

The Sewanee Purple

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The Faculty Dilemma: Is Sewanee Trading Quantity for Quality?

Sandy Kern

As Sewanee pushes for growth in the student body, the faculty voice may be being silenced. Sewanee may be losing sight of its fundamental mission of education in its drive to expand enrollment numbers. It cannot be denied that faculty members are experiencing frustration with growing class sizes and a static teacher population. Professors are relatively positive about the long-term effects of the growing student population but agree that something must be done to maintain the quality of student-professor relationships.

The situation reached a major turning point two weeks ago when Dean Kipp announced her resignation during a stalemate about next year's class schedule. The Coordinating Committee, made up of Professors Fred Croom, Laurie Ramsey, Nancy Berner, and Scott Wilson played a role in facilitating discussions about a class schedule for the fall '07 semester that accommodates both faculty and students. Professor Ramsey explained the complicated process of scheduling by using the Advent 2006 schedule as an example, detailing the classes offered during the week and how many sections are offered each hour. "Compression is a problem," she

explained, "and we're trying to remedy that." An example of compression can be found when looking at Tuesday/Thursday classes offered at 8:00-9:15, 9:30-10:45, and 11:00-12:15. There are forty-six sections being taught during the 9:30 and the 11:00 o'clock classes but only sixteen classes are offered during the 8:00 am time slot. Another problem, Ramsey stated, is that many teachers "create slots" for class times, which creates another problem as some classes begin to overlap and leave fewer options open to students. "How do we give students more choices?" Ramsey asked. The Coordinating Committee hopes to assuage these problems by not necessarily changing the schedule, but by suggesting set time slots and alleviating this compression of classes. Compression can be solved, for example, by offering an equal number of sections during the aforementioned Tuesday/Thursday morning classes, thereby giving students more options. Dean Kipp played a key role in envisaging a more organized afternoon schedule.

The growing student population is not necessarily a problem that needs changing. Bran Potter, a Professor in the Forestry and Geology Department explained the benefits the growing

student body has in his department: "Our department doubled in size in about ten years, from the late 80s to the late 90s. We moved from two foresters and a geologist to three foresters and three geologists. This allowed us to offer two additional majors (Forestry and Geology) in addition to our traditional Natural Resources major. Our number of majors also doubled during this period, so the growth in the student body was very good for this department." Another Professor who feels the larger student body is an improvement is Professor David Landon, from the Theatre Arts Department. Landon stated, "Personally, the growth has not affected me very much. My classes are steady and I am usually able to accommodate students who really want to study acting. I have the same close relationships with students I have always had. There are more demands on my time but on the whole I enjoy the work and find it rewarding. I believe this is the case in theatre generally. Our facilities are significantly better. Our faculty has more than doubled in the last ten to fifteen years so we are able to offer a fairly complete introduction to theatre arts at the undergraduate level."

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The Effects of Sewanee's Increasing Enrollment

James Conner

Ten thousand acres seems like a lot of space for the number of students who live on this beautiful campus. Yet, over the past few years, Sewanee's enrollment has grown, heavily impacting the residential community. For the past two years, eager freshman have found themselves crammed into dorm rooms of inadequate size. Dorms such as Quintard, Hodgson, and Cannon have lost common rooms; single dorm rooms have been turned into doubles, and some doubles have been turned into triples. Even the Sewanee Inn has been transformed into a residence hall. The reason Residential Life is experiencing this dilemma is because there are not enough beds on campus to accommodate the University's growing student body. It is up to the University as to how this problem should be resolved. One suggestion many students offer is to increase the number of students who are allowed to live off campus.

Dean Katie Steele deals with this issue first hand. In the late nineties, the number of students who lived off campus was approximately one hundred. Today the number has shrunk to thirty-seven. This was mainly due to the 2004 completion of Humphrey's Hall, a new dorm, housing one hundred and twenty students. To compensate

for this increase in living space the administration decided to lower the number of off campus residents so that all the resident halls could be filled. Dean Steele wishes to remind students that, "Sewanee is meant to be a residential campus. If we need to increase the number of off campus residents we will, but at this time it is not necessary."

Shortly after Humphrey's completion, the University's enrollment and retention rates began to increase. This forced the renovation of St. Luke's Hall to be sped up an entire year. Dean Steele stresses, "The renovation of St. Luke's was a necessity in order to compensate with the increased number of students." Unfortunately, the addition of St. Luke's has not solved the housing shortage. Dean Steele claims the reason the administration has not increased the number of off-campus residents is because they feel the "increased enrollment problem" will not continue.

Dean of Admissions, David Lesene, feels that Sewanee has experienced growth because the Admissions Office has achieved a number of goals sooner than expected. Originally, the goal for enrollment by 2010 was 1,500 students. Current enrollment is 1,465,

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Earn Your MA/MFA at Sewanee: What's Next?

Lanier Norville

Hearing that Sewanee has doubled its number of graduate programs might come as a shock to some. The success of the School of Letters in its first term last summer confirms that it will continue as a Sewanee graduate tradition alongside the School of Theology. The School of Letters is a graduate program that offers masters degrees in both American literature and creative writing. Many community members have expressed interest in what the introduction of a graduate program other than the School of Theology, which has been here since the beginning, means for the undergraduate program and the community as a whole. The School of Theology was founded alongside the undergraduate school and gives Sewanee its University title. But the recent introduction of a new graduate program could mean more are in the making, and the University of the South could take on new meaning. Ten years down the road Sewanee might be offering a full complement of graduate courses, with grad students swarming favorite hot spots such as McClurg and the pub. Dr. John Grammer, director of the School of Letters, says this kind of a change is not likely. After all, the School of Letters was proposed fifteen years ago and did not hold its first session until last summer. Though it is

possible that another graduate program will arise at Sewanee (Dr. Grammer predicts Environmental Studies as a possibility), the latent period of the School of Letters indicates that another program, if proposed, might take several years to be introduced. Dr. Grammer remarks that adding the School of Letters to the Sewanee repertoire is "a big step, but it's not meant to change the character of the institution." Rather, the School of Letters is designed enhance its character by continuing Sewanee's deeply rooted literary tradition without interfering with the undergraduate school.

The School of Letters will actually benefit Sewanee. Students of the school can earn an MA in American literature or an MFA in creative writing in four or five summers. Anyone with a bachelor's degree can apply, including recent Sewanee graduates. Because classes are held in the summer, the program will not interfere with the regular terms of undergraduate study. In fact, the School of Letters "could help with the recruitment of undergraduates," says Dr. Grammer, by adding strength to Sewanee's literary reputation. The School of Letters has also added a new facet to the literary tradition of Sewanee summers, coinciding with the

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University Working to Replace the First Year Program

Paul Dixon

Although it may seem that the First Year Program has been around since the founding of the university, it was only introduced in 2002 as a radical departure from the previous system of freshmen courses and advising. Since then, the FYP has gradually evolved into a fairly successful program, but it is likely that it only has a few more months of existence left, as a replacement is currently being developed by the faculty and administration.

Before the FYP, freshmen advising was often lacking since students were randomly paired up with a faculty member, so there was no guarantee the two shared any interests. The FYP sought to improve that relationship by ensuring a common academic interest, as well as housing the first year student with similarly interested peers. A 2005 study of the FYP stated the program

was one of "the most ambitious efforts in our curricular history to address the University's ideal of lively intellectual discourse within a healthy residential and advisory setting." While not every FYP course was a resounding success, the majority – such as Professor Potter's *Walking the Land* – were very popular among students and faculty alike. However, the FYP program has a fatal flaw: it is expensive.

Many of the FYP classes are different from the usual introductory courses. As a result, they place a strain on most departments, since FYP classes are effectively an additional class for the department. This was not a serious concern initially, because a Mellon Foundation grant underwrote the program, providing funding for additional faculty and other expenses of the FYP, such as co-curricular

events. However, with the expiration of the grant last year, this is no longer possible. Originally, replacement funding was sought in the current capital campaign but was not included in the final campaign goals.

The 2005 study found that, due to the nontraditional nature of many of the courses, the FYP is actually competing with the core curriculum of the University rather than complimenting it. Out of that realization developed the initial replacement to the FYP, the Gateway Program, which attempted to combine the most beneficial aspects of the FYP – namely the improved advisee-advisor relationship – with more traditional introductory courses that departments were already offering. This would have enabled the FYP program to continue in a more efficient, less costly form. While most

of the faculty support some variation of a new FYP-type program, the specifics of the Gateway program were such that the faculty did not approve it in late February. As a result, the administration and faculty are currently working to develop a more suitable replacement.

It is unfortunate that the search for a replacement has been so last minute. There have not been any University wide reviews or even a focus group studying the program since 2005. As a result, there is little concrete data coming from the people who are directly affected by the program: the participating students and faculty. Hopefully, the University will be able to develop a more sustainable program in the coming weeks.

Theatre Department Applauded for Antigone

Joseph Leray

Jean Anouilh's *Antigone* recasts Sophocles' ancient tragedy during the Nazi occupation of Paris. The University theatre department, however, took Anouilh's script one step further and set it in present day Baghdad, with interesting and satisfying results.

The action opens, not with a soliloquy or invocation of any Muse, but with a masked and turbaned guard escorting you, at gunpoint, from your car to the small, dusty Tennessee William's black box theatre. This type of attention to detail pervades every aesthetic element of the play: the costumes are simultaneously exotic and realistic, the stage is minimal and rustic, and even the seating is used to convey a sense of tension and fear.

