to his liking. But trying to change our own identity to suit the wishes of a disgruntled few will be no remedy. Attacking such longstanding bastions of our particular way of life will only serve to create dissension and strife within our campus, and those who do so have a narrow view of both our past and our future.

We must then accept that we have our own way in which we go about living our lives on this mountain. We are not exclusive, nor are we oppressive to those who seek to follow their own interests. Our fraternity system, and our social system as a whole, is one of the most open and affable on any campus of which I know. Not everyone likes it, but not everyone has to come to Sewanee. We cannot seek to change things just to reach some false idea of suiting everyone's tastes. If we attempt to please people in that kind of way we can only cease to be who we are. We must cling to the things that make us different, and better, than other places.

BEN ZEIGLER

Abbo's Scrapbook Revisited

Here again we present some smatterings from the scrapbook of the late Professor of English Abbot Cotten Martin. These are gleaned from the 1951-1952 issues of The Sewanee Purple.

October 24, 1951: "To be free," says Mr. Robert Hutchins, "a

man must understand the tradition in which he lives." John Bunyan no doubt represents one kind of excellence; Sir Philip Sidney represents another. Intending no discourtesy to Bunyan, a Sewanee man, if he understands his tradition, is bound to prefer Sir Philip.

October 31, 1951: Our business in this world is not to succeed but to continue to fail, in good spirits. --R. L. S.

January 9, 1952: Not a single match factory has been destroyed by fire in over 100 years--Radio Station WJR, Detroit, 22 December 1951.

April 16, 1952: The University of the South, it may safely be assumed, would never achieve any distinction posing as the University of the North.

May 22, 1952: Some years ago a prominent Chattanooga was addressing a public gathering in his city. "My ambition," he said, "is to see Chattanooga the most moral town in the nation!" The applause was terrific. A saintly man, who was also wise, once assured us that God has a sense of humor.

June 4, 1952: A radical is a person who thinks that man was made for the Sabbath. A conservative, on the other hand, understands why oranges will not do well in Ontario, and why fish do not forage through the garden like rabbits.

Letters to the Editor

A Clarification

To the Editor:

I greatly appreciate *The Purple's* coverage of the College Budget Priority Report in the last issue. However, the article on the report contained one serious error.

In neither the report, nor in our discussions in the preparation of the report, nor in my interview with Mr. Zeigler was any reference made to the

size of the college admissions staff. Our committee was not in any way concerned with evaluating the internal operations of the admissions office. Our interest was exclusively in the total cost of our admissions program in relation to the general revenues of the University.

Sincerely,

John Reishman
Professor of English

The Sewanee Purple

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Founded 1892

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The Sewanee Purple is published every two weeks during the academic year by the students of The University of the South. Signed opinions expressed within do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial staff, The University of the South, or its employees. Unsigned editorials represent the consensus of the senior editorial staff. EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING OFFICES: Third Floor, Bishop's Common, Sewanee, Tennessee. Address correspondence to: The Sewanee Purple / University Station / Sewanee, TN 37375. (615) 598-1204. Subscriptions are \$12.00 a year.

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ECCŒ QUAM BONUM

Barkan To Lecture On Ganymede

The Sawanee Purple
Arts and Entertainment Staff

The University Lectures Committee and the Department of English are pleased to announce that Leonard Barkan, Franklyn Bliss Snyder Professor of English and Art History at Northwestern University, will present a lecture entitled "Dante, Michelangelo, and the Culture of Ganymede" on Thursday, March 1, at 8 p.m. in Convocation Hall.

Author of numerous studies assessing the force of myth in shaping aesthetic and intellectual culture, Professor Barkan received Phi Beta Kappa's 1987 Christian Gauss Award for *The Gods Made Flesh: Metamorphosis and the Pursuit of Paganism*, published by Yale University Press. Barkan was graduated from Swarthmore College; he completed the Ph.D. in English Literature at Yale University where he was awarded the Theron Rockwell Field Prize. His first

book, *Nature's Work of Art*, was published by Yale in 1975.

Professor Barkan's talk will address several passages in Dante's *Commedia*, including *Inferno 15* and *Purgatorio 9* (the dream of Ganymede), together with some drawings by Michelangelo, especially a pair depicting Ganymede and Tityus executed in 1532. The lecture is free and open to the public.

