

So, Can You Handel It? C10

The Sewanee PURPLE

Sewanee: Identity Crisis? SEWANEE The University of the South Section B

The University of the South

Sewanee, Tennessee 37383

Sewanee's Only Student Newspaper



Kicking It Up!
Congrats, You Girls in Motion!
Perpetual Motion Took Center Stage!
Thanks for the Show, Ladies!



What's Going on With Our Local Beer Joint?

page: 3



Exclusive Interview with Afroman!!!

Read Page 4



Is Kermi Really Smiling?
Only the Theta Pi's Know
Back Page

Monthly News:

A Month Late

Cause that's how we like it!

Sweet Sewanee Music

Exclusive Scoop on the New Listening Library

News On College Controversy: Section B



VC flags down the flags

Administration says 'no' to flags despite OG request

Eric Wilson
Staff Writer

On 2 March, the Order of Gownsmen passed a resolution requesting that the flags of twelve southern states be returned to All Saints' Chapel after over a decade of absence. The resolution, characterized by very strong language, sought the immediate return of the flags and went so far as to "repudiate" the actions of whomever had the flags removed. The flags were taken down in the spring of 1994, and in 1995, the 28 diocesan banners were placed in the Chapel's fourteen bays.

The resolution passed the order 26 to 21. Jonathan Duncan, the resolution's author and sponsor, emphasized the OG's responsibility to preserve and execute the traditions of the University as the cause for the order's need for action on this issue.

Reluctance towards this resolution emerged

after members raised questions regarding the need for the flags' presence in the Chapel and ultimately wondering whether the Chapel flags were a tradition that needed to be maintained.

In addition, some voiced concerns about the possibility that some students would be offended by the presence of the Confederate battle flag emblem in a few of the state flags. The issue of Confederate symbols has been hotly debated in recent years because many people view these references to the former confederacy as offensive.

The Chapel Flags soon became a fiercely debated issue. Vice Chancellor Cunningham responded to the request from the OG by asking "Chaplain Ward to convene a small

Continued Page 2

Vanderbilt to sign partnership with University of the South

Friday, 04/16/04

By MICHAEL CASS
Staff Writer

The University of the South and Vanderbilt University will collaborate on programs in nursing, education, religion and engineering and share other resources in a partnership they plan to announce today.

The agreement will give the two schools, located about 95 miles apart and generally regarded as the state's best universities, access to each other's faculty, library holdings, facilities and guest lecturers.

Collaborations will include:

A nursing program in which students will spend four years at The University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., and two at Vanderbilt in

Nashville, earning bachelor's and master's degrees.

A "3-2" engineering program leading to bachelor's degrees from both schools in five years, starting with three years at Sewanee.

New options for teacher licensure for Sewanee students, who will have access to the broader set of teacher-training programs at Vanderbilt's Peabody College.

Certain nursing and education courses will be recognized by both schools. Sewanee students who complete them might be able to gain admission in Vanderbilt's graduate programs in those areas more quickly than usual.

"I hope that, for both students and faculty at Vanderbilt and at Sewanee, it'll provide some extra

Continued Page 2

Protecting our Privacy?

Web Registration Safe?

Dylan Lane
Staff Writer

Have you had time to get a good look at the new "Web for Students" system? Registering online is the new thing at Sewanee and the first two weeks in April marked the first time Sewanee students have been able to take advantage of the Internet and register for classes like most other colleges, sans the long lines. Unless you failed to read the little works on the very pink booklet, registration was probably a breeze. Of course, what would a new system be without unearthing bothersome knuks and raising issues that most students

Continued Page 2

University Press Release Kenyon professor and administrator named dean of the college

Rita Smith Kipp, Oden Professor of Anthropology and associate provost at Kenyon College, has been named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Kipp succeeds Douglas Setters, who has served as interim dean since the departure of Thomas Kazee in June 2003.

"We're delighted that Professor Kipp has agreed to serve as dean of the college," says Vice Chancellor Cunningham. "She brings outstanding experience as a teacher, advisor, scholar, and administrator. She is clearly well prepared to serve and lead Sewanee's distinguished faculty and students."

A native of Wabasha, Oklahoma, Kipp received her bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1968 and her doctorate in anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1976, when she began teaching at Kenyon College. She was named associate provost last year.

A prolific scholar, Kipp is author of two books, *The Early Years of a Dutch Colonial Mission, The Koro Field* (1990) and *Dissociated Identities: Ethnicity, Religion, and Class in an Indonesian Society* (1993). Both were published by the University of Michigan Press, and the latter was named by *Choice* as one of the "Best Academic Books of the Year." She is also co-editor of two collections of anthropological studies of Indonesian peoples and religions, and she has published numerous scholarly articles, book

Continued Page 5

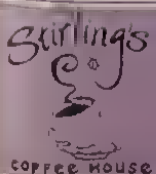
PURPLE PREDICTOR

Wednesday

High: 81
Low: 58

Thursday

High: 80
Low: 58



Singer Guitarist, Taylor Cornell
April 23, 9-11 PM

Pencil Portrait Sketches
by Amy Wetmore
Sign-up Sheet at Sterlings
Thursday 22

Art Reception Mae Wallace
Saturday, April 24, 4-5:00 PM

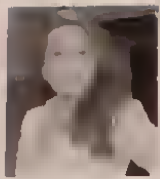


May 1st - 11:00 AM - Midnight Saturdays & Sundays, 9 AM to midnight

COFFEE HOUSE

COFFEE HOUSE

Editor's Note



**Do You
Wanna
Write an
Article on
That?**

About The "Uncut Version"

Kathryn Larson
Editor In Chief
Sara Miller
Executive Editor

William Peirson
Photo Editor

Natasha Cowie
News Editor

Julie Blair
Arts Editor

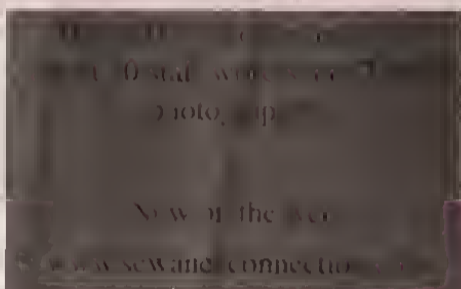
Brian Smith
Business Manager

Copy Editors:
Francie Hartline
Natasha Cowie
Kelley Brewer

Katherine Walker
Amanda Wilkinson

Diana Dang
Henry Sweets

Thanks also to photographer Lyn Hutchinson for the photographs of the EMTs.



The Passion of the Purple

How I loathe Pagemaker...let me count the ways:

OK, well, no many to list. So, I digress, on with this Editor's Note. As you can tell, there are lots of pages. I think it was the good weather that began the first set of 12...it was the controversy that spurred the next 12...and it would definately be the delerious lack of sleep that made the last 12 appear.

Enough. I can't think straight about the columns or the fonts or the countless comma splices!!!

Let's talk about this extremely long editmn. On first glance, like reading a novel, you are likely to be overwhelmed. Never fear, like Sparknotes are to a long winter's evening, here is what happens when you give Sparknotes to the Purple (can you believe we actually need these kinds of things now a days?)

- 1). Ok, flags were flagged down.
- 2). Vandy & Sewanee are going to have an affair of some sorts.
- 3). Can faculty really see my transcript? AHHH!
- 4). Shenanigans HAS beer.
- 5). Natasha Cowie is an awesome writer!!!
- 6). Kathryn is thinking about having an "affair" from the Purple. Where's Mr. Darcy when you need him?
- 7). Mr. Virtue isn't a virtuous man. He can't handle S-E-X!
- 8). Can You find all the copyediting errors? I still don't know how to spell sawanee; the university of the south. Or something.
- 9). Environmental Issues Week
- 10). Did I get ANY sleep last night?
- 11). Tennessee Williams = Great Read...
- 12). Need Coffee. . .Starbucks. . .

mmm, BUT it will cost you \$15,000- -OK, \$3.25 for a cup. 13). Rock Climbing & EMTs rock my world. Literally. (because if you fall rock climbing--you fall into the hands of the EMT's on the next page!)

And that's about it. Phew. . . now, go on little reader, and read, read, read!

Continued Articles from Front Page

VC Flags the Flags

group to review the process and reasoning that went into the decision to remove the flags in 1994, and to make a recommendation on how to respond to the resolution."

Shortly after students returned from Spring Break, the Student Assembly took up the chapel flag banner. Assemblyman Kevin Alonso proposed a resolution stating that the SA respond unfavorably to the OG's resolution. Alonso cited the offensiveness of the Confederate emblems as his primary cause for concern. After a brief period of debate, the SA voted overwhelmingly to reject the return of the chapel flags.

University leaders say that, contrary to popular belief, the flags were not taken out of the chapel because of the Confederate symbols, and, in fact, their removal predates the national Confederate battle flag debate. Instead, they stress the University's desire to emphasize the institution's connection with the owning dioceses rather than the actual states that include the diocese.