Unfortunately, this attention to detail does not permeate every aspect of the play. During the scenes without modern props or allusions, the viewer tends to forget that the play is in fact set in modern times. The costume, set design, and dialogue evoke ancient Thebes as much as modern Baghdad. The result is that the sporadic gunfire and references to cars and cigarettes tend to be more distracting and anachronistic than intellectually scintillating. Indeed, *Antigone* is timeless, and the tension between patriotism, family loyalty, and romantic love are as significant now as they were then; however, this is conveyed best by Anouilh's script and the strength of the acting – not by plastic rifles and strained lines about Polynices' Ferrari.

The acting in *Antigone* was, at least to the untrained lay person, sincere, compelling, and realistic. I was especially struck by the importance of the body language, no doubt due to the small, intimate theatre. I will admit that there were a few points that seemed overly dramatic; however, the good far outweighs the bad, and any individual over-acting was dwarfed by the success of the whole.

All in all, *Antigone* was provocative, controversial and compelling, even for those not familiar with Sophocles or the Greek myth. The setting and stage design succeeded in immersing the audience in the drama and provided an enjoyable and thought-provoking experience.

The Sewanee Purple

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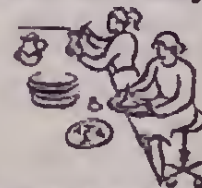
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Sewanee Getting Greener

JACOB MOORE

With a campus that has as much natural beauty as Sewanee's, one often wonders how much work is being done to keep the place so beautiful. Just how green is Sewanee? To its benefit, the school has made great improvements in environmental issues, especially in energy use and conservation. Most new buildings on campus are on the way to being LEED certified, and those that are under renovation receive improvements to become certified. LEED is a set of criteria designed to help construction projects become measurably good for the environment. The acronym stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a project that sets down guidelines nationwide for green development. The checklist consists of measures like insulation, using fluorescent lights and utilizing rain water collected from roofs instead of taxing the water supply and drainage system. The goals of a LEED project are to maximize resources and thereby prevent unnecessary waste. The Spencer Hall addition to Woods Lab will be our first fully LEED certified building.

In the energy department, waste has certainly been curbed. Not only have fluorescent lights been used in new buildings, but wherever a bulb

needs replacing and can feasibly be converted to fluorescent, it is. Even the fluorescent lights we already have on campus get periodically replaced by newer, more efficient designs. As far as individual responsibility, we have campaigns like the Eco Cup every year, encouraging students to reduce unnecessary energy consumption.

Certain issues are unavoidable, however. The new buildings are designed to keep heating more or less uniform throughout. Structurally, they distribute energy efficiently. They also contain state-of-the-art monitoring systems that keep track of which rooms are being occupied and need attention from the heating system. Older buildings aren't quite as impressive. Dorms that are decades old weren't really designed with efficient energy distribution in mind, so in many buildings, a setting that is comfortable at one end of the dorm might be hell-on-earth for another. Rooms on one floor might be getting heat while another receives nothing, which leads inevitably to an uneven and inefficient use of energy.

With all this talk about energy efficiency and waste, you might be asking where we get it all in the first place. The Tennessee Valley Authority provides the campus' power, which

added up to 14,049,998 KWH in 2002. That meant around \$1250 spent per student on power. Unfortunately, 60% of TVA's energy comes from coal. The rest is mostly nuclear power, which has its own problematic implications in nuclear waste. Hydroelectric, the safest and most environmentally friendly form of power production, makes up only 7% of TVA's source. "Coal is hell," explained Professor Sid Brown. It is terrible for the environment as it belches out emissions that kill crops and blacken lungs. Emissions aside, the means of extraction for this power source requires essentially blowing up and hollowing out mountains; not exactly a tidy way of keeping the lights running.

So what are our options in making energy greener on campus? According to Professor Brown, students have driven much of the reform. The Green Power Switch is a program that attempts to convert the sources of energy to environmentally friendly forms of energy production. For instance, a lot of progress is being made in wind power and solar collection. Brown admitted that the cloudy seasons and wind-breaking mountains of the area make it less suitable than other regions for these power sources, but advances have been made, particularly

in wind power, that may solve these problems. A common issue with wind power is that constant wind is needed to keep the turbine generating power. However, Scandinavian researchers have designed a new type of windmill that catches gusts of wind, rather than requiring a constant flow of wind. They've even begun dotting their cities with these windmills, generating power across the area.

Brown would like to see the University take a chance with alternative power sources. Understandably, this would be a risk, but the school has taken it before. In the seventies, there was a solar power collector on campus. Already, students pay a portion of their student activities fee toward the Green Power Switch, a charge not imposed on the students, but voted by a student assembly a few years ago. The school has also agreed to observe the national Focus the Nation day on January 31st, 2008. The day consists of educational and other institutions dedicating themselves to discussion and education on environmental issues in the hopes of opening the eyes of government leaders to the pressing concerns of conservation and sustainability. Brown pointed out, "As an educational institution, I think it's our duty to take a leading role in environmentally friendly changes, even if that means taking a risk."

Parallel Careers: A Professional Athlete Finishes Her Sewanee Degree

Sandy Kern

Outside, the sky hints at daylight, but the dorm is silent as the grave at 5:45 a.m. I can smell Natasha's coffee all the way down the hall. I knock, she shouts to come in, and I enter a whirlwind of action. The Roots' smooth rhythm beats from her computer while she hops around the room snatching various Lycra garments from drawers and clothes hampers. Somehow she makes a steaming mug of coffee materialize before me. "Still too dark to ride," she announces, peering out the window. "Want some yogurt and peanut butter?" Odd as it sounds, her favorite energy food makes great riding fuel.

Natasha Cowie lives a double life as a professional mountain biker and senior natural resources major. In two hours, she will be running into her senior seminar class to give a presentation about land use on the Domain. She will conduct an interview for her independent study project and then go to her religion class before grabbing lunch. Today her ride is early, and short, about two hours, because she will spend the afternoon hiking down the plateau mapping old logging roads.

A typical ride for Natasha is three or four hours, involving at least two climbs up the plateau. On weekends, she goes to Georgia or North Carolina to train on mountain bike trails. At the end of March, Natasha's training season will be over when she begins the race season with a national race in Phoenix, Arizona. For the rest of the spring and summer, she will be traveling all over the southeast as well

as across the country for races in Utah, California, and Vermont.

Natasha and I roll out of the dorm and head for Jumpoff Road. She wears a heart rate monitor strapped around her chest that transmits her pulse to a display on her watch. She checks it anxiously today. On antibiotics after an infection, she wants to be sure that her heart rate is not unusually high, which would indicate an incomplete recovery. "It's times like this when I most want a coach," she tells me. "Sometimes I feel like I'm shooting in the dark with my training. I don't know how hard to push myself during recovery and I have a race this weekend. I try to figure it out but it's so frustrating to be training through trial and error."

Clearly she's managed to get something right with her self-coaching. In the past year, Natasha has taken silver in two national championships (U.S. and collegiate nationals). She has just signed onto Velo Bella-Kona, a national pro women's mountain bike team.

Although she has raced bicycles since she was thirteen in Georgia, Natasha only became truly competitive a year ago. She began college by setting academics as her absolute priority. "I flung myself headlong into schoolwork my first two years in college. I loved my classes but it was so unhealthy. I had no balance; I was sacrificing everything for work and I was miserable," she explained. She only entered three races her entire sophomore year.

Then everything changed. Natasha spent a semester studying abroad in Mongolia, the longest time she'd

been off a bike in eight years. Before Mongolia Natasha was a die-hard vegetarian and health food junkie, but she was open to the fact that in Mongolia the diet consists mostly of



meat and sugar. Natasha is a girl made of extremes who loves to challenge herself. "Mongolia really tested my limits. I returned to bicycling with an absolutely clear mind. It became the center of my life, my form of meditation. Bicycling is my spirituality," she tells me.

"I love the intensity of racing, because it stirs the survival instinct, the deepest emotions. At the same time, the intensity brings me absolute calm. T.S. Eliot wrote a line in 'Four Quartets' that describes it perfectly: 'the still point of the turning world.'" In her rare moments of free time Natasha enjoys writing and reading, especially poetry. At 22, Natasha is one of the youngest female pro cyclists in the U.S. Most of her competitors are women in their mid-30s who have been racing almost as long as she has been alive: "It's a

learning experience for me. I know I won't be winning World Cups yet, but I'm figuring things out and building a base of strength with every race."

The rising sun shoots warm beams across the road as Natasha and I do a few sprints. She feels good. "My training is not just on the bicycle," she explains. "I am always thinking about it—did I eat enough protein yesterday? Am I sleeping long enough to recover? Am I drinking enough water? I have to listen to my body. Training is not about pushing as hard as possible all the time. You can only train as hard as you rest." "It's so hard, balancing school and bicycling. I have to schedule my entire week so carefully, down to the hour, so that there's enough time for everything. But there has to be a balance. Bicycling energizes me and inspires me. I think of poems while I ride my bike."

Natasha's sense of balance guides her career path as well. She plans on "parallel careers" as a pro cyclist and, perhaps, an environmental journalist. "Bicycling will always be a part of me. But it can't be everything." Natasha is realistic and upbeat about her future as a professional mountain biker: "For one thing, there's absolutely no money in it—even at the top level—but just as importantly, it has to go alongside my other passions of writing and environment. So I'm going to fit the rest of my life to a career as a pro mountain biker. I'm a natural resources geek. I like to know the geologic history of the rock formations that I crash on, and the species of the trees that I run into."