ISSUES FROM PAGE 3

excellent job," Williams said. "There is extensive discussion concerning all aspects of student life, and keen student interest has been shown by the high attendance at student-faculty dialogues. The task force, in its final report, will make concrete recommendations."

Among those recommendations will be building sorority houses, hiring more women faculty, making some dorms co-ed, and moving rush to the second semester for men and women, Williams said.

Moye, who, along with Williams, sits on the task force's steering committee, disagrees. "It's long on suggestions and short on answers," said Moye. "At this point I think it's nothing more than reckless musings. It will be interesting to see if anything ever actually comes of it."

"I feel he misrepresented the goals and aims of the task force," Williams said. "The issues he discussed were mentioned only in passing, and the task force was designed with the students in mind."

Curriculum, Task Force Raised

BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

University Avenue by Junior Student Trustee Marsey Walker.

Senior Student Trustee Katy Morrissey commended the current system of allocating financial aid for undergraduates, particularly the policy of reducing required loans for students with higher grade point averages.

The continuing discussions of the nature of undergraduate social life were commented on by Williams and Moye, who disagreed over the direction the talks were taking.

"I think the task force is doing an excellent job," Williams said. "There is extensive discussion concerning all aspects of student life, and keen student interest has been shown by the high attendance at student-faculty dialogues. The task force, in its final report, will

make concrete recommendations."

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ODK Elects 22 New Members

The Sawanee Purple
News Staff

The Sawanee chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa has elected 22 new undergraduate members and inducted them into the national honor society on Feb. 15, according to president Missy Meredith.

The organization "recognizes juniors and seniors who have contributed to the life of the College" in scholarship and a host of other academic and social endeavors. Membership is limited to 32, and each candidate must have an academic average in the top 35 percent of his class.

The 11 juniors in the College were elected: Curt Cloninger, Anastasia Cochran, Wyman Duggan, Greg Esslinger, Uday Ganjkar, Will Phillips, Ronald Richardson, Julia Sibley, Diana Suter, Peggy Will, and Beth Wright.

The 11 seniors are: Anna Beasnett, Blair Beavers, Sandy Guitler, Thomas Mavor, Anne Moore, Wendy Morrison, Kathy Rogers, Elizabeth Kossi, Laura Kay, Walker, Cameron Wallace, and Todd Williams.

These people join the current membership of Cynthia Becker, Leigh Ann Couch, Dennis Kezer, Missy Meredith, Doug Merril, Katy Morrissey, secretary Kathy Roberts, Loretta Shanley, Howie Sompayrac, and Kathy Travis.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Book Review

By Thomas Mavor
Arts Editor

Emma Who Saved My Life
by Wilton Barnhardt
St. Martin's Press, 1989, \$19.95, 270
pages

Emma Who Saved My Life is neither innovative in message nor in form, but the novel remains highly accessible, for through his pages, Wilton Barnhardt constructs and describes scenes of humour and mishap so improbable and ironic that laughing aloud is a pleasurable relief.

The plot of this novel is simple. Young Gilbert Freeman, Indiana college student, leaves his static studies to pursue his American dream—to become a famous actor on Broadway. The move to New York City is frightening for this naive Midwesterner, but when economic necessity forces him to share rooms with "friends of friends," Gilbert is well on his way to understanding the crazy daily game of life in the big city.

His roommates are Lisa and Emma, and amongst the three of these struggling youngsters, they quickly become accustomed to seedy apartments, greasy breakfast specials, and cheap wines. Gilbert snatches a job at an "off off" Broadway theatre as a handyman, and is able to work his way into bit roles. In between episodes from his liling career, Barnhardt unrelentingly describes Emma Gennaro, the pessimistic, witty, attractive, insecure would-be poet; she later becomes an prescription habituate addict, and remains celibate for several years to prove her independence from men.

Gilbert and Emma begin a friendship that borders on physical passion, but ultimately causes an antagonistic division between the two. They temporarily become close again when their roommate Lisa marries an advertising executive and has a child. Through a series of lucky connections, Gilbert lands a Broadway role, but this experience testifies to his inability to get "good enough" for New York City. Once he realizes this, he is able to bow gratefully to his dream, then move back to Illinois and marry his college girlfriend.