Furthermore, it is widely believed that concerns for acoustical integrity in the Chapel were at least part of the issue—a rumor that a University official and the resolutions sponsor, Mr. Dimean, both say is unfounded.

Flags had been present in All Saints' since it was completed in 1910 and a well-known picture from the 1920s shows some of the first flags. The first flags to hang in the nave (the large area where the congregation usually sits) of the chapel were a US flag, which flew during the first meeting of the University's Board of Regents in 1857, and a battle flag of the Army of Tennessee. These flags would eventually be removed from the chapel in order that they might better be preserved, since they are of im-

mense historical significance to the University.

The flags of the states of the University's dioceses were put in place in 1922. The flags hung in the bays of the chapel where the diocesan banners now reside. According to a 1948 chapel pamphlet, when the flags were ordered and hung, a mistake was made, resulting in a Massachusetts state flag hanging in the Chapel, unnoticed until 1948, when it was replaced with the Missouri state flag.

In 1958, when All Saints' was completed, the state flags were moved to the nave. The final construction of All Saints' began in 1957 and added much to the chapel, including Shapard Tower and the heightened nave.

In the coming weeks, University leaders will determine how to respond to the conflicting student opinions.



SEWANEE

The University of the South

University of the South & Vanderbilt Continued...

opportunities," said Joel Cunningham, University of the South vice chancellor and president, who will sign an agreement with Vanderbilt Chancellor Gordon Gee at Sewanee this morning. "I think that over time, we'll find new opportunities that go beyond those that we're even talking about at this point."

Gee, who first discussed the idea with Cunningham last July, said the arrangement gives Vanderbilt "a partnership with one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the country," which will help the Nashville school recruit top students for graduate and professional study.

Along with working together on academic programs, the schools will

- Give students and faculty borrowing privileges at both libraries. Sewanee professors who do summer research in Nashville will be able to use Vanderbilt housing.

- Have students and staff collaborate in planning student programs or arranging for guest lecturers to discuss multicultural issues, student leadership and other areas.

- Use each other's facilities for certain events.

- Exchange theology students and faculty.

While significantly different in their sizes, settings and offerings, both universities consistently do well in national rankings and draw their students from far and wide. They have collaborated in less formal ways throughout the years.

Vanderbilt announced a similar partnership last year with Rhodes College in Memphis, another well-regarded liberal arts school.

Michael Cass can be reached at 259-8838 or mcass@tennessean.com

Web Registration, cont'd

might care to know about?

The man behind the screen is Paul Wiley, Director of Institutional Research and Registrar, who in the past months has enjoyed the duty of being the arbitrator and educator to all those who care to know about the new online Registrar's Office. Any Sewanee faculty or student member will tell you that Sewanee is behind the mode in using the Internet to our advantage, but with this new system, Sewanee is also encountering the negative consequences that accompany the "information highway."

"It is the best product out there for the money we were looking to spend. We have actually had the system since 2000 and have been slowly phasing it in. As with any new technology, there will be some glitches and a little more stress for everyone involved, but I feel it is important to implement this system to provide better service for faculty and students alike," said Wiley.

Some Sewanee students who have learned about the intricacies of this new online program voiced their concern, through the Student Assembly meeting with faculty, about an infringement of privacy over the way this new system is currently running. Before this semester, faculty advisors automatically received copies of their students' transcripts in the mail. With the new system came the possibility of easy universal access by all faculty members to any student's transcripts online. The faculty mulled over this idea and finally decided on a limited access policy, allowing only advisors and current/past professors to view their respective students' transcripts online.

"[Online] is a better system for advisors, because you can access information that you would have otherwise had to piece together. Now you do not have to walk to the Registrar's office to access needed information on students," said Dr. Laurie Ramsey, French Department Professor and Chair.

If you were not already aware, this could come as a shock, but any teacher with a viable reason, according to the Registrar's office, may access any student's transcripts by simply walking down and requesting it. This means that your grades and your performance in classes are not restricted solely to those you allow to view your records. The scary part is that now teacher's can do this with a couple clicks of the mouse. So is this a privacy issue, or simply a convenient change?

"I am already someone who is concerned with issues of privacy, so of course I was against this development and decision. I felt that the students had legitimate concerns with respect to objective grading by new teachers. This policy is detrimental to students' privacy and maybe we should give the students the choice to have their transcripts remain private," said Scott Wilson, Director of Asian Studies.

The new system is advantageous to both students and faculty, with respect to attaining information quickly and being able to

use it. The issue at hand is whether students should be concerned with what seems to be an already existing policy of allowing any teacher to view records of a student without the consent of that student. The faculty vote to limit the access passed and defeated any idea of universal access, but apparently the "switch" has not been turned off to limit the ability of any teacher to access transcripts.

"It is a matter of trust. Students need to trust their teachers. Most professors do not have the time to spend looking up the transcripts of prospective students. The system makes it easier to write letters of recommendation and to advise students. The level of access has not changed; It is just easier now for advisors and the current teachers to attain information," said Dr. Ramsey.

Mr. Wiley agrees that in his twenty years of experience he has known the faculty members to always be looking out for the best interest of students, and he does not see a significant shift in motive just because the new system makes information easier to reach. It is even possible that this could be a plus for students, like those who might need more attention and do better with certain academic motivation.

The bottom line is that the student will not know, when sitting in class the first week, whether his/her teacher has identified or typified them based on their past performance. Unfortunately the teachers have the upper hand in the decision making process, and few students actually showed up to voice their concerns, but is it time students started being concerned?

What's Going Around

- Few cases of mono
- Fatigue
- Sore throats (viral)
- Allergies
- Athletic Injuries
- Sun Screen is a must!

Stay Hydrated!

Don't Drink out of same cups for Spring Party Weekend

If you need help with a week-

end emergency

contraceptive:

call: 598- 9217

Thanks Health Services!

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

New Ralston Listening Library

Townsend Zeigler
Staff Writer

Few realize that The University of the South now holds one of the largest classical music collections of any American university. Now, the music department, under the guidance of professors Steven Shrader and Steven Miller, is collaborating with Dr. Thomas Carlson, professor of English, to create a space to house and play these recordings. This listening library, named after the late Sewanee professor William Ralston, will move into Guerry Hall. Last spring, William Ralston, who graduated from The University of the South in 1951, passed away. Father Ralston deeply loved classical music, and he left his extensive library of classical recordings in care of Dr. Carlson, a fellow music enthusiast, in the hope that The University of the South would, according to a fund-raising letter, "build a room that will meet the high standards of beauty and acoustics that Father Ralston sought in his own home, including the finest musical and recording equipment."

Ralston's classical music collection rivals those of any Ivy League university, and with the addition of the school's and much of Dr. Carlson's own collection, the listening library will accommodate thousands of compact discs.

The William H. Ralston Listening Library, composed of storage space, a listening studio, and a seminar classroom, will occupy much of the second floor of a proposed entrance atrium in a renovated Guerry Hall. The library will contain state of the art recording and

listening equipment, including digital storage, analog to digital recorders, and the finest speakers and stereo equipment. With such resources, students will be able to listen to recordings that replicate the dynamism of a live concert.

The University of the South will fulfill Father Ralston's hope that the library would house his collection in an attractive and elegant space. The preliminary plan surrounds the listening library and seminar area in sound-proof glass. The furnishings within will resemble the smoking parlors of Victorian England, with mahogany furnishings, oriental rugs, and leather armchairs and couches. The library will provide a delightful setting for students to enjoy the genius of great composers and performers.

Besides providing students with one of the finest musical resources, the Ralston listening library and the renovation of Guerry Hall will prove invaluable for the music department. Currently, the music department is spread throughout four buildings. With the renovation of Guerry and the Ralston listening library, offices, classrooms, and practice space will be consolidated into one building, providing the music department with integrity, visibility, and a stronger identity. The listening library will further distinguish Sewanee's music department, and augment the reputation of the internationally acclaimed Sewanee Summer Music Festival. One fund-raising letter states, "The result of this effort will be a teaching resource without peer and a magnificent public memorial within a music hall that attracts performers and audiences from around the country." And, much

like the University of Indiana, the library could even turn a profit if its collection were digitally recorded, stored, and made available to other institutions and universities. Before the renovation of Guerry and the work on the library can begin, the school must finish the Gailor renovations; afterwards, when the language departments move to Gailor, the school can direct its developmental resources towards renovating Guerry and establishing the listening library. Fundraising has already brought in around \$300,000 for the Ralston atrium and library, but the goal lies at \$2 million. The Guerry renovation will cost approximately \$9.3 million. When completed, the renovation and the Ralston listening library will add to the strength of the University's liberal arts education, exposing students to superb music and affording the utmost pleasure to music connoisseurs. Donations and requests for literature may be sent to The Ralston Project care of Tam Carlson here at the University.