State of the Black Union 2007

Shakya La'Shae Shuler

America's 400th Anniversary marks the interaction of three cultures that came together at Jamestown. The development of America is centered around the contributions made by African culture, Native American culture, and European culture. The State of the Black Union is a platform that discusses the "African American imprint on America." Its mission is to "focus on African Americans as agents of change," the "catalysts" for helping America keep her promise that states that "all are created equal and have the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Road trips have been a part of my life since I was five years old. My Nana would pack us all up in a fifteen-passenger van every summer, and we would head south to Virginia. Sixteen years later, I was doing the driving, a college senior packed in a van with eleven other students from Sewanee and our faculty chaperone Jim "Papa Jim" Pappas. As we rotated driving shifts, I realized how grown up I was going to Virginia, not to see Scooby Doo at King's Dominion, but to be a part of something historical. I must admit that I looked forward to Dr. Cornell West's presence at the State of the Black Union. I had met him once before after a lecture he gave at Sewanee. I was now going to see him for the second time at the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown held at Hampton University.

After our early rise at 6am, we reached Hampton University only to find ourselves waiting in the freezing cold for about an hour. My toes were so numb after dancing around every entrance Hampton had trying to figure out which line was designated for what and which one would let us in the quickest. As irritated as we were upon finding seats, the sound of Tavis Smiley's voice along with free copies of his new book, *The Covenant In Action*, warmed us up enough to just be glad that we were fortunate to be there.

The event had two segments with two different panels, one of which went from 8am until 11:30am and the other from 1pm until 4:30pm. The panelists were an array of prominent African American speakers all present to discuss the "African American imprint on America." There I was in the audience hearing Dr. Cornell West speak live for the second time, seeing Rev. Jessie Jackson and Rev. Al Sharpton on the same stage, and watching rapping legend Chuck D move the room. The most invigorating moment was when Dr. Mae Jemison, the woman I had known since elementary school as some cardboard face that had been the first African American woman in space, graciously walk across the stage. I couldn't believe it. I expected her to be old and fragile, but she was young, beautiful, and vibrant.

After getting over my actual being there, I was able to take in the content of the event. "This is a call to action, and the time is now," was repeated throughout the lecture. We were not there to simply complain or talk about the issues of America; we were there to do something about them. Repeated notions were made about African Americans knowing and appreciating their history. "We are responsible for understanding," said Rev. Moss, we need to "deal with the past,

face the present, and give new to the future." Rev. Sharpton said we should gain this knowledge and then draw strength from it. Other topics of discussion were unity between young and old, the future elections, education and the media. Omar Wasow stated "don't hate the media, become the media." Simply complaining about what you don't see does not solve the problem at hand; you have to become the change that you are expecting. Dr. West mentioned that we have to decide "to refuse to be adjusted to an unjust status quo." Chuck D had a global state of mind and encouraged everyone to get passports and gain a global understanding of complexity.

The insight I gained from my freezing cold weekend in Virginia transformed me from a "thermometer" into a "thermostat". As Dr. Julie Hare pointed out that you can either sit back and measure the temperature of the reality that you are given in this life, or you can create your own by taking a stand, actively educating yourself, and being the thermostat by setting the temperature of what you want life to be. In closing, Tavis Smiley ended with the moving statement: "the time to act is now to preserve our imprint on America." The forum was about making the American Dream an American reality as we draw inspiration from a strong past.

The panelists included: Professor at Harvard Law School Charles Ogletree who is the founding and executive director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice; President and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Bruce S. Gordon; Dr. Eddie S. Glaude who is an associate professor of Religion and African American Studies at Princeton University; Representative of House District 58 of the Minnesota State Legislature, Congressman Keith Ellison; Congressman Robert C. Scott of Virginia; Mayor L. Douglas Wilder of Richmond, Virginia; Dr. Mae Jemison, president of The Jemison group; Dr. Julie Hare, motivational speaker who is the national executive director of The Jemison Group, Inc.; Marian Wright Elderman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund; Malika Saada Saar, executive director of the Rebecca Project for Human Rights; Sonia Sanchez, author and public speaker; Judge Glenda Hatchett, television host and author; Stephanie Robinson, president and CEO of the Jamestown Project at Yale; Rev. Al Sharpton, host of The Al Sharpton Show; Chuck D, rap artist and founder of Public Enemy and Rapstation; Rev. Jessie Jackson, founder and president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, Inc.; Daphne Maxwell Reid, actor and cofounder of New Millennium Studios; Dr. Cornell West, professor and author; Omar Wasow, cofounder of BlackPlanet.com; Angela Glover Blackwell, founder of Policylink; Tim Reid, actor, director, and producer; Wade Henderson, president and CEO of Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Cathy Hughes, founder and chairperson of Radio One, Inc.; and Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr., pastor of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church.

Black History Month on the Mountain

Lanier Norville

On Thursday, February 8, the screening of the film *Mighty Times: Children on the March*, followed by a panel discussion, was held in Gailor auditorium in honor of Black History month. The film narrates the May 1963 children's march on Birmingham, AL. The march followed Martin Luther King Jr.'s arrest in Birmingham and was one of the first major steps in the Civil Rights movement. The film is comprised of several recent interviews of both blacks and whites who were somehow affected by the march. The story of the march comes alive in these interviews—through the voices of firemen and policemen, black men and women who were arrested, their mothers, and bystanders. These interviews are alternated with extensive footage of the three-day march, depicting the thousands of black children who were arrested for parading without a permit. Their nonviolence was often met with violence—dogs, fire hoses, and the unrelenting commands of commissioner of public safety Bull Connor. In the last two days of the march, thousands of black men and women crowded into downtown Birmingham's streets, willingly offering themselves for arrest and singing on the way to the jailhouse. The jails and streets overflowed; officials were rendered helpless against the masses. At the film's close a hush fell over the near-full auditorium. The panel members quietly assembled onstage.

The panel, designed to guide discussion toward current racial issues, consisted of two Sewanee students and four professors. Shenae Holmes and Donald Allen represented the student body. Political Science professors Andrea Hatcher, Paige Schneider, Gayle McKeen and professor of History Houston Roberson represented the faculty. Professor Roberson began the discussion by contextualizing the march and offering some background information on the Civil Rights Movement. The discussion then moved to current racial issues both at Sewanee and in the world.

A particularly pertinent issue discussed was America's public education system. Professor McKeen pointed out that while the Supreme Court case *Brown vs. Board of Education* ordered integration of public schools, "the percentage of blacks attending majority white schools in America today is the same as it was in 1953." In 1991 and 1992, public school systems reverted to the neighborhood school policy, meaning that a student would attend the school closest to his residence, as was the policy before the *Brown* decision. According to Dr. Snyder, having to attend schools in low-income neighborhoods is a major obstacle for many black children. There is a much higher dropout rate in low-income schools, and "people who don't graduate from high school

are more likely to be incarcerated." Dr. Snyder then pointed out that "education is the most important option for low income kids to turn their lives around," and that the reversion to the neighborhood school policy is proof that "Americans are not caring about their poorest and most vulnerable children right now." Other issues addressed were affirmative action and racism on a global scale.

Donald and Shenae then offered their views as minority students on racial issues existing at Sewanee. Shenae expressed her need to take part in the ongoing struggle against racism: "As an African-American student I have to advocate the movement." Donald added that "the most important thing is to take advantage of the opportunities we have." He offered some encouraging words toward the audience members, both black and white: "You have the chance to break these stereotypes." He then offered a sound piece of advice: "Sitting in your room and not taking part isn't what you're here for." He urged that going out and making friends was the best way to defy stereotypes and combat racism on the mountain.

“James Bowman Lectures on the Death of Honor”

John MacGregor

For the past several years, the “How then shall we live?” lecture series has brought a guest speaker to the Mountain to lecture on a variety of topics ranging from genocide in Darfur to issues of race in America to Lacanian psychoanalysis. Often the speakers have been as entertaining or arresting as the topics. Slavoj Zizek, the wild-eyed Slovenian who has been called a rock star of philosophy, kept the audience’s attention even when his fast paced lecture had left their minds in the dust. The celebrity of Cornel West, who has appeared in the *Matrix* series and who has been a controversial figure for years may have overshadowed the content of his own lecture.

This semester’s speaker discussed a topic no less interesting than previous ones, but his style was certainly more subdued than either Zizek or West. James Bowman, a movie critic for *The American Spectator*, a media critic for *The New Criterion*, and a resident scholar at the Ethics and Public Policy Center gave a lecture on February 27 entitled “Is Honor Dead Today?” This topic has particular significance for Sewanee students given that The University of the South is one of the few schools in the country that still has an honor code and an honor council.