Gilbert himself tells the story of his tippy-turvy life in New York City, but from the perspective of a husband and father years later in Illinois. Through this first person point of view and flashback technique, Barnhardt injects a nostalgic humor into the story, but never does he submerge the plot in trite sentimentality. Gilbert realizes, through his experiences in New York, that the failure of the "American Dream" is sometimes a success, for his stint as an actor fulfills his "wishes," while also guiding him to a way of life that provides true happiness.

The book follows chronological order within the extended flashbacks, but the narration follows situations more than strict chronology; major episodes of note include Susan's Soho party, the opening of Gilbert's play "Bermuda Triangle" on July 4 in New Jersey, and the final confrontation between Gilbert and Emma in Far Rockaway. Perhaps the message may be simple; perhaps the plot may be familiar, perhaps the language is unaffected and casual; but the humour "steals the show."

Chicago Photos To Be Shown in Gallery

The Sewanee Purple
Arts and Entertainment Staff

"Chicago Builds Medieval," an exhibition of photographs from the Emory University Museum of Art and Archaeology, will be in the University Gallery from March 15 until April 25. The opening reception will be held Thursday, March 15, from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. in the University Gallery.

The exhibition illustrates how American architects have adapted a taste for the Middle Ages to the architecture of a variety of buildings in Chicago. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Taken by Dr. Thomas W. Lyman, professor of art history at Emory University, the photographs focus on the facades of buildings from mid-19th century to the present. Lyman, a native of Chicago himself, notes that some of the buildings featured are very familiar. All of them, he points out, are visible daily to thousands of commuters, office workers and students, as well as the casual visitor who frequents those parts of the city stretching along Chicago's famous lakefront.

For more information on the showing, contact Lane Magruder, Gallery Coordinator.

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JOHN BREWSTER: Go to a strip bar as an employee.

GREG ESSLINGER: Leave her hanging in a tree.

JOSEPHINE "JO JO" ROSE: Get wasted.

MEREDITH WALKER: Dance with a man with a mustache.

FRAN MOOMAW: I guess I would streak in the Rex parade.

CAMERON TYER: Try every shot they had in Nick's Bar, especially Kamikazoes.

STUART PIERSON: Study.

CHARLES GOODMAN: I wouldn't be here.

MATTHEW HARRISON: Everything I could.

BRADFORD LADD: Wear a G string on Bourbon Street.

JIM BALCOM: Shoot tequila with John Gross at Tipatina's.

MICHAEL DEADRICK: Go to the Sewanee Inn and sing dirty limericks.

ANGI JOHNSON: Handcuff a policeman with party beads and take his badge.

HOLLY PATRICK: Tie myself to a float with party beads and cruise down St. Charles Ave.

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THE LAST WORD

Social and Political Commentary

Lytle Publishes New Collection of Essays

By Jon Meacham
Editor

Andrew Nelson Lytle was born the day after Christmas, 1902—like a wet firecracker, his mother remarked. That was a long time ago, and in the intervening years Lytle and his work have been testaments to a world that, he says, is closer to that of Henry II than to our own.

A collection of Lytle's hitherto uncollected social and political essays, pieces in which he articulates a vision of life fundamentally linked to an older, warmer world, was recently published by Regency Gateway of Washington.

"To have these pieces presented as a set, in company, is to put in perspective the scope of Mr. Lytle's overall achievement, the larger resonance of historic vision which stands behind his career as artist and sage—as teacher, editor, critic, and keeper of the communal memory," writes M. E. Bradford, the editor of the collection of 17 essays, in an introduction.

The essays, entitled *From Eden to Babylon*, were written over the course of fifty years. The first, appropriately, is *The Hind Tit*, Lytle's 1930 contribution to *I'll Take My Stand*. It was in that symposium that Lytle first joined forces with some of the most significant men in the history of twentieth-century literature and letters, particularly John Crowe Ransom, Donald Davidson, Allen Tate, and Robert Penn Warren.

That Lytle is now the last surviving member of that extraordinary collection of writers informs this new book of essays with a sense or completion of the voice that was first heard 60 years ago.

Bradford makes the same point: "These essays...give us Andrew Lytle as citizen and public man, as commentator on Southern history and the general secularization of what once was Christendom, in roles he has played throughout his adult life."