Columns & Such

POLICE BLOTTER...

Wil Oakes
Staff Writer

Another month has passed, and the wheel of life continues to roll on, bringing Sewanee students ever closer to the end of another year on the mountain. With only one more police blotter yet to write after this, I find myself nostalgic for the years gone by, but at the same time longing for the excitement of the future. Even each day, like each passing year, brings new challenges to us, and on this day my challenge is to relate a single story that is so bizarre and surreal that I must summon up my deepest artistic abilities in order to relate it in such a way that will do it justice. Before I undertake this endeavor, however, it is my sad duty to make an announcement. After three years as author of the Police Blotter, my time is drawing near its close, due to an unjust practice known as graduation, and this means that a new author must be found. The requirements for this job are simple: literary mastery, general genius, and the kind of gut that can handle the grotesqueries of a life looking at Sewanee crime. That being said, I am accepting inquiries, and those interested in the job may email their information to purple@sewanee.edu. A writing sample may be required. Now that that business is taken care of, here is your police blotter for this issue of *The Purple*...

In the evening hours of some recent night, two fraternity members struck out from their house in search of something. That thing was firewood. The two men wanted nothing more than a cozy fire so that they could enjoy its warmth as well as the warmth of their brotherhood, but there was something they had not counted on when they set out that night. They were carrying a bolting hammer to split

the wood. Now, a bolting hammer can bear a striking resemblance to an ax when viewed in the pale moonlight, and these two fraternity members were spotted by the members of another fraternity prowling about in the trees near their house. This, of course, led the members of this fraternity to suspect some vandalism afoot, and they set out in a rage to stop the approaching would-be vandals. A chase ensued. The fraternity in pursuit chased the two men with the "ax" all the way to Emerald-Hodgson hospital, which the chase circled around several times. Hospital employees, shocked by this spectacle, phoned Sewanee police and reported "an ax murder in progress" outside the hospital. Police were, understandably, a bit thrown off by this, but responded quickly in what must have been an intense moment. Upon arrival, however, they found that the supposed "ax murder" had been resolved peacefully, with no injuries (an unusual outcome for ax murders). The participants had resolved their differences and agreed to a snack of hot apple cider and muffins. No injuries reported; no arrests made. In my opinion, these events represent one of the great misunderstandings of our time.

With that single epic, the police blotter ends. I hope that this edition has been enjoyable and found its readers content. Keep in mind applications for the new blotter writer, and have an enjoyable last month of the semester. Until next time, remember, "It is through the blotter that we all become who we are."



Beer Up, they aren't losing their License!

Our way of saying:

News with a slightly skewed look at the predicaments around campus...

Shenanigans's Falls Victim to "The Valley Vendetta"

Johnny Shoaf

Staff Writer

A few weeks ago, the intellectual juggernauts that sit on the Franklin County Beer Board revoked the beer license of our local beer joint/pizza place/spicy-turkey-melt distributor, Shenanigans. The beer board hired an investigator to conduct a "sting" at Shenanigans. After multiple sting attempts, the investigator, using some questionable tactics, finally caught them selling beer to a minor.

Following the initial ruling, a large group of patrons, comprised of students and community members, gathered at the Franklin County courthouse for a special meeting with the beer board last Monday. This meeting was called by Carl Smith, the board's chairperson, in order to clear up some misconceptions that guided the board's initial ruling. More specifically, the board thought that because this was a second offense (the first one was 8 years ago) that they had to, by law, revoke the beer permit. Paul Cross, who represented Shenanigans's owners, Kiki and Ben Beavers, subsequently proved that the board was incorrect to believe that the license had to be revoked. As it turns out, the beer board's code was nothing more than a pamphlet distributed by a malt beverage cooperative that had suggested sentencing guidelines for beer boards: for a long time, the beer board had been operating as if this document had legal standing.

According to the actual law governing the beer board's powers, they could have assessed a fine of up to \$1500 in lieu of a revocation. The second hearing was supposedly designed to "set the record straight" as Smith, the ubiquitous bastion of higher thought, proclaimed. In theory, the meeting also could have also served to determine if the ruling should be changed in light of the fact that some board members voted to revoke the license only because they thought that it was their legal commandment.

The hearing started on a positive note. After a little bickering, board member Cordell Garrett made a motion to change the penalty to a \$1500 fine. This was voted down 3-2, with the deciding vote being cast by Smith. Horace Mayes, a former owner of the market and supporter of Shenanigans, voted to change the penalty, as did Garrett.

Things went south fast, when one of the board members, Adrian Gonstin, went on a tirade, making completely arbitrary motions, this despite the fact that Gonstin himself had just noted that, in a prior instance of multiple

offenses, a nearby convenience store owner did not have his license taken. After rambling incoherently for a few minutes, Gonstin then called Ben Beavers a liar, asserting emphatically, without any evidence, that the revocation would not close the business (Kiki Beavers calculated that Shenanigans sells between \$200-\$500 dollars of beer a day).

Then Smith echoed the Gonstin's sentiments in such a way that one would wonder if they scripted it all before it started. Smith began talking about how "it all started with cigarettes" and "now we have meth." At the end, the Smith offered a ridiculous moral diatribe about how soft much of the judicial system is and about how the Franklin county beer board was going to "bow-up." The initial ruling was upheld.

After asking us if we knew "Wes," another board member, Buddy Hobba, voted against the fine, because he "did not want that to happen again." This comment referred to Wes Mitchell, a freshman who died a few years ago in an accident. On the way out of the courthouse, I witnessed an exchange with the Hobba, while some other patrons were heckling/conversing with Gonstin and Smith. This is how that conversation went in regards to the connection between Wes and Shenanigans:

"Excuse me sir, I was wondering if you might explain the connection between Wes Mitchell's death and Shenanigans?"-student
"Did I say there was a connection?"-Hobba
"Surely you thought it was pertinent if you brought it up?"-student
"Did I say there was a connection?"-Hobba
"Surely you thought it was pertinent if you brought it up?"-student
"There is no connection"-Hobba
"Then why did you bring it up?"-student
"Why does there have to be a connection?"-Hobba

Fortunately, Shenanigans expects to serve beer again soon until an actual trial can take place. If you want to do something about the situation, write the county and tell them you do not want your tax dollars to fund ego trips for the three ignorant, self-righteous members of the beer board that voted for the revocation. How good of a job could the beer board really be doing if they are not aware of which documents bind the board's operations?

Facelifts on Sewanee

Heather Haney
Staff Writer

THE NEW BLACKBOARD:

Have you heard about Blackboard? Many students haven't, and what a shame it is! Blackboard is the web-based course management that Sewanee's Academic Technology Center has recently added. Blackboard is best described by Dr. Vicki Sells as "[providing] an online environment allowing faculty to easily create a web-enhanced course utilizing an online syllabus, assignments, discussion board for students, audio and video links, electronic grade book, and other resources to facilitate teaching and learning at Sewanee." Any internet-accessible computer at almost any location may use Blackboard. Universities nationwide are using Blackboard to conveniently organize their personal courses. Both faculty and students are able to use this system as long as a login and password are established and secured. Many faculty members were interested in this new technology, and bringing it to Sewanee was of much debate. Last summer, here on the Mountain, Blackboard was installed. In the fall of 2003, testing began to ensure ATC that Blackboard would be a worthwhile investment. The pilot courses held during this time were quite successful and led to more participants for the spring semester. At Sewanee, more than 40 faculty members are trained to use Blackboard. Currently, 107 courses are active with 680 active users. Sarah Simmons uses Blackboard for her Latin class. She says, "At first I didn't like the idea of Blackboard, because I was

Finally, students are really using it!

used in taking tests in class with a roomful of people. But after using Blackboard my opinion has changed. You are able to study up until you actually take the test online. It is good for cramming!" Other students agree, in that it is more convenient in that they can study until properly prepared, then take the test and have immediate results. Blackboard was founded in 1997 by two education consultants in hopes to promote Educause IMS, an online education system. In correlation with Cornell University, Blackboard was formed. It serves not only colleges, but major businesses and military programs. They pride themselves on being a "sound technology investment that delivers educational and economic returns." If you have not yet taken a class on Blackboard, you are missing out! Blackboard is expanding throughout Sewanee, and it won't be long until the majority of classes take most quizzes and tests online. If you are interested in this program you may access this system using <http://blackboard.sewanee.edu> or visit <http://www.blackboard.com>.

And This little contraption, that you see here..well, we'll discuss it in our final facelift of the semester!



Singin' in Sewanee

A new group, a great beat, a singing singular sensation

Heather Haney
Staff Writer

"Hope you don't mind that I put it down in words..." Elton John's "Your Song" lyrics seem ironically to fit both as an opening for the Sewanee Sound's first *Purple* publicity, and as opening song to their show held Thursday, April 1, 2004. The ensemble, led by Brandon Nolen and Vi Lyuk, proved themselves talented and experienced singers.