Without delving into the finer points of his argument, I would like if possible to sum up his main points. Honor, in the Victorian sense of the word, is dead in the modern world. It has been on a downward spiral since roughly World War I, and its demise was accelerated about forty years ago during the tumultuous and uncertain 1960s. He gave seven characteristics of honor which make it unpalatable for most people in modern American society. Bowman stated that honor is judgmental, authoritarian, unequal, aggressive, repressive, violent, and (surprisingly) unethical. All of these characteristics set it at odds with what Bowman sees as our modern standards

of living, or rather, as a standard, honor is incompatible with our prevailing animosity towards traditional moral codes. In brief, Bowman argues that our culture has been slowly drifting towards a kind of moral relativism. Honor codes are judgmental, they infer that certain types of behavior are wrong, and in the hypersensitive, politically correct culture in which we live, there is no worse crime than to pass judgement. Systems of honor have been largely replaced in favor of a kind of universalism created by those who Bowman refers to as “moral aristocrats,” or honor has simply become a matter of brute loyalty, such as with street gangs. The abstract principles of right and wrong as they were previously understood have been replaced by the notion that in all things there are gray areas. The speech itself flowed very well, and Bowman’s points were easy to follow, making for a persuasive argument. At times it seemed as though he were reading too much from his notes, and he seemed to keep the same tone throughout the lecture, although, compared to Zizek, any speaker might seem less than animated. His line of reasoning was not the typical conservative critique of degenerated American culture, but he certainly believed that there was much to envy of our bygone honor systems. Listening to some of the talk he generated among certain students, his lecture may have been received less than warmly by more than a few. However, Bowman’s point of view, while not necessarily popular on a typical college campus full of “progressive” minded young Americans, is one that should be heard on a campus where conflicting opinions are always welcome. The varied points of view of all the past lecturers suggests that Sewanee is a campus where differences of opinion and fresh perspectives are always welcome. At least I hope Sewanee is such a place.

“Know Yourself, Love Yourself: Mind, Body, and Soul”

Shakyr La'Shae Shuler

February 12th marked the beginning of the 2007 Sewanee Conference on Women, which is an annual event that lasts for a week. The schedule of daily events included: a pinnacle luncheon, “The History of Gender Stereotypes,” featuring Dr. Paige Schneider on Monday; “Unpacking the Gendered Mind,” brief presentations by Dr. Murdock and Dr. Nicole Barenbaum held on Tuesday; Eve Ensler’s *The Vagina Monologues*, a play performed by an all female cast of Sewanee students, faculty, staff, and community members held on Wednesday; and “Soothe Your Soul,” a lineup of events held on Friday consisting of Yoga lessons led by Helen Stapleton, Belly-dancing lessons with Syeda Hamadani, and a “Feed Your Soul” dinner.

The Women’s Conference has been a Sewanee tradition since the early 1990’s. In conjunction with elected conference co-chairs, residents of the Women’s Center and a conference committee plan the events. “The theme is determined by the co-chairs,” said Dean Katie Steele, “which were Syeda Hamadani and Sam Kennedy of ‘06-’07.” Steele, along with Dr. Murdock, were the advisors for the event that took planning that started in August 2006. In an attempt to encourage self reflection, the theme this year was “Know Yourself, Love Yourself: Mind, Body, and Soul.” “There are gender stereotypes and gender expectations for women that need to be broken down so we can be who we want to be,” commented Steele.

Contrary to what many may feel about the student organization and its obsession with feminism, “there

are several misconceptions about the Women’s Center as a whole,” said Chassidy Cooper who is the archivist and was also on the conference committee. She is a junior here at Sewanee who feels that the goals of the Women’s Center are not to bash men but to actually “address being more inclusive.” The Women’s Conference is a unique representation of the Sewanee tradition unifying students, faculty, staff, and community members. “That’s the core of Sewanee,” said Cooper. “I love that it is student lead.” And with the help of the advisors and volunteers, the week was a success. Each event had a great attendance, including the *Vagina Monologues*, which raised almost \$400 for the Blue Monarch by selling tickets for \$2 each, \$3 for couples. The Blue Monarch is a twelve-month facility that helps women and children. It is designed to help women with their individual needs, eliminate abuse, and help them become better mothers.

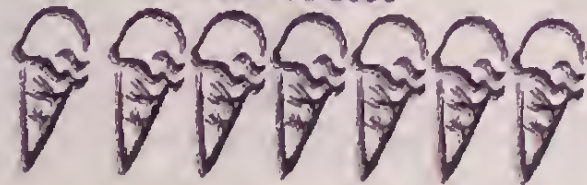
The Women’s Conference will continue to be a part of the Sewanee experience. The event is centered around student leadership and student organization. Katie genuinely smiles as she says, “It’s great to see students doing something they are committed to.” The result of this commitment is something that the entire community can learn from and enjoy. Reflecting on the outstanding annual event that was an inspiring success, Chassidy Cooper wrapped it up with a smile from ear to ear and said, “it’s mostly about getting to know you, the whole person: mind, body and soul.”

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Sewanee Baseball: Looking for Luck

Cory Woodworth

The past few weeks have not exactly been smooth sailing for the Sewanee baseball team. With an unfortunate 0-10 start, the team is still looking to get that coveted first win that will hopefully jumpstart their season.

The team started their season with an opener against Millsaps, favorites to win the SCAC title this season, but lost 13-0. After playing the first two games on the road, the guys were excited about their opening home game against Maryville. John Davis ('07) stepped up with a grand slam in the bottom of the 3rd inning, putting the team up 4-3. Unfortunately, the Tigers were unable to capitalize on the momentum and fell 13-5. The trend continued as the Tigers lost two more games to LaGrange and one more to Maryville.

This past weekend was an even bigger trial for the men as they traveled to Memphis to play in-state and SCAC rival Rhodes. After 4 games played, Rhodes outscored Sewanee 54-11. The few highlights of the weekend included Taylor Burns ('09) and Davis with two doubles each in the 1st game, and Brian Pederson ('08) going 3-3 with 2 doubles in the 2nd game.

So what exactly is the cause of the baseball team's unfortunate record? Well, Sewanee boasts one of the hardest schedules in the SCAC—Millsaps is ranked 13th nationally, Rhodes is in the top 3 of the SCAC, and LaGrange is nationally ranked, as well as most of the teams they will play over Spring Break. Playing good teams early, however, may benefit the Tigers in the long run. Seeing good pitching and playing high-caliber athletes now will have the Tigers well-prepared when teams like Oglethorpe and DePauw come to play later in the season. And just look at the Tiger's roster. They graduated 6 of 9 starting positions last season, with only 3 seniors remaining to lead the squad: infielder John Davis, pitcher Josh 'Farva' Curtis, and pitcher Daniel Shaver. We know our team isn't slacking either. No matter the time of day, you can always find a baseball player in uniform heading to the field, running on the track, or taking some batting practice in Fowler. In reference to his teammates' tough work ethic, Farva says, "The talent and hard work is there. We've just got to pull it all together."

When asked what he thinks is keeping the team

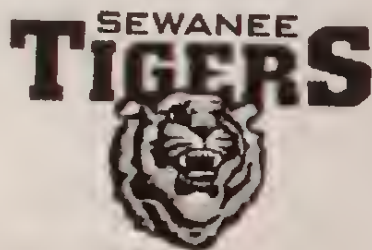
from winning, Coach Scott Baker says, "We are not fielding and throwing the ball very well at all. This includes pitching. We have had some well-pitched innings, but nothing consistent. When we do pitch well, we seem to play defense poorly."

To win that first game, the team plans on maintaining their high level of commitment and work ethic and just realizing that there is always room for improvement. "There is an old adage in baseball that you are never as good as you think you are when things are going well, and you are never as bad as you think you are when things are going poorly," Coach Baker adds, "We have to keep that in mind and continue to work at the game, regardless of the circumstances."

The Sewanee Baseball team plays 3 games this weekend at home against Capital University—Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 1:00 pm. Who knows? This could be the weekend our team gets their first win of the 2007 season. As Farva puts it, "Come out and watch us play, check out our new, pretty uniforms, and if nothing else, enjoy the nice weather."

Tigers of the Week

Compiled by Cory Woodworth



Tiger of the Week: Henry Litchfield

The Tiger chosen as exhibiting excellence on the playing field for the Week of February 19-25 is men's tennis player **Henry Litchfield**. Litchfield is a sophomore from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He attended Heritage Hall High School. He was a four year starter at powerful Heritage Hall and won a state championship his sophomore season and was named to the Oklahoma All-State team in '05.

Litchfield won both of his number five singles matches this week. He won his number five spot match 6-2, 6-3 against the Generals of Washington and Lee, who are ranked 20th nationally. On Sunday, Henry won the number five match against Division II Alabama-Huntsville 2-6, 6-2, 6-2.



Henry Litchfield



Gabriela Carvalho

Tiger of the Week: Gabriela Carvalho

The Tiger chosen as exhibiting excellence on the playing field for the week of February 12-18 is women's tennis player **Gabriela Carvalho**. She is a junior Rock Hill, S.C. Gabriela is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alcides Carvalho (Sherri).

Carvalho, who is ranked second in the Atlantic South Region by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and first in doubles (Fanjoy), won her singles match against the number one seed for Division I Lipscomb 6-0, 6-1. She and partner Laura Fanjoy won their pro set doubles match 8-1. The Lady Tigers are ranked eighth nationally and third in their region for Division III and will compete next against Alabama-Huntsville at home on Sunday.

Sewanee Tennis: We've Got Balls

Colin Wilhelm

When one thinks about the most anticipated events of the year at Sewanee, one generally considers them in this order: Shake Day, Party Weekends, and Tennis Season.

Yes boys and girls, tennis season is here again already, and not a moment too soon. Who needs another night of drinking and debauchery when one can spend a sunny, windy day on the Mountain watching our guys and gals kick-serving the hell out of the competition.