The essays range from the agrarianism of *The Small Farm Secures the State* to portraits of Southern figures like John Taylor of Caroline County Virginia, Robert E. Lee, John C. Calhoun, and Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Included here is Lytle's moving 1964 "Founders' Day Address, *A Christian University and the Word*, in which he defends Sewanee's Southern inheritance as the one distinctive and redemptive element of the University in an age of disorder.

"We are here to bear witness and perform an act of piety," Lytle says. "The fringe for a gentleman has been with us for a long time. It has survived from before the days when Christendom was rent. I think we have to go back to that."

And that, ultimately, is what all these essays, in one way or another, are about: going back to a sense of man as



ANDREW NELSON LYTLE, writer, teacher, critic, and longtime editor of the *Swanee Review*, has recently published 17 essays and two interviews. (Photo courtesy of the Development Office)

essentially a frail creature, trying to make his way through a world in which the very order of life has been shattered.

"In my childhood, most human creatures, as they set forth to work or play, dance or love, touched hallowed ground, a pond, an everlasting spring, an old elm, a farm that generations had known and lived on and by," Lytle remembers, arguing that only in a world where the family is the essential element can any order be found.

"Location is that other force in our inheritance which balances our need for movement. It is the family which represents it and maintains it. The family does not flourish amid abstract ideas. It is substantial, concrete, sensible...It was the basic unity of the Christian community, and hence the state," Lytle says elsewhere, remarking on Forrest.

"It was this kind of a community

that Forrest surrendered in 1865, but it was not delivered over until a hundred years later. It was the community into which I was born and in which memory called Forrest the great hero."

This particular voice, iterated again and again, remarks powerfully and assuredly on agrarianism, Southern heroes and Christian gentlemen, and the plight of those of us who live, in Bradford's phrase, "somewhere between Eden and Babylon, the Land of Nod, and Heaven's Gate."

In piece looking back at *I'll Take My Stand* fifty years later, Lytle talks about a trip he took to Mississippi, "where Forrest often rode.

"Going through the backcountry to Tupelo, I stopped to inquire along the way...I was told to go down the road, and he pointed which way, until I came to a widow-woman's house, where I was to turn left. I thanked him and went on.

"I had no trouble finding the widow-woman's house. It had no stovewood stacked in the yard.

"I've often asked myself: Why was it so few people listened to us, although most were sympathetic. The kind of life they knew was at stake. I think the reason of their seeming indifference is this: Nobody could imagine the world they were born in, had lived in, and were still living in could disappear.

"Well, it has."

Reflections on a world that has disappeared fill this volume, and the essays move gracefully from particular historical portraits to a long, retrospective view of things. Lytle's vocation as, in his phrase, a writer and reader of fiction, make these essays evocative and dramatic in a way that is frequently absent from political and social commentary. Here, for instance, is the rest of the passage on the anniversary of *I'll Take My Stand*:

"As my final word, I think we should have found a larger word than agrarian, for it was this whole country's Christian inheritance that was threatened, and still is. But let there be no misunderstanding. We are still subjects of Christendom. Only we have reached its Satanic phase.

"I can't believe that any society is strong which holds physical comfort as its quest. There is only one comfort, and it is the only thing that has been promised: the gates of Hell will not finally prevail."

As Bradford points out, the Lytle essays written in the last three decades possess a sense of elegy, of broad cultural analysis and retrospection.

"Andrew Lytle remembered, in an elegiac vein looking back over the years of his teaching and writing, listening to friends when they were young and to other neighbors and relations now long since dead, introduces a third voice into this collection, a person of incredible charm and good humor," Bradford writes.

The assured authority of Lytle's voice, imbued with the sort of charm and good humor that Bradford alludes to, is explicitly evident in a concluding interview with Madison Smartt Bell, another Tennessee novelist.

Bell asks Lytle whether he believes the story of the Garden of Eden is a tragedy, and here is Lytle's answer:

"It's not a tragedy, it's just the beginning of life. In the beginning of life you have comedy and tragedy too. But it seems to you you cannot fall from innocence, no way to. You quicken into living, and you fall into, you enter, the wilderness of time.

"That's a mighty broad subject. I'm going to make some biscuits, if you'll cut the ham. Can you all cast some ham? The turkey is, well, not deliquescent, I hope it's not, but we might best avoid it."