As the lights dimmed, the crowd waited patiently for the show to start. With only the aid of Vi Lyuk on the piano, Brandon Nolen belted the first verse from *Your Song* as he approached the stage filled with his fellow Sewanee Sound members. Sewanee Sound consists of: Jean Anne Babin, Patrick Timko, Jeanney Lee, Garen Hover, Emily Estelle, Boone Clayton, Vi Lyuk, Kaitlin Krull, Heather Turbenville, Brandon Nolen, Sari Reisz, Jill Sethness, Hayden Patterson, and Richard Palmer. Many soloists were featured throughout the show. The only instrument played during the show was Vi on the piano. The music she made was beautiful and soothing.

Their latest show, entitled "A preview of years to come!" was slightly less nerve-racking for the group than was their first show. Their premier was in front of 400 people at the faculty Christmas

luncheon this past semester. Brandon has high hopes for the group in the future. The songs presented in their latest show were quite a mixture; everything from "On My Own" (from *Les Misérables*) to Billy Joel's "And So It Goes." Brandon states, "The beauty of this ensemble is that it is totally student-run—we sing what we want to sing." And that is the honest truth. This group truly was awesome. Their stage presence was spell-binding. Each person had a love for performing. Facial expression and body language demonstrated the passion these singers felt for their talent. Evidence of previous choir experience was clearly displayed. Brandon believes that they "have a great blend and [are] very balanced, especially for our first year."

The Sewanee Sound began when Brandon got the idea for a performative group like this about a year ago. He sent emails and placed a sign-up sheet at the activity fair in hopes that other Sewanee students desired much the same thing. About 30 freshmen alone signed up, but presently the group hovers around 15 people. Brandon and Vi "run the show," with the help of advisor Gary Schuefler, who is also helping with the Sewanee Orchestra. Leadership positions are predicted to stay the same next year. The group practices twice a week, with tapes for personal attention and convenience.

The group got a standing ovation at the end of their performance. The Sewanee Sound was definitely worth seeing and was an appropriate end to the first hectic week back from spring break.



Exclusive with: Afroman

Afroman Comes High on the Mountaintop to Sewanee

Eric Wilson
Staff Writer

I recently got to speak with nationally recognized rapper Afroman (aka Joseph Fontana) during his visit to Sewanee for a performance. Afroman received acclaim back in 1999 for his song "Because I Got High," a song listing the results of drug usage (ostensibly from his own life). In a wide ranging interview we discussed everything from Afroman's origins to his views on music piracy to his impressions of Sewanee.

Though I've never interviewed any performer of Afroman's caliber or renown, I was surprised at how 'down-to-earth' he was. For the past several weeks, Afroman had been touring in anticipation of the release of his new album *Afroholics* that will come out on 20 April.

My first question for Sewanee's most recent MTV-culture icon visitor was how he got the name 'Afroman'. While this seems like an obvious question to some, those who have met the artist in person will attest that Afroman actually possesses no 'Afro' hairstyle. He told me that when he was starting his career while he was living in Los Angeles, a girl began calling him Afroman since he couldn't afford to get his hair cut as often as most and subsequently his hair was usually longer. The name seemed to stick and as Afroman puts it "I wanted the streets to name me instead of me naming myself... I wasn't Afroman because I had a big voluptuous afro."

Afroman says he strives to be a good rapper "with West Coast flavor" and when he records music he does so with the goal that he wants a product that listeners can enjoy from beginning to end. As far as Afroman's musical influences are concerned, he's a self-described eclectic, saying, "Homie, if you go look in my CD book, you won't even know it's mine," but emphasizing that all of his songs are inspired from his own life. "I mean why talk if you don't have nothing to talk about?" he explains, revealing the one of Afroman sensibility.

Afroman is very excited about the release of his new album *Afroholics* on his own record label Hungry Hyster Records, confessing that his "hit song ['Because I Got High'] blinded the rest of [his] first album," and listeners can expect "a more consistent Afroman."

So, is Afroman the harbinger of excessive drug use that his songs seem to convey? Not so, he says, explaining that you have to experience a problem before

you can fix it, and he says that after the experiences that became the impetus for "Because I Got High," he realized that he had a problem. In fact, the real Afroman has nothing to do with the world of drugs and alcohol of which he raps since he is, as he calls himself, "a square."

Much of Afroman's initial success can be attributed to an active community of file sharers who spread the 'Afroman word.' Afroman says that artists whom listeners enjoy need not worry about the ills of file sharing, since fans will undoubtedly ensure that their favored artists will receive compensation. He is confident that the mindset is such that listeners who enjoy an artist will want to guarantee the future success of the artists by paying for their albums or concert tickets.

Afroman also notes the importance of file sharing to up-and-coming performers who lack the resources to adequately promote themselves, but who, through file sharing communities, are given a chance to succeed.

Afroman enjoyed his time at Sewanee, he says, "I wouldn't mind going to school here," because everyone he met was friendly and his initial impression was that this is a very laid-back place. As most guests do, he was quick to note the natural beauty of the campus. Afroman seemed to be a Sewanee fan from the moment he entered the gates, since one of the first things he saw on the campus was a student riding a horse. "It's like camp college," he said. He even hinted at the possibility of Sewanee's being the inspiration for an upcoming song.

Later that night, Afroman delivered a show enjoyed by hundreds of partygoers, all trying to get a glimpse of Sewanee's rapping visitor, who swamped the Sigma Nu house.

Regardless of one's musical inclinations, there exists the presence of something truly genuine in Afroman's music that is the result of the talent of a truly genuine man. This quality is something everyone can appreciate.

Visit Afroman's website at www.afromanmusic.com



No matter what Eric tells you, he definitely got high off writing this article!

TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT

JUSTICE ADOLPHO A. BIRCH

“What You Always Wanted to Know About the Supreme Court, but Were Afraid to Ask”

Exclusive Interview:

Purple: What made you decide to become a lawyer?

Justice Birch: I've wanted to be a lawyer all my life, since I was three or four years old. I always, always wanted to be a lawyer.

Purple: Do you pick issues or platforms, like a political candidate? Are there issues that you specialize in?

Justice Birch: No, no, no. [Supreme Court Justices] select the cases that we accept based on certain criteria—there's no automatic appeal to the Supreme Court, so we're free to choose the cases that we want to decide. And some of the factors in making that decision could be whether the case has “turned out wrong,” so to speak, or whether there's a conflict among the lower courts about the proper ruling. We just pick what we want from both sides.

Purple: What is the process of deciding a ruling for a case?

Justice Birch: We have a conference after every [case] argument, and we decide which way we want to rule on a certain issue, and then the chief justice assigns that case to one of us to write [the ruling]. We're bound to write it the way [the justices rule]. If I disagree, I'll give it to someone else, and say I can't write it, because I disagree.

Purple: Recently, National Public Radio reporter Nina Totenberg gained access to the late United States Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun's papers. Do you keep documentation like that as well?

Justice Birch: As I understand it, he had some-

thing like 1400 boxes of papers! I've got some boxes—I don't think there are 1400 of them, nor do I think they're as interesting or significant as his, by any means, but I do have a few.

Purple: How do you go about making a difficult court ruling?

Justice Birch: Well, I guess for some issues it's one way, for some issues it's another way. There's no real pattern that one uses. Some things, you just know they're not right; some things, you know they are right. Sometimes you know that the law is wrong and you should try to change it; sometimes you know the law is right and you ought to do everything you can to affirm it. So I guess there's no one process that takes you to a conclusion, it just depends on a number of factors and circumstances.

Purple: This is a little bit corny, I guess, but interesting—what role models do you have?

Justice Birch: Well, I'm going to say something [in my speech later] this evening about role models. I reject the kind of role model that is generally understood. Role models are all around us—parents, relatives, school teachers, church leaders, the man next door, the woman next door. I don't think you have to dribble a basketball fast, or run fast, or be a Nobel Prize winner, to be a role model. I think we put too much emphasis on it. I think the persons who inspire you to achievement and to excellence are role models, and they can be anywhere in your life that you find them.

Purple: What piece of advice have you been given at any point that's helped you the most?

Justice Birch: Well, you know, the advice that I received was very general, and almost trite in a sense. I was told to be the best you can be, to work hard, study hard, set your sights on a reasonable goal, an attainable goal, work hard and you can achieve it, that there will be distractions, don't take any backward steps. Very much general things, but they make sense, and they're universally accepted.

Purple: What is it like, being behind the bench of the Supreme Court? Do you ever pass notes if it gets a little boring?

Justice Birch: [Laughs] Funny that you should ask that, but I have passed a note or two. And I've received a note or two. Not always because it's boring, but simply as an aside or comment on something that's going on. Yes. Every once in a while it does happen. But it's never boring. Hardly ever boring.