Despite getting off to a slow start, the men's team has begun to pick up momentum as of late, disposing of Transylvania this past week, and boasting a Tiger of the Week already, Henry "True Cowboy" Litchfield ('09). Aside from Henry, the men's team is led by Captain Andrew Crone ('07), number one seed Charlie "Ladies' Man" Boyd ('09), and newcomer/old face Matt Burton ('07). The team as a whole has suffered from a general lack of experience; those graduating from last year's strong team left holes in the lineup. There are only three seniors this season, with two sophomores (Boyd and Litchfield) and a freshman (number two seed Jeff "Baby Face" Lepley '10) in the starting lineup. However young this year's team may be, especially in the singles lineup, it makes up for that lack of age with talent, depth, and killer good looks.

The Lady Tigers aren't slouches either; they've gotten off to a 4-0 start, including their most recent match against rival Rhodes that brought new meaning to the word, "shellacking". Led primarily by Gab "Man-eating Tiger" Carvalho ('08), the as-of-press-time Tiger of the Week, as well as card-carrying member of the Division III National top ten, the Lady Tigers also boast a wealth of depth and talent. They return most key players from last year, including (but not exclusive to) the Willett sisters, Lauren and Molly ('07), Mary Katherine Stone ('08), and Jordan Casey ('09).

John and Conchie Shackelford are in their twenty-second illustrious year of husband-wife coaching combo, and are hoping to lead their respective Tigers' teams to another successful season. Coach John Shackelford describes his goals for this season as, "trying to get back into the top three teams in the conference."

As for the players' goals, men's captain Crone says, "[It's been a] slow start so far [but] we've played some quality clubs." However, he expects for the team to work goal by goal—first reaching a winning record, then being placed in a good tournament to crack the top twenty-five and make Nationals. Ladies' number one seed, Carvalho says her team's goals are to go to Nationals as well. "We work really well as a team, we don't have any weak links, or any weaknesses at all."

Both Sewanee Tennis teams will travel to California for matches over Spring Break.



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Hard to Get "Lucky" at the Lucky Spa

John Waling

On Thursday, February 15th, the Monteagle Police Department arrested and charged Ok Cha Torgerson, the proprietor of the Lucky Health Spa in Monteagle, with prostitution and money laundering.

Monteagle Police Chief McNeece said that his department and the Marion County Sheriff's Department received many complaints from Marion County residents about the spa, prompting him to begin a surveillance operation. The big break came when the driver of a car leaving the spa confessed to paying for sex while inside.

Aware that the Hamilton County Police Department had recently closed down two health spas for similar reasons, McNeece asked for their help. An undercover officer from Chattanooga was sent into the spa and was offered sex in exchange for money. McNeece then entered the spa, where he arrested Torgerson and also found \$23,000 in cash, 2 bedrooms where employees lived, and a fully stocked

kitchen. McNeece shut down the spa, but it reopened a few days later.

The Sewanee Purple wanted to see if the house of sin had cleaned up their act, so they sent an undercover reporter disguised as a smelly truck driver into the spa to elicit an offer for sex. When the reporter entered the small waiting room, a middle-aged Asian woman popped her head through a sliding window and told him about the options. The reporter said he wanted a 30 minute massage, and she led him through a large lobby, complete with flowing fountains, soft jazz music, and the smell of purple rain body wash, to a dark room with nothing but a massage table. The masseuse, a friendly middle aged Korean woman, told him that she liked truck drivers and that he had a "young body," but she did not offer him a "happy ending." The court proceedings begin on March 28th, where the decision on the spa's future in Monteagle and Torgerson's future as a free man will be made.

D'Anthony Marell Allen: February Winner of the Pearigen Award

Nicole L. Loyd

D'Anthony Marell Allen (Dee) '07 of Birmingham, Alabama is the February winner of the Pearigen Award for Commitment to Community. D'Anthony is one of Sewanee's most engaged student athletes on campus. For example, in February he arranged for 14 students to attend The State of the Black Union in Virginia, he participated in, and helped organize, the annual Martin Luther King Day celebration, and he performed as a cast member in the play Antigone. These three events are representative of Dee's commitment to education and to the Sewanee community. Dee has also been involved in the following organizations as a Sewanee student: African American Alliance (current president), Gamma Sigma Phi (current secretary), SPECE (Students for Positive Extracurricular Engagement), Multicultural Outreach Board, Fellowship for Christian Athletes (current president), the Faculty/Mentor program and Men Against Rape (a new organization aimed to develop male advocates for sexual assault victims and to organize forums that allow men to challenge socially constructed negative images of masculinity). He played varsity football for the Sewanee Tigers for 4 years and participated as a member of the Track and Field team for 2 years. He currently serves as a Proctor in Courts and has been part of the residence life staff for 3 years. D'Anthony has also been active in service; participating in 3 spring break outreach trips and spending two summers as a Lilly Intern. Dee is an English major with an Education concentration; he is currently student teaching and hopes to find a job as a public school teacher after Sewanee. D'Anthony is a positive contributor to the academic and social life at Sewanee and an excellent role model for other students who are interested in taking advantage of the many opportunities Sewanee has to offer. Congratulations D'Anthony!

The Pearigen Award for Commitment to Community was created in the fall of 2006 to recognize outstanding student contributions to the Sewanee community. It is named for Robert Wesley Pearigen '76, currently associate professor of Political Science and vice president for university relations, and the former dean of students. After graduating from Sewanee and earning a Ph.D. from Duke University, "Dean P" returned to the Mountain in 1986 to serve as dean of men. In 1994, he was named dean of students and served the students, faculty, and staff in that capacity until July 2005.

As Dean, he believed strongly in the concept of community, and his goal was for each student to "find their place" here on the mountain. Pearigen spent the majority of his time, whether in the classroom or in one-on-one conversations, engaging with students and challenging them to make Sewanee a stronger community. He was particularly committed to the ideals of scholarship, integrity, leadership, and civic responsibility and he approached each student with care, concern, and respect. The relationships that Pearigen built with students are indeed his most significant contribution to our community. Other highlights of his contributions include the creation of the Student Life Cabinet, the development of the Career Services staff and facility, the building of McClurg Dining Hall, the expansion of housing facilities for sororities, the fraternity restoration project, a new facility for the University Counseling Center, and the building of Humphreys Hall.

His commitment to the Sewanee community continues today and is now carried forward by the positive contributions made by the recipients of this award.

Ecce Quam Bonum!

Police Blotter

Joseph Leray

In 585 B.C., the warring Medians and Lydians laid down their arms and called for a truce after a solar eclipse occurred during the middle of a battle. Perhaps a lunar eclipse spurred a similar agreement between the University's student body and its collective liver. Or, if pagan mysticism isn't a good enough explanation for you, Chief Parrott supposes that midterms have caused people to be "focused on what they're supposed to be doing here, instead of partying that leads to mischief."

Whatever the reason, Chief Parrott says this has been one of the quietest weeks that he's ever had, explaining there were no "negative contacts" with the students. There was, however, a disturbance at the hospital that led to the arrests of several people from out of town. One charming lady even managed to be arrested twice in one night for disorderly conduct.

The slow weekend gave the Sewanee Police Department time to set up its newest crime-fighting gadget: a roadside radar and speed display. The radar, estimated to be worth about \$5,000, was part of a grant given by the federal government to departments who are making efforts to reduce traffic fatalities. To this end, the Sewanee Police have focused on lowering speeds and DUIs.

The mounted radar will detect speeds and display them on a large LED screen in order to remind people to check their odometers and be aware of how fast they're going, says Chief Parrott. The display will be placed at various places on campus where there have been complaints of speeding, especially on Tennessee Avenue, near the Sewanee Inn, the Equestrian Center, and in the school zone near Sewanee Elementary. After 12 or 14 hours, the data collected will be analyzed, and, if the problem persists, cars will follow. The display "ought to be enough of a warning for people to slow down," says Chief Parrott. "We're not out to get anybody, we just want to save lives."

As Spring Break approaches, Chief Parrott also warned students not to be in a hurry, and to be safe during traveling. "Students need to make good choices. Some things tend to be more painful when they happen outside of the bubble than when they happen right here," he says.

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Underground Pledging Under Scrutiny

James Conner

Since the University's founding, Greek Life at Sewanee has dominated the social scene. Every year, a significant portion of the freshman class anticipates joining this community. For most students, Greek Life is a great way to further the college experience. For others, it is something to avoid. There is also a small number of students who are not eligible to pledge. This can leave some students feeling left out and upset, so the Greek community must decide how to deal with this problem. One answer that has been offered is for Greek organizations to extend more underground bids.

An underground bid alerts freshmen, who may not be eligible to officially pledge, that they are welcome to join a particular organization secretly. These types of bids are distributed in hopes that once a pledge becomes eligible, he or she can officially join a Greek organization in accordance with the University's regulations. For many years, this practice has been common to many Greek organizations on campus. A major reason it has been successful is that it followed a "don't ask, don't tell" policy, under the assumption that an under-ground pledge was no one's business. However, this year, more people have started talking about this issue.

Dean Nicole Loyd has had to deal with this issue head-on this semester. It was her understanding that this had been a common practice for a long time, but it wasn't until recently that major concerns were brought to her attention through anonymous reports on the Greek Life homepage (<http://www2.sewanee.edu/studentlife/greek>). Although these reports remain anonymous, she felt that she must follow through to see if they are legitimate.