“I believe in excellence in every field of human endeavor.” Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Adolpho A. Birch stated in a speech at Sewanee on March 11. Standing before a scant crowd of thirty professors, students, and community members, the first and only African American justice on the Tennessee state Supreme Court engaged the crowd in a discussion following a brief speech about his life and principles. “I don't want to just give a speech,” he said, “I want to have a conversation, to talk with you.”

He's received hate mail, seen picket lines, and encountered racial prejudice. Yet he dismissed the threats and difficulties as “part of [being a justice].” A tall, eloquent man with white hair and beard, he projects an intimidating image, yet is quick to give a warm, confident smile. Clearly accustomed to the podium, he gazed at each member of the audience in turn as he spoke. He began with a brief story about his own experience with Sewanee. His father, an Episcopal priest, encouraged him to consider the late Sewanee Military Academy. Intrigued by the military and religious aspects of the school, Birch asked his father to speak to his bishop about admittance. “It was 1950,” he added, “I never heard anything else about it from my father.” Sewanee missed its chance at gaining another distinguished alumnus—Birch attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. instead.

After receiving a J.D. from Howard, Birch spent two years serving active duty in the U.S. Naval Reserve and began practicing law. In 1993, he was appointed to the Tennessee Supreme Court. In addition to serving as a justice, he teaches at the Nashville School of Law. As a justice, he is particularly outspoken about unfair application of the death penalty. Although he is not opposed to capital punishment, he believes that the implementation of death penalty laws is often unfair, biased against minorities and people who are mentally disabled. According to Justice Birch, if implemented at all, the death penalty should “be implemented in a more fair way.”

Justice Birch spoke about the changing role of the Tennessee Supreme Court, which has begun to take on increasingly difficult and highly controversial issues—such as abortion rights, school funding, and parental rights—in recent years. Medical malpractice is currently a hot topic. Unwilling to name a specific “favorite case,” he said that “every case is important, because they're important to the people involved in them.”

Law is a tough business, but deeply fulfilling to those who are passionate about it, said Justice Birch. “You have to really want it, to feel like you have something to give,” he advises prospective law students. He “always wanted to be a lawyer,” and his outstanding career in the legal profession is a reflection of his personal goal of excellence.

Justice Birch's speech was sponsored by the African American Alliance. Thanks to Eric Benjamin, Director of Minority Affairs, for arranging an interview with Justice Birch.



Justice Birch is 2nd from the left at the First Amendment Center

Congratulations New Proctors

Kipp, Continued From Front Page

chapters, and reviews.

Kipp's awards include a Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship. She is a fellow of the American Anthropological Association. She has served as a consultant and evaluator for programs in anthropology, Asian studies, and cultural studies at many universities in the U.S. and abroad, including Sewanee.

Her husband, Richard Kipp, is also an anthropologist and is serving as a financial consultant. They have three children: one married son and twins who are seniors at Oberlin College. Kipp will begin her service as dean on July 1.



- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Trip Barnes | Cannon Hall |
| Katie Bells | Cleveland Hall |
| Audrea Buckley | Hunter Hall |
| Patrick Burke | Trezevant Hall |
| Casey Cook | Courts Hall |
| Scott Creason | Wiggins Hall |
| Tania Czemy | Courts Hall |
| Mallory Dorand | McCrady Hall |
| David Dyson | Trezevant Hall |
| David Green | Tuckaway Hall |
| Jenny Hanger | Phillips Hall |
| Ashleigh Holloway | Johnson Hall |
| Katharine Kane | Gorgas Hall |
| Bethany Kimmel | Gorgas Hall |
| Shannon Lynberg | Cleveland Hall |
| Thomas Marshack | Hodgson Hall |
| Coley McKinstry | Elliot Hall |
| Sara Miller | Hoffman Hall |
| John Miller | Elliot Hall |
| Mark Mochel | St. Luke's Hall |
| Vishal Nehru | Tuckaway Hall |
| Marysue Palmer | Quintard Hall |
| Seth Parkhurst | Cannon Hall |
| Chris Purdy | McCrady Hall |
| Will Reynolds | Humphreys Hall |
| Isaac Rhea | Hodgson Hall |
| Prashant Shukla | Quintard Hall |
| Whitney Sice | Benedict Hall |
| Aileen Tate | Gorgas Hall |
| Megan Weed | Humphreys Hall |
| Miles Wellesley | Benedict Hall |

AVAILABLE FOR GRADUATION!



6 BR, 4.5 BA
DREAM HOME.

GOOCH-BEASLEY
REALTORS



MOUNTAIN INFO
CENTER

(931) 924-4636

infocenter@blomand.net

www.tennessee-mountain-info.com

How Then Shall We Live Series: Thomas Sullivan

Nicole Bernel
Staff Writer



On Monday, March 8, Thomas Sullivan concluded this semester's How Then Should We Live? Series with a discussion entitled: "Are There Good Reasons to Believe in God?" An indirect response to speaker Christopher Hitchens's discussion on the Moral Necessity of Atheism, Sullivan attempted to refute Hitchens's basic claims with theoretical arguments against atheism.

As the Aquinas Chair at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota, Sullivan has written several books and articles, one of which, *The Agnostic Inquirer*, was the basis for Monday's discussion. He began his argument discussing his personal conflict with religion that began as a young child. The son of a Jewish mother and a Catholic father, he was raised in what he called a "religious vacuum." When questioning his father about the existence of God, Sullivan claimed that his father responded by stating, "There either is [a God] or there isn't [a God], and you'll either believe there is or there isn't... consider the consequences." Nonetheless, Sullivan, left that within his academic studies he had always been forced to choose between faith and reason. The academic world had always portrayed faith as an intellectual vice, and that, as a philosopher, emphasis was placed upon facts.

Therefore, it is with logic as his basis that he feels justified in rejecting atheism. His foundation for this is a simple two-premise causal argument. There are two claims. The first is that 1) cosmologically, the world came into being, and the second is that 2) everything that comes into being has a cause. Thus, one infers that, if these two statements are true, then the world must have a creator. However, there is no evidence through which to concretely affirm these statements. Sullivan's point, however, is that while these statements cannot be scientifically shown to be true, neither can they be shown to be false. Thus, Sullivan claims that the atheist has no scientific grounding for his beliefs.

In addition, he offers what is called the Traditional Natural Theology argument, which claims that the creation of the world, as it exists today, is a miraculous event. It is so miraculous that statistically, the probability of the world existing as it does is a minuscule one out of 10^{60} chances. The laws of the universe are "too good to be true." He concedes, however, that this might merely bring one to the belief in a grand central intelligence, which is far off from the Christian conception of God. Sullivan argues, however, that it seems problematic to believe in an intelligence that created the world, but then cared nothing for his creation. Sullivan claimed that any such

being would feel a strong parental relationship to her creation.

Now that he believes he has offered evidence against complete rejection of the existence of God, Sullivan attempts to show why the Bible itself can be legitimately used to argue for God's existence. Sullivan argues that there is a mistake implicit in natural theology. The claim is that one cannot look at revelations seriously. It has been understood that first one must discern that God exists, and, then, secondly, one can come to believe that God revealed himself to human beings. To support his view that one can legitimately look at Biblical text to support the belief that God revealed himself, Sullivan draws upon Homer and the epic tradition. Since Homer lived long before the written tradition, scholars had generally believed that it was incoherent to believe he could have orally composed such long works as the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. The limitations of human capacity were sufficient proof that Homer could never have composed, memorized, and transmitted these epics orally. However, in the 1930s, Milman Perry, who was doing field work in Syria, taped an illiterate Syrian who recited an epic longer than the *Odyssey*. Therefore, he eliminated the possibility that Homer could never have physically composed his epic works. Once it was established that there was a possibility that Homer existed, scholars had to go back and examine the text. Essentially, Sullivan claims that you cannot settle the question of Homer without looking at the text. Similarly, once the possibility of God is established, scholars must inspect the Bible in order to determine whether or not the question of his existence can be solved.

It is ethically that Sullivan claims that philosophy embedded within Christian text is both probable and defensible. Although, churches generally claim that their followers must have faith and must cleave to this whole-hearted adherence to teaching, Sullivan believes that it is the logical reasoning—ultimately, his two-premise argument—that first allows one to contemplate the possibility of God, before one can rely on text, and then faith, to see the probability of the argument. Then, "Why not see what happens?"

The Philosophy Club and the Lilly Office at Sewanee invite you to
A Faculty Panel Discussion

**What's Your Style?
How Sewanee Students Relate
their Academic Work to
Their Sense of Self**

**Tuesday, April 20th
4:30 pm**

It's Tonya Time!

Sewanee's Career Services Staying Busy...