These reports were first brought to her attention the Thursday before Shake Day. Someone stated they had witnessed certain freshman receiving underground bid cards. In addition, this person gave the names of both the potential pledges

and the associated Greek organizations. Dean Loyd immediately spoke with all the Greek leaders and asked them if any of them were supporting this type of violation. They quickly responded that no such thing had occurred. About a week later, another incident report was anonymously sent to Dean Loyd.

This time, eight freshman names were submitted along with the Greek organizations they were under-grounding. Additionally, pictures allegedly floated around campus depicting the accused participating in Shake Day. Once again, action had to be taken. This time Dean Loyd interviewed each accused freshman individually. All eight freshmen claimed they were not in violation of the rules. It turned out that one of the names submitted happened to be a freshman who actually was eligible to pledge and two others were not even on the domain during Shake Day. In addition, the alleged photos never truly surfaced. Unfortunately, the commotion did not end here.

Allegations surfaced that the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity was in continual violation of the underground pledging policy. SAE was then confronted by Dean Loyd, but explained they were not committing any violations. Former SAE president Teddy Lewis believes this problem occurred because, "Not all first-semester freshmen make the grades to pledge, but most of their friends do. Just because they continue to hang out with their friends who made the grade point minimum (who happen to be legit pledges) does not mean they are an underground pledge. They are just simply continuing their friendships and hanging out at our fraternity house. There is no rule that states that a freshman who doesn't make a 2.0 can still not engage at open social events at a frat house." After this was explained to Dean Loyd, all charges were dropped.

As it stands right now, no single Greek organization has been found guilty of allowing underground pledging to take place. This week, the IFC/ISC released

Best Served In Tennessee

Tripp Burnett

Here at Sewanee we *do* love the taste of fine wines and liquors – if only to pull graciously, advance intently, then fall stupendously – right?

Well then you are in luck because there are some towns no more than a few miles from Sewanee that I'm sure would be pleased to serve anyone who loves Tennessee history and fine alcohol. Everyone needs a break from life on campus once in a while, so next time the need arises, you may want to enjoy the festive sites of the wineries and distilleries found scattered throughout the hills of Central Tennessee. These century old traditions of the Tennessee Valley can be experienced on the backcountry roads of the Tennessee Spirits & Wine Trail. George Dickel's, Jack Daniel's (bourbon whiskey), and Prichard's (Rum) Distilleries, Beans Creek Winery, and Tri-Star Vineyards all produce some of the finest wines and liquors in the South.

Nestled on the Highland Rim of the Cumberland Plateau, the George Dickel Distillery takes visitors back to fresh-water streams and barrel-carrying wagons with its timeless backcountry production begun in 1867. Just outside of **Tullahoma**, **Cascade Hollow**, Tennessee provided George Dickel with the realization of his dream to produce an award winning bourbon. Located about twenty minutes off of I-24 (exit 105) and Hwy 41, the Dickel Distillery allows visitors a trek through the suspicious back roads of middle Tennessee (ADVISORY: if planning to walk, take extreme precaution of methamphetamine addicted Tennesseans attempting to startle out of small wooden shanties).

Disassembled in 1919 due to prohibition, there was to be no production of George Dickel whisky for nearly four decades. Independently owned since the county's big-business growth throughout the 70's and 80's, Dickel has expanded very little since being rebuilt in 1958, remaining one-eighth the size of Jack Daniels. A thirty-minute tour through their small distillery immerses visitors in the history of post-civil war Tennessee while introducing the products and ingredients used to distill a delicious whisky. Like Sewanee, George Dickel has become a unique part of Tennessee history, providing a timeless setting of the Southern lifestyle we have all come to love. With the production of a successfully unique sipping whisky, George Dickel provides the opportunity to discover an exceptional part of the South.

Jack Daniels, located in **Lynchburg** is about fifteen minutes west of Tullahoma on Hwy 55, through Winchester if traveling from Sewanee. Tri-Star Winery is the same way through to Tullahoma but follows 41 north to **Shelbyville** ending at 231. Beans Creek Winery is located in **Manchester**, an easy drive north just off of I-24. Last, but certainly not least, Prichard's Distillery is directly west, taking 41 through Winchester to 64 and heading to **Kelso**, just this side of Fayetteville. Each of these establishments can be easily found leaving Sewanee.

The opportunity to discover more of Tennessee and the South awaits. You all know Sewanee as a special place, quietly out of the way of the bustle of city life. However, there is much more to the mellow lifestyle of Central Tennessee waiting to be exploited with our shared culture of Southern living. So, if you are culturally inclined, go "discover the best kept secret in Tennessee."

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Letter from the Assembly

To Sewanee Students Regarding Rentals at Monteagle Sunday School Assembly:

It is with great regret that members of the Board of Monteagle Sunday School Assembly read the article in the Feb. 16 issue of the *Sewanee Purple* regarding graduation rentals at the Assembly. Throughout our rental history, our goal has been to provide convenient and comfortable housing for students and their families during this happy time.

Unfortunately, we do not have a centralized rental system nor do we employ a private rental agent. All rentals at the Assembly are arranged through two independent real estate brokers (Plateau Realty and Cottage Services) or through the owners themselves. We realize that this system is neither convenient nor user friendly, and we are working very hard to address this issue in the coming months.

In the mean time, we are deeply concerned about those families who have rented cottages through Cottages Services for graduation 2007, and we want to ensure that there are no rental issues as this event approaches. Cottage Services, one of the companies that has handled rentals in the Assembly for a number of years, experienced a total loss of records during a fire last spring. Therefore, we have some concerns about the potential for double bookings and other rental issues during graduation 2007.

If you believe you have rented a cottage at the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly through Cottage Services for Graduation 2007, please contact Ron Buffington, MSSA general manager, at 931-924-2286. He will work with Cottage Services to try and confirm your reservation. Please be prepared to mail him a copy of your contract and the front and back of your cancelled check as these items may help us identify the cottage in question. If we cannot locate your rental, Ron will direct you to Plateau Realty or individual cottage owners who may be able help you find accommodations on the mountain.

While we do not have any reason to have concerns about reservations made through Plateau Realty, please feel free to confirm your rental at that office if that will make you more comfortable.

We apologize for this inconvenience. It is our sincere hope that by tracking and identifying your rental concerns at this time, we can avoid confusion and disappointment in May.

Many thanks, The MSSA Board of Trustees

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Kappa Sigma: What Really Happened?

Whitney Lehr Ray

Many of us have heard the rumors surrounding why Kappa Sigma is no longer a fraternity at Sewanee. However, uncovering the truth has proven to be exceptionally difficult. Last semester I looked into the rumors surrounding Kappa Sigma, which were described in detail in the Thanksgiving issue of the Sewanee Purple. In short, they were not kicked off campus for directing a military convoy to the cross, for semi-crucifying a student on the cross on Easter Sunday, or for nearly burning their house down. In fact, they were not kicked off at all. Instead their numbers were dwindling and they decided to turn into a local fraternity known as Iskra.

So, what more is there to know? Well, I recently received an email from Sewanee alum, Bill Skaggs '76, who read "Fact or Fiction: Fraternity History" and knew more information regarding the Kappa Sigma chapter at Sewanee. As it turns out, his uncle, Wallace Baumann, was the District Grand Master of Kappa Sigma at the time of Kappa Sigma's end. This title meant he was in charge of Kappa Sigma chapters in East Tennessee, including Sewanee. Baumann has told Skaggs the story of the Omega chapter of Kappa Sigma "so many times that [he] feels [he] knows it by heart."

I had the pleasure of talking with Skaggs and Baumann recently in order to learn the details of what actually happened to the Omega chapter of Kappa Sigma in 1970. Baumann, who is now 80, vividly remembers the sequence of events leading to the demise of Kappa Sigma at Sewanee.

On December 10, 1969, the Sewanee fog was thick in the air as Wallace Baumann entered the Sewanee gates for the Founders' Day Banquet. Dr. Bayley Turlington, a Classics professor at the time, invited Baumann to his home prior to going to the Kappa Sigma house for the black tie affair. Baumann distinctly remembers the beautiful Christmas tree and the dove they served for the entrée, which they shot while dove hunting earlier that week. According to Baumann, at this point "all was well."

In 1970, Kappa Sigma, like many fraternities at the time, was rapidly losing members and needed help developing new ways to increase their size. So they delayed rush and planned to meet with officers, rush commissioners, the national president, and past presidents in July, with hopes of developing new ideas. The group Kappa Sigma met with, including Baumann, assured them that the national headquarters would send a letter asking for recommendations. Also, a rush team would be provided from the University of Chattanooga, a strong Kappa Sigma chapter, to help them with rush in October. Unfortunately, this plan was never necessary.

On a Tuesday, in mid-October 1970, Baumann received a call from Dr. Turlington, who explained that the Omega chapter decided to go local. The chapter had a small meeting, with about 17 brothers there, and the majority voted to go local. It is unclear why they made this decision, but one rumor is that the Dean of Students at the time influenced them to go local because he didn't have faith in their chapter to be strong nationally. Others suggest that the brothers could survive better as a local fraternity, since their numbers were small. So, in the fall of 1970, the Omega chapter of Kappa Sigma came to an end.

Baumann further explained that they received a list of members who decided to go local versus those who decided to stay national. Three voted not to go local, and after writing letters explaining why they wished to remain nationally affiliated, they were able to be recognized as Kappa Sigmas. However, the other 14 called before a committee. They did not bother to show up, and were expelled from the fraternity.