During Sewanee's Spring Break, a select group of thirty-two juniors and seniors headed for the capital to participate in Career Services' Washington DC Networking Excursion. This excursion is an exciting program designed to help students polish the skills needed to develop and maintain professional relationships with Sewanee alumni. To prepare for the trip, these students attended a series of workshops in order to learn more about networking and the process of informational interviewing. In addition, Career Services required each participant to submit a weekly contact report and secure at least three informational or job/internship interviews before traveling to DC. While the excursion is demanding at times, the hard work of the students pays off. This year, students conducted interviews with a variety of organizations including the following: the U.S. Depart-

ment of Defense, the Environmental Protection Agency, *The Hill*, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the White House. Moreover, a number of students found that their interviews opened doors to jobs and internships in the DC metropolitan area.

These DC Excursion participants, like other students on campus, have the unique opportunity to utilize the Tonya Internship Program in either Public Affairs or Economics to obtain funding needed to pursue an otherwise unpaid internship opportunity. The Tonya Internship Program allows students to work for the organization of their choice and it gives students considerable leverage in arranging or creating an internship. Furthermore, Tonya funding is open to all majors and class years. However, the Tonya Internship Program is competitive, and the number of stipends awarded each year varies depending on the performance of the Tonya endowment funds. In the summer of 2003, 108 students applied for Tonya funding and 83 were awarded a stipend. This year, with reduced funding, the competition will remain fierce. As 78 final applications were received, it is expected that the Tonya Internship Committee will only award 50 to 60 the stipends.

With good organization and time management, applying for Tonya funding is simple. The first step in the application process is to submit a preliminary proposal to Career Services to ensure that the internship you desire falls in the

category of either public affairs or economics. Once the internship is approved, the second step is to submit a final application, which includes an executive summary of the job responsibilities, a detailed 3-5 page proposal describing the nature of the internship, two letters of recommendation, an unofficial transcript, and most importantly, a letter from the internship sponsor confirming acceptance for the position. Applications are judged on a variety of criteria. Proposals, recommendations, and transcripts play a role in the decision process. Another critical factor for receiving Tonya funding is whether or not you are able to develop a substantial internship that will allow you to make a contribution to the organization and to learn about a specific career field.

The Career Services Networking Excursions and the Tonya Internship Program are two great ways for you to be proactive and to create new and interesting opportunities for yourself. Coupled together, these two programs provide an avenue by which you can gain insight and practical experience in any field of your choice. Last year, Tonya participants pursued opportunities in the United States and in other countries, including England, Canada, Germany, India, Costa Rica, and Bulgaria. The sky is the limit, and Career Services encourages each participant to dream big. In order to obtain more information about networking and the Tonya Internship Program, drop by or call Career Services at x1121.



Pulitzer Poet Speaks At Sewanee

Natasha Cowie
News Editor

Golden bars of dusty late afternoon sunlight slant through Convocation Hall. In the gathering dusk, the reading light on the wooden podium illuminates the speaker's face with a warm glow. Obviously accustomed to speaking in public, he stands calmly behind the podium, dark tweed jacket and wild gray hair giving him the aura of a nutty birdwatcher or hiker. His gravelly, pleasant voice floods the room, pouring over the intently listening audience. He reads his poems with a comfortable familiarity—careful, precisely enunciated words flow from him as he weaves his life and observations with poetry.

Although he speaks little about himself, many of

his poems contain autobiographical elements. Disliking a scripted program, he chooses the poems to read on the spur of the moment. He cultivates a personal, informal atmosphere with his listeners, drawing them into the poetry. He never mentions it by name, but the audience knows that what he refers to as "this prize" is the Pulitzer.

C.K. Williams, winner of numerous honors, including the 2000 Pulitzer Prize (for his collection *Repair*), the National Book Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, and a Guggenheim Fellowship, teaches in the

creative writing program at Princeton University. On April 1, he gave a poetry reading at Sewanee.

The lines of most of his poems are long, creating a striking visual effect on the page. Often a poem will begin with a simple object or situation, such as two "battered white shoes" or a crane lifting cars in a scrapyard, and then move into rich, vivid exploration of human emotion and secrets. Throughout all of his poetry weaves a common thread of curiosity, his desire to comprehend and describe life.

Is the Purple Not "High-Tech" Enough for You? Why not read it online? www.sewaneecconnection.com

4 Questions With Recipients of a Full- bright & Watson

Fullbright: Jennifer Schneider

1. Could you describe in your own words, how you will be spending the next year?

The Fulbright grant I received is for research and part-time study at University of Potsdam (directly southwest of Berlin) where I will work with sociology professor Erhard Stoelting. My project will examine the relative integratedness of two groups of immigrants in Berlin, the Turkish, and the ethnic-Germans from the former USSR, with the aim to assess the impact of federal policy choices on the likelihood that members of either group pursue participation in the political process and citizenship. This study will entail the collection of demographics, immigration, and citizenship statutes, data from welfare and integration-assistance organizations, and opinion polls. I plan to study Turkish along the way, to better communicate with many of the immigrants I must reach out to.

My soon-to-be-husband Stephen Hamilton, of Nashville, will be accompanying me to Berlin. (He plans to study German, have time to develop and market his artwork, and study martial arts at the Berlin Shaolin Temple.)

2. How did you think of the idea you plan to pursue in the following year with the Fulbright?

Immigration and citizenship issues have been of particular interest to me for some time. The talents, experience, and perspective they bring, play a crucial part in the continued economic and political vitality of the United States, Europe, and elsewhere. As globalizing forces increasingly dissolve national borders, their abilities are rendered crucial tools in the drive to produce peaceful, productive, and thriving multicultural democratic societies. Their example will also serve as a model for democratizing states in a world where the existence of religious and ethnic minorities inside national borders are increasingly the norm. My passion for the subject is fueled in part by the recent surge in anti-immigrant sentiment in the U.S. as well as in Europe and the policies of our government to bring the entrance of political refugees to a near halt in recent years. I am also inspired by the efforts of my grandfather's family who fled Nazi Germany for the chance at a new life here in the U.S. — a life which I think should continue to be available for other hardworking, freedom-loving people desperate for an the chance to prove themselves.

The choice to study immigrants in Germany is a natural one for several reasons. First, a great disparity exists between the treatment of the Turkish and other nonwhite immigrants in Germany and the European immigrants, particularly compared to those of German descent who are accorded a special status granting them permanent residency and streamlined access to citizenship which finds parallel only in Israel. Second, there exists a kind of urgency, I believe, in attending to the integration needs of Muslims in Europe who are increasingly turning to radical Muslim organizations for redress of their unique grievances. The Turkish in Germany, albeit famously moderate compared to immigrants of other Middle Eastern countries, face particularly weak anti-discrimination legislation and protection in Germany. Third, familiarity with German — the native language of most of the recently arrived ethnic-German immigrants in Germany — allows me the necessary tools for undertaking such a project.

I have managed to research quite a bit on the topic for Political Science classes at Sewanee over the past four years. I was excited to have an opportunity to expand my research and develop some real life expertise in the area which I may use in my career in public service later on.

3. Now that it's time to work out the concrete details of your year abroad, have your feelings toward the project changed? If so, how?

My feelings have only changed in that I think the project is now even more important. As the EU continues to work out what kind of protections and/or standards will be made uniform for the non-EU immigrants who increasingly make up a substantial proportion of the population in the Western member states, details about the discrepancies which may exist between the protections afforded different groups inside important member states — such as Germany — take on a new importance. Besides that, I do feel more prepared for the project, as a result of additional research I have conducted this past year.

4. Who is your mentor in this project? If you could thank someone for his/her help who would it be?

I must thank Dr. Charles Brockett of Political Science first and foremost, for encouraging me in the first place, to apply. I knew the odds were against me and I had my mind set strictly on graduate school, but thanks to Dr. Brockett, I applied anyway and wow! I would also have to thank Dr. Barclay Ward, Dr. Safia Swimelar, Dr. Elwood Dunn, Dr. Gayle McKeen, and Dr. Paige Schneider of Political Science, Dr. Reinhard Zachau of German, and Dr. Mark Preslar of Russian, for providing additional support and encouragement and for writing recommendation letters for me. Thanks is also due my fiancé Stephen Hamilton for his unwavering enthusiastic support.

Watson: Kate Cummings

1. How does your proposal reflect you?

Photography has become an essential part of my seeing and of my overall being in the past four years, and Buddhism has been a strong influence in my life for many years because of my father's Buddhist practice. When I began creating my proposal for the Watson, I thought, "At what other point in my life will I have the opportunity to integrate what is most important to me with a trip around the world?" Normally I hesitate to fully commit to photography or to my Buddhist practice because I am afraid of a future based on what is most important to me but what, unfortunately, won't promise much money. With this proposal I did exactly the opposite: I put my heart into it and disregarded how this year of exploration would benefit my future career choices. I had to ask myself what was truly important to me, and this fellowship reflects that. I am interested in photographing as a means for connecting with other cultures; my camera acts as an inquisitive eye, one which actively engages me with my surroundings. With photography as my mode of connecting with the rest of the world, I want to explore internationally how Buddhists are interacting with others through compassionate service. Mindfulness and understanding are cultivated by one's actions as much as they are by sitting silently in meditation; the act of serving others therefore becomes a religious practice in itself. By discovering the many ways that Buddhist communities are actively working to alleviate the suffering of people around them, I hope to learn how I can be a more compassionate and involved member of any culture into which I enter. At this point in my life, I feel that this knowledge is more valuable than anything else I could be learning.

2. How did you choose the places where you will be carrying out your proposal?

Each of the countries I have chosen presents a unique challenge in its resident Buddhist practitioners. In Dharamsala, India, Tibetans are carrying out their practice while exiled from their home and thus the source of their religious tradition. Buddhists in Vietnam, although they belong to the country's religious majority, face oppression from the communist government. In New Zealand, Buddhist practitioners are responsible for relaying the complexities of the religion to local communities that may have had no previous contact with Buddhism. This photographic exploration is therefore not limited to the ways in which Buddhists engage their religious practice with local communities; I also hope to discover how political, cultural, and historical factors have shaped the ways Buddhists in these three countries presently interact with their neighbors and surroundings. There are a plethora of interrelated components that influence Buddhists' service to others, and I intend to incorporate every aspect of my experience into my photographic compilation, in an effort to have a more comprehensive understanding of what it means to offer service as a form of religious practice.

3. What's the best piece of advice you've gotten so far in regards to your travels?

I've received so much helpful advice, ranging all the way from close friends to people my mom talks to in the grocery line. Perhaps the most memorable advice came from a middle school teacher I met during spring break when dropping off my little neighbor at her 7th grade social studies class. My neighbor had mentioned my trip to her teacher, who had taught in India for three years; she came out in the hall to greet me and talk about my plans. We were talking casually and she remarked, "Oh you're going to be in India in August? Make sure you bring lots of salt packets." When I asked why she replied, "Well, that's monsoon season and you'll need salt to pour on the leeches that you find on your body." It was then that I realized how exotic these places are to me, and how I will inevitably encounter situations that I could never have prepared myself for. Luckily, however, I will be armed with many salt packets.

4. Who is your mentor in this project? If you could thank someone for his/her help who would it be?

I remember very vividly during my sophomore year sitting in Dr. Potter's office, asking him about geology questions. At one point during our conversation, he lowered his voice and said, "You should start thinking about applying for the Watson fellowship." I had heard of the Watson at that point, but I had never even considered myself eligible — and I don't mean this in a negative way at all; I just didn't even think it was a possibility that applied to me. It was one of those awards that seemed so unattainable and extraordinary, always pursued and received by other people. Without Dr. Potter's confidence in me, I would have never have had the belief that it was possible.

Dr. Sid Brown was also an indispensable source of encouragement and motivation. Scrupulously poring over many editions of my proposal, she was unflinching in her commitment as a teacher and a friend. Pradip Malde, the person who introduced me to photography and his gift for seeing, grounded me during my many moments of uncertainty. He was the one who helped me choose the images I submitted to the Watson committee, and his insightful presence has been a quiet but steady guide for me ever since the day I visited Sewanee as a perspective. Without the support of these people, I would not be taking this trip that will change my life. They will forever be a source of happiness and grace to me.

opinion & editorials

Purple Makes National Opinion Headlines!

Exclusives: Sewanee: University of the South

Newspaper Promotes Sex to Students

Special Report

By David W. Virtue

SEWANEE, TN—Sewanee Purple, the March 2 issue student newspaper of the University of the South, College of Arts and Sciences is devoted almost entirely to affirming sex outside of marriage with articles on condom use and 'how to' photographs for the sexually backward.

The top ten titles in the issue include an 'Idiot's Guide to Using Condoms,' 'condoms for dummies,' 'Have a Threesome with Trojan Man,' 'The Lowdown on the Upligh', 'Sex Protection 101/Safe Sex 101', 'No Glove, No Love,' 'Condoms: The Slippery Truth', 'Hot Love w/ Laves Laytex', 'Let the Good Times Role...but with protection', 'Sticking It Up for Sewanee.' There is a photo of a hand holding an artificial penis with instructions on how to roll a condom.

An article, covering the entire top half of one page instructs students on the use of condoms. The article not only urges students to "be safe" but includes instructions of the most graphic and detailed nature about how they should be put on, information comparing various brands and styles, and advice about what to do if they "failed"

The University of the South is the Episcopal Church's only university and is ostensibly a Christian institution with a seminary that trains men and women for the priesthood.

A Virtuosity reader and rector who spotted the outrage wrote saying: "I found it doubly outrageous coming from the student newspaper of a church-owned institution, which was founded, with the stated objective of fostering Christian virtue."

The rest of the newspaper is extremely lewd. There is a section entitled 'Purple Personals' which includes ads that are solicitous and crude. On other pages there is a 'man on the street' poll with the headline "The Day the Porn Died" (aka went limp in the night).

A photograph of a woman is captioned, "Well, sometimes I get it through my cell phone...so I'm pretty much covered! Hey, Patrick, is The Purple Cow delivered like that too these days???"

Another photo features Elenor saying, "I think without porn my brother would be very upset...very violent...and he'd have lashed out without porn."

A third photo features a young man doing bizarre things with his hands and eyes with the caption, "If you can **** on WUTS, you should be able to look at porn without techies and networking guys usurping my birthright."

Another article titled, "Flaccid Sewanee" by Madame X reveals that Sewanee had briefly shut down porn access, but a call by the Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper to Dr. Vicki Sells, Head of the ATC quickly rectified the situation with what was tantamount to an apology by Sells, who said, that the porn was "accidentally" turned off due to a glitch in the system.

"Sewanee was taking no internal efforts to monitor our Internet access," noted the newspaper editor. "The briefly absconded porn privileges were quickly restored."

It turned out that the erogenous, or rather erroneous action was device of the ATC lab installing a Net Cache file. In computer talk, that file allegedly makes your computer faster for browsing, wrote the editor.

"At around 8:03 the next morning, all systems were alert and ready to go. So the problem was aborted, and now we know the truth: Sewanee really isn't so flaccid..."

There is also an interview entitled "Atheism on the Mountain"

Some of the boy seeks girl and vice versa ads include such choice lines as: Tall blonde, Sophomore TKP I have something of yours that I know you'll like to have (back). Meet me in the KZ at 9pm - The Colonel."

And this: "Wanna improve your fluency? I am a cunning German linguist, Seeking American fraulin to spend "cool" Sewanee nights with. Let me conquer your heart! #2403"

The editor of the newspaper explained on the editorial page that the changes had been made in response to a number of complaints from readers who said they found the paper in its previous state "vanilla...bland". "The publication had undergone a radical overhaul in terms of design and layout since the last time I had seen it," said a former student.

NOTE: If you are not receiving this from VIRTUOSITY, the Anglican Communion's largest biblically orthodox Episcopal/Anglican Online News Service, then you may subscribe FREE by going to: www.virtuosityonline.org. Virtuosity's website has been accessed by more than 1.2 million readers in 45 countries on six continents. This story is copyrighted but may be forwarded electronically with reference to VIRTUOSITY and the author. No changes are permitted in the text.



A Rebuttal To Mr. Virtue's Article

I have just received the Purple faxed to me by no less than 3 undergrads. I have read the issue. It is not entirely nor even is the majority of the issue about sex. Nor, and I might be jailed by the fact I'm a Gen-Y'er, do I find a majority of the paper lewd. I'm also quite surprised that no one has sought to ask the editor or faculty of the Purple about this issue. Sewanee only seems to make the news when something goes amiss. I've yet to see anyone promote lies when she does things that reach out to the community or to the church.

I think it is a grave mistake to say that the Mountain promotes sex because of, at most, two pages (total print amount) in the Purple. Further, I'm not certain if anyone has read any other collegiate newspapers, but Sewanee's is certainly "tame" compared to secular and other religious institutions. To base the University standards and beliefs on one article is simply silly. If I were to base my beliefs on the Episcopal Church on General Convention, I'd be talking to Rome or the Russian Orthodox church by now and would have resigned my Episcopal orders.

I cannot say that during my time at Sewanee I ever remember the University promoting internet porn, but I would assume that the students have the right to do what they please, even on the internet, within the law of the land. If the University was to start filtering content, we might as well go through the library and start throwing out books because they aren't all sound or they might promote thought that is not in line with Christian thinking (There is one in particular that Tom Ward made us read "Mystical Theology" - could we start with that one?) I'm sorry, but even as an orthodox priest, this sounds far too much to me like we're going to tell the students how to think and act. What happened to free will? After talking with the editor of the Purple, the reason for the article being placed in there was that some students were asking why porn (among other things) was being filtered. The Purple is a forum for ideas and thoughts. While it may not be the most brilliant idea discussed, it is their rights, as students, to ask. The Purple decided to publish it in a light hearted manner. The University, however, is NOT pushing porn. God does not force Himself on us, as Christians we don't have the right to impose our morality on others, even students at an Episcopal university.