As a result of their expulsion, Baumann was told to go to Sewanee and pick up their charter and ritual material in mid-November 1970. Everything he needed was left in a big carton for him to grab, and, in addition, he stopped by the house and took the nice plaques Kappa Sigma had won over the years. He proceeded to take them to Ram Raulston, a former Kappa Sigma who lived in South Pittsburg.

In the end, the Omega chapter severed ties with national just before rush week and with a debt of \$16,000 owed to the Kappa Sigma Endowment Fund. This money was borrowed for their house years ago, and, once they were expelled from national, Gil Gilchrist, the President of the Housing Corporation, paid off the debt and turned the house into his full time home.

The group once known as Kappa Sigma became a local group called Iskra. This group consisted of both males and females and lasted until 1975. Some claim the group had an affiliation with old soviet Russia. Iskra is the Russian word for spark, which was also the name of the first underground Marxist political newspaper distributed in Russia. This group of students is said to have considered themselves revolutionaries who, unfortunately, did not last long on the mountain.

The Omega chapter of Kappa Sigma was founded in 1882 and was the first fraternity house at Sewanee. Their house has since been turned into a home and is currently the Sewanee Archives, but "Kappa Sigma" remains above the doorway as a welcoming to former members. Kappa Sigma alumni are invited to celebrate homecoming with their brothers at their former house. With or without their house, however, the Omega chapter of Kappa Sigma will always have a place on Sewanee's campus.

Excitement Mounts As Sesquicentennial Nears

Whitney Lehr Ray

On July 4, 1857, clergy and lay delegates from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas met at Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga, Tennessee in response to their bishops' invitation for the Episcopal Church to establish a successful institution of higher learning within the southern states. They met to plan the development of the University of the South and name the first board of trustees. Now, 150 years later, we are going back to our roots to celebrate the history of Sewanee by kicking off the Sesquicentennial celebration year on July 4, 2007 atop Lookout Mountain, where the concept of Sewanee was first developed.

Dr. Charles Perry, chairman of the Sesquicentennial celebration committee, hopes to "celebrate the history of Sewanee but look forward as well." The Sesquicentennial celebration begins July 4, 2007 with a church service and Eucharist at Lookout Mountain, followed by a bike relay that will carry a replica of an 1857 United States flag back to Sewanee. Jay Fisher, member of the Sesquicentennial planning committee, explains that, "the rest of the events on the 4th of July focus on the Sewanee community and its important role in founding the University."

A highlight of the Sesquicentennial year will take place on Founders' Day, October 9, 2007, where we will recognize the history of the University and its founding. At this time there will be a rededication of the cornerstone and a new musical piece composed specially for the celebration will be performed. On Founders' Day evening there will be a gala to celebrate 150 years of Sewanee. Special events are planned all year to involve the entire University community, faculty, staff, students and alumni. Students will have the opportunity to attend lectures, panel discussions, and special events commemorating the Sesquicentennial. Dr. Perry "hopes to have big name entertainers" come to Sewanee to celebrate. He also plans to work with the lectures committee and concert committee together, in order to form a great event for the whole Sewanee community.

A new stained glass window is planned for Convocation Hall, depicting images representing Sewanee's growth over the past 50 years, such as: women and African Americans joining the college and the development of the Tennessee Williams Center. There are also three books being published commemorating the Sesquicentennial. The first of these is *Ecce Quam Bonum: A Pictorial History of the University of the South*, by Eric Wilson, '07, Emily Senefeld, '05, and Sean Suarez, '08. The next book will be a narrative history of the University by Dr. Williamson. The final book will be a collection of essays by Sewanee professors and alumni.

Recognition of the Sesquicentennial year will culminate with a final celebration in May at Commencement, 2008. Over the course of the year, Dr. Perry hopes we can, "Begin to understand how much the University has grown and changed, and see it from a different perspective than we do now. The purpose of the year is to think about where we've been, and where we might go from here."



The Kappa Sigma House, currently the Sewanee Archives

Editorial: Burnt Crust

John Whaling

In the tight-knit community of Sewanee it is always a big deal when a new restaurant opens up, as was the case with Crust last semester. Not only would they be serving pizza, a college student's go-to snack, but they also hired a lot of students to help run the joint. Students flocked to the restaurant to engulf piece after piece of delicious pizza, made with the finest ingredients and served on the special cracker-thin crust. After the initial buzz died down, stories about the owners being unfair and unprofessional towards their student employees started making laps around the Sewanee rumor circuit.

Armed with the complaints of eight former student employees, I went to Crust to interview the owners, Greg and Susan Bairsto. After discussing the story behind the restaurant and the secrets to their mouth-watering pizza, I asked them why they no longer employed many of the students who used to work there. They said that it was, "impossible to run a restaurant with mostly student workers because of their hectic schedules," and so they decided to make all of them reapply after Christmas break in order to try and weed out the ones who didn't really want to work there. Their goal was to find the right mix of student and community employees. They claimed that they "tried to call everybody and let them know they had to reapply," but it appears as though they missed a few folks. Two former employees, who wish to remain anonymous, said that they showed up at work after the break to look at the schedule and their

names were not there. When they asked Susan and Greg about this, they simply said, "Sorry, we have a full schedule." While it is understandable for them to make few adjustments in their first few months on the mountain, it is unusual for them to not even let some of the students know about the reapplication process. Susan, who once worked at a restaurant during college, knows that many of the students who work need the extra income.

When asked why some of the former employees felt as though they left on bad terms, Greg said, "Some don't have what it takes...it's nothing personal, it's just the (restaurant) business." Many of their former employees must have been unaware of the terrors of the restaurant business before they applied, or surely they wouldn't have.

When Crust finally opened, fall break was just around the corner and they desperately needed some people to fill in. So, Hallie Gladstone, a junior at Sewanee, told them that she would help out. According to Hallie, when she went back a few weeks later to grab her paycheck, the manager told her to grab it from the office. The next day, Hallie returned because the check was short and Greg yelled at her for going into his office, claiming that she stole a paycheck that was missing. Hallie said, "He told me he didn't know me from a hole in the wall...and yelled at me until all I really had left to do was walk out."

Susan and Greg did not act this way towards me,

however. I found them to be extremely polite and, in fact, they discussed the firing and quitting of students for about 20 minutes, claiming that, "if we are anything, we are fair." Two other students I talked with, Anna Ransler and Sally Wilson, said just the opposite. Sally said that Susan and Greg "yelled at me in front of customers and talked crap about me to other workers as if I wasn't there." Anna claimed that Greg once told a customer that they gave me a 'lousy tip' while I was standing there.

A few current employees had only good things to say about them. Former student Trey Moore said they were very nice to him, and they even let him come back after "kind of quitting, kind of getting fired" last semester. Community member and employee Mary LaVoie said Greg and Susan "have treated me well." When asked if she thought Greg and Susan were unfair to workers, she said, "That is not a big deal to me. It's the way the world works."

Although it may be very hard to open up a restaurant in Sewanee, it is imperative in a small community like this to build strong connections. Shenanigans has been around Sewanee for a long time, and it not only has loyal customers but loyal employees who work hard. This kind of loyalty to a restaurant can't happen if the owners are unprofessional and inconsiderate. Susan and Greg did say that they "are always looking to improve," so hopefully they will by being more respectful to their student employees.

Heeleys: The Final Frontier

Jacob Moore

I have seen the future, and it is Heeleys. Perhaps, not being eleven-years-old, you have no idea what this footwear of the future is. Behold, for I will enlighten thee. Heeleys are a glorious blending of roller skate and sneaker, lovingly crafted into a form of pedal transportation beyond your wildest imaginings. A wheel lies hidden in the heel of a sneaker, so that the wearer can merely lean back upon his or her heels and find mobility drastically improved. Working at a toy store over the Summer, I would frequently see children glide into the store, taking their ease of movement for a sign that I had been inhaling too many Gak fumes. When the delirium passed, I was astounded to find that shoes had once again revolutionized civilization as we know it.

Surely all within the ages of 18 and 25 remember Street Lights, the shoes that flickered with light at every step. What child or parent did not appreciate the coolness and trick-or-treating safety of a blinking shoe? Admittedly, I expected the next step in children's footwear to be a jet booster in the heel, but I suppose a wheel is more fuel efficient for now. But what are the implications of shoes that have wheels in them?

1.) One more thing for public schools to ban. Who can forget the little girl who was expelled from her elementary school for wearing a Tweety Bird key chain on the grounds that it was a "weapon"? It is a dance as old as time: kids find something cool, the Man makes it illegal because it's "unsafe" or "distracting" or "addictive" and the next thing you know, you find little Timmy underneath the slide selling the illicit product for highly inflated prices. Don't believe me? Look at Pogs.

2.) We are finally catching up to science fiction. I remember the year 2001, and I definitely *don't* remember any psychotic super-computers trying to kill me. What gives, Science? What's the hold up? I want my flying car and my robot servants. It's 2007, and the best you can come up with is a wheel in a kid's shoe? Come on.

3.) Kids are going to break their asses. There's a reason why schools don't want Johnny McAwkward skating down the halls in his sneakers: he will kill himself and others. I remember skate parties as a kid, and I remember about one in ten kids can't skate in a non-flailing manner (I couldn't get *onto* the rink myself, I just hung out by the arcade and drowned my loneliness in a Mountain Dew-but that's neither here nor there). Expect to see Heeley-related medical emergencies skyrocketing this quarter.