The Purple, in the past has published numerous articles on an excellent program called "The Catechumenate," which is for all practical purposes, a confirmation class for the entire Sewanee community. No one talks about the hard work that the chaplains (lay and ordained) do in an increasingly secular society. Sewanee's triumphs remain silent, but she gets hung on every negative issue. The Purple talks about

every aspect of daily life in Sewanee both religious and secular. Yet no one seems to notice the little Purple when it does great things such as helping families when their houses burn down, helping find homes for stray animals or any of the other brilliant works.

Incidentally, the photograph is not of a woman but of an undergraduate male.

Interestingly enough, the article "Atheism on the Mountain" was about a speaker who was funded by a Lily Grant. Sewanee has never mandated that the students on the Mountain be Episcopal or even Christian. If they are Atheists, Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, whatever, I would hope that they are loved and accepted regardless. So that the Christians on the Mountain could in fact preach the Gospel without words and that they could see, in fact, "how these Christians love one another." If you base the general Sewanee Populace on this one bit of print, then you're missing out on some truly wonderful people.

As Christians we are called to love them, to point out sin, to call them into repentance - yes! The University does in fact promote Christianity. The Purple is a student run newspaper for the students. It is not a theological treatise, it isn't something published by Church Publishing, it is a collegiate newspaper that talks about the life of the campus. A campus that has its struggles and its triumphs like any other academic institution. Roman priests and professors teaching at Roman institutions have often been sacked because of their thoughts and ideas. Are we headed that way?

I am deeply disappointed with the way Virtuosity handled this as it appears that very little research was done on this. I think it is quite misleading and some of the quotes are taken way out of context. If it were the faculty newsletter, the STR, something from EPIM, I could understand everyone being up in arms. But this is the Sewanee Purple, a collegiate newspaper that brightens the days of students (both undergrads and Theologs), and is meant to be a forum for the students to air their own thoughts and voices. Sewanee was never meant to make erode cutter people. It was meant to form people. Part of formation is thinking and making choices. Sewanee allows everyone to grow and to make their own choices. Finally, it isn't an artificial penis, it is a banana. I'm almost certain it came from McClurg. -EQB Trey Garland, T'2002

A Pertinent Sample of
David Virtue's

Modus Operandi:

Mr. Virtue Gets It Wrong Again

André Trevathan, C49

Once again David Virtue has pieced together half-truths, misreadings, and misrepresentations about those who disagree with him. This time his target is Lionel Deimel, Ph.D., the president of Progressive Episcopalians of Pittsburgh, who maintains a web site reflecting his interests in, among other things, poetry, public affairs, the Episcopal Church, computer science, and language. Apparently David Virtue needs some lessons in reading fiction. Virtue's misrepresentation "Pittsburgh 'Progressive' Episcopalian Leader Upholds Incest" is based on a few snippets from Deimel's web site and a long quote from an article by another conservative blogger, Christopher S. Johnson. Virtue quoted from a Deimel short story about sibling incest without recognizing the difference between fiction and advocacy. Johnson engaged in his own form of creative fiction, putting in quotation marks what he thought a person supporting inclusivity in the Episcopal Church (like Deimel) would say. Virtue quotes Johnson's fictional statements as the actual words of Deimel. Johnson wrote in a way that would deceive a sloppy reader. Virtue fell into the trap.

For the record, Dr. Deimel has stated that he does not "uphold" incest. "I can write about incest without advocating it," he said, "just as Agatha Christie can write about murder without endorsing homicide." Virtue does get one thing right. Progressive Episcopalians of Pittsburgh is an inclusive organization. It welcomes all who are interested in maintaining the traditional "middle way" of the Episcopal Church, and its membership includes conservatives as well as liberals. It welcomes all who share the goal of maintaining a church that can worship together while holding differing interpretations of the Scripture. The organization is not working to unseat Bishop Duncan, but rather has tried to warn the Bishop against taking actions that might provide grounds for removal.

Forum For Your Thoughts

Each issue, the Editorial Staff will be inviting the community to share its own experiences involving the University's traditions as well as an ongoing progress as a leading liberal arts college. This week, Mr. James Goodmann, Director of the Lily Theological Exploration of Vocation, speaks candidly (and philosophically) about S-E-X in the last issue of *The Purple*. He questions how closely this portrayal of S-E-X actually relates to our unconscious questions and desires.

"Purple" Pages and EROS

In a recent issue, *The Purple* was replete with discussions, advertisements, and comments referring to human sexuality, some of them admittedly controversial. I told the editor that she got many of her negative (and positive) notices from those people who tend to read just the front and back pages of every newspaper. Most of the contents of the features invited a humorous or jocular approach to the topic, which is, often enough, welcome in our sometimes too-upright discussions of sexuality.

But I would like to suggest that there is another dimension to this discussion. It is best represented by an idea from Sigmund Freud, that "we display outrageously and obsessively that which we do not fully possess or have deeply at our disposal." This formulation is from Thomas Moore's *The Soul of Sex*, recommended reading for anyone who wishes to move to a deeper appreciation of this part of our lives. Moore — not the Irish poet or the English Catholic martyr — but a 20th/21st century American therapist, theologian, and musicologist has written in another work that the greatest loss to our society is our "loss of soul." By this, he is referring to our all-too-literal materialism when discussing issues encompassing sex, economics, politics, and, yes, religion. Our frames of reference often denote a pre-occupation with the bottom line and with results and less with an actual engagement of life. And in the above-named areas we see the results: in economics which often operates as if people did not matter (apologies to Fritz Schumacher), politics that is geared toward sound bites but shies away from a genuine engagement of issues and of the democratic process, and religion that is unable to balance being compassionate with being "right."

So, too, with our sexuality. The personal ads that appear in newspapers and on-line, the invitations to phone-chat ("Call anytime — talk for as long as you want") and other instruments for intimacy and access to pleasure and "fulfillment" are often masks for our deepest hungers and longings. I am not saying anything that any of us haven't heard in multiple contexts before but say it again if only to raise the question: why can't we dwell genuinely and freely on what we most desire with regard to *eros*? Or have we identified fulfillment with what suits us immediately?

What T.S. Eliot refers to as "the disturbance of the spring" brings to the surface many of these longings and desires, and the rituals that accompany our desire will multiply. And that has to be recognized as a good thing because within the mechanics of dating, courtship and relationships

lay possible life-long commitments, the formation of families with their natural legacies that will bring who-knows-whom into the world. Or these may simply bring alive parts of ourselves which have been unconscious — or which we never before recognized. In any event, there is a certain enchantment involved when talking about and moving in the realm of love.

But enchantment assumes the engagement of our souls. It cannot be sustained by dwelling exclusively on the literal, the physical. Perhaps the humorous quality to so many "personals" is precisely in their "outrageous and obsessive" language that dwells on the physical, on the highly precise requirements of the seeker. Still, one sees therein (and here's the down side!) human beings and relationships advertised as commodities rather than cherished, as philosophers from Aristotle to Kant to Buber would hold, as ends in themselves. Our disappointed discovery of this may be a gateway to understanding that "spirituality and sexuality [might] come from the same place," as the Rev. Rebecca Stevens related to students in the Summer Discernment program last year.

Personal ads testify to another characteristic of this realm and that is play. Their play on words and other ploys signify an engagement of "the game," a recognition that the fun begins just by putting yourself out there and seeing who responds. Or they may represent the activity of a speculator who, out of sheer whimsy, engages this market with no hope (or wish) for any returns. But the game is only fun if, as C.S. Lewis once said, the players take one another with the utmost seriousness, have a singular regard for each person's sacred quality.

Every age must re-discover the ways of relating. "Personals" may be one of these paths of discovery. They are a possible means to amusement, a way of laughing about something so daunting and risk-filled as love. But maybe there are other paths. Perhaps what we might also need is an expanded notion of *eros*. If, as Thomas Moore

suggests, *eros*, at heart, means "cultivating life as an act of love," then so many aspects of our lives could find their inclusion here. Having care, showing attentiveness and tenderness might take on a newer, more vibrant meaning, if we could see acts of the ordinary through the lens of *eros*. The many loves of our lives might be fed with an expansion of our "erotic horizons."

Just ask those students on the Spring Break Outreach trips how often they felt they were "falling in love" with the people they met and worked with. And how many of you will go from your baccalaureate into graduate programs, impelled as much by sheer love of learning as you are by shaping a career and a living for yourselves? Still others will go on to forms of work in which it takes a certain erotic energy, a loving engagement with the profession or vocation to sustain a presence to the work they will do. In short, *eros* implies a more than genital commitment (if commitment there be). It is the informing energy that enables a loving interaction with the whole of life.

This spring, you may not be called into any particular form of love life or to a romantic rendezvous. But the lack of this should not be misread as a total loss or absence of *eros*. Spring has a way of reminding us that we are each being called into the mystery of