4.) Human evolution will take a new step while society becomes more mobile and at the same time, lazier. Kids will be expected to travel between classes much faster, businesses will open earlier, trains and planes will be on time. Humanity will become soft and weak, though admittedly with fantastic balance. Why walk somewhere when you can just lean back? Posture will take on entirely new connotations, as kids will no longer slouch forward, but backwards. All the non-balanced will be culled by natural selection and make room for the new Mankind.

I for one welcome the new masters of our society; may their tiny chariots carry them into the future. A wise man once said, "Freedom is a wheel in your sole," and Heeleys have granted that freedom to millions (number not verified) of children nationwide.

Increasing Enrollment Continued From Front Page

rate reaching 92%, the highest in the University's history. The Admissions Office class size goal is 410 students; however, for the past two years, more than that number has accepted their offers from the University. In addition, the Admissions Office has seen a 20% increase in applications to 2,380. Dean Lesene admits, "For the time being, we can not handle more than 1500 students." This means the selectivity rate will increase for the class of 2011. Deans Lesene and Steele feel we have experienced the highest increase in enrollment for a while and, starting next year, things will begin to settle.

Next year's projections predict a smaller freshman class for 2008. The University, however, has already made plans to compensate if enrollment continues to increase. Last year, the University received a million dollar gift to renovate Johnson Hall into a smaller version of Humphrey's Hall. The renovations will begin once more money is raised, and the University determines where to place the current residents of Johnson. After the renovation of Johnson is completed, the University hopes to build a new dorm on Alabama Avenue where the Counseling Services Office and EMT house are currently located. Time and funding will determine when this new dorm will be completed, but, for the time being, it appears the enrollment increase will come to a halt.

MF/MA

Continued From Front Page

Sewanee Writers Conference, which brings writers from all over the country to Sewanee's campus each year. The school's summer classes allow professors who teach elsewhere (or here at Sewanee) during the year the opportunity to teach graduate courses at the School of Letters. The school's unique design allows for a dynamic and highly qualified faculty that would not otherwise be available. Among this year's faculty are Sewanee's John Gatta, associate dean of the college and professor of American literature, and Ellen Slezak, former Tennessee Williams Fellow and acclaimed fiction writer.

The School of Letters has already benefited some Sewanee graduates. Among those who will attend this summer are actor Anson Mount, c'96 and Andy Duncan, the longest standing member of Sewanee's board of trustees, c'52. Other applicants include teachers from schools such as MBA and McCallie as well as several lawyers, with applications coming from as far as Utah and Connecticut. Sewanee senior Justin Galloway plans to apply next summer. Total enrollment this summer will be around forty and is estimated to continue to grow each summer until enrollment reaches around one hundred. So don't grab your "Save Sewanee" stickers just yet—The School of Letters is not the next step in Sewanee's expansion. It's a group of writers and scholars who quietly grace the mountain for a few weeks each summer, enhancing the creative atmosphere and continuing a long-standing literary tradition.

The Faculty Dilemma (Continued from Page 1)

Though Professors Potter and Landon have had good experiences with the growth of the University, they both agree that something needs to be done to accommodate those departments that feel pressure to keep up with the student body. "We're about twice as large as we were in 1980. There have been great improvements in the past, but at present we don't have the faculty resources to effectively serve the student body," stated Potter commented on his personal experience in his department, stating, "Remember that in those days [the 1980s] the additional faculty were added at a rate that basically kept up with the increase in the student population. Part of the present concern is that the faculty thinks the addition of new faculty is lagging behind the addition of students." Coupled with beneficial aspects of additional students, Potter justified the advantages of adding new faculty: "the addition of new faculty members to our department meant many new opportunities for students. There was a greater variety of professors to work with, and the overall level of discourse in the department improved and expanded." Though Professor Landon agreed with the University's decision to increase the undergraduate population to about 1500 students because he believes this will lead to "increased diversity among the student body, more diversity in the curriculum, and a more varied and interesting campus life," he also believes something must be done. "I am aware, of course, of the rather severe side effects of our growth on undergraduate life. There is no question that the Administration needs to move as quickly as possible to remedy the problems with housing and course registration. One of the arguments (and promises) made—when the decision to grow was being taken—was that growth would allow us to increase faculty size and so broaden the curriculum. That has not happened to the extent needed and promised. So students and faculty need to keep the pressure on the Administration to act," says Landon.

Professor Ramsey explained, "When I got here in 1992 we had about one-hundred and thirteen full time faculty members and 1150 students. Now we currently have about one hundred and thirty-six full-time faculty members and 1475 students. Since I've been here, the student body has increased about twenty-nine percent, whereas, the faculty has seen only a twenty-percent increase with the 'official' numbers." The Sewanee website states that the student to faculty ratio is 10:1. Ramsey explicated that it is at best 10.9:1. The website states that there are one hundred and twenty-seven full-time faculty members and 1467 students, which equals a 11.55:1 student faculty ratio. Some how 10:1 has become the arbitrary number stated on the University's website. To be considered as a full time faculty member, a professor has to be hired to teach six courses a semester. However, professors often have course releases, which allow them to teach fewer classes each semester yet still be counted as full-time faculty members, which also skews the data.

Currently, Sewanee compensates for the absence of full-time professors by hiring contingent faculty members, stabilizing the faculty population, but not

adding to it. Ramsey testified, "the faculty is of one mind that the University needs to add tenure track lines not just to replace retiring tenure track faculty in order to keep up. Personally, I believe that tenure track positions are important in maintaining a certain atmosphere by fostering a strong learning community."

David Lesesne, Dean of Admissions, discussed the administrative goals that the University tries to achieve each year. He is in his sixth year as Dean at Sewanee. This year's senior class (2007) is the largest that has ever enrolled at Sewanee, at 427 students. However, Lesesne emphasizes that the most important factor is not how many students are admitted but the retention rate—the number of students who return to campus their sophomore year—has been steadily rising up to an all-time high of 92% this year. "We make about 1300 offers a year, knowing that not every student will accept," Lesesne explained. "We look at the historic yield rate, or how many students actually accept offers of admission. Usually our yield runs at around 30%, but this year's senior class had one of the highest yields ever at 32.5%, which makes a big difference even though it doesn't sound like much. We try to reach a balance point of about 410 students admitted each year, but it's hard to predict the behavior of 17-year-olds." Increasing selectivity while still reaching enrollment goals is one of the most challenging aspects of the admissions process, and the increased retention rate—although recently it's created a crowded campus—is a positive indication that Sewanee is doing a good job of selecting students who want to be here and can meet the school's academic challenges.

"There isn't an easy solution," Lesesne says. "It's easy to suggest that we cut back to, say, 375 students. But if we drop our student enrollment we take in less money, and then we run into problems with paying professors and providing resources to our students. If we increase our student enrollment too much, though, we overstretch our resources and hit an entirely different set of problems. It's a very complex process. You can go to a scheduling meeting and hear that we need fewer students and then go to a budgeting meeting and hear that we need more students. There's no obvious answer but we know that we need to make a balance." For this year, total enrollment was around 1465, and next fall Lesesne says the administration hopes to hit a goal of 1450, which seems to be the ideal number.

Overall, the faculty remains positive about the future. Potter commented, "Long term: I'm optimistic. I think over a period of years we'll work out an equitable system. There is some sort of critical mass for a given college or university that makes it just right for its setting - not so small that opportunities for students are significantly limited, and not so large that the place becomes overly impersonal. It's an ideal, and one person's critical mass does not match another's. Some faculty [members] think we expanded too fast and that our quality dipped a bit. I think we did pretty well, and that quality has generally been growing among the overall student body. We definitely have seen an improvement in the academic level of, say, the lower sixth of the student body since I arrived in 1980." Professor Landon stated, "Most institutions sort of bumble along, Sewanee perhaps more than it should. But I suspect that a few years into retirement I will look at campus life and sort of wish it had been that way when I was here."

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QOTBWCTBQ XSJW'Q FCMSW CQE'W JQ CTVOF-
WJEW JQ XSJW'Q VFOKCWJPNB
~W. VJFLBF & T. QWOEB

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~WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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PURPLE PUZZLES

BY SIMMONS FALK

QUICKWORD!

ACROSS

- 1) Obi & Luke, e.g.
- 5) ___ pinch (facing a problem)
- 6) NBC's biggest chin
- 7) Sandy hazzard

7	12	5	14
5			
6			
7			
E	L	L	A
P	O	O	H
I	C	B	M
C	A	S	E

DOWN

- 1) Leave at the alter
- 2) Cabinet dept.
- 3) Comedian Carvey
- 4) Stack server

SUDOKU!

		7	9					
4	1							3
	8				3	1	9	
9	7	5	6					
	4							6
					9	7	1	2
	3	2	7				5	
	5						7	6
					6	3		

Last Issue's
Sudoku Solved

1	7	3	2	5	6	9	8	4
2	8	4	3	9	1	5	6	7
5	6	9	7	4	8	3	2	1
3	1	6	9	8	4	7	5	2
9	4	7	5	3	2	8	1	6
8	2	5	6	1	7	4	9	3
4	3	2	8	6	9	1	7	5
6	9	1	4	7	5	2	3	8
7	5	8	1	2	3	6	4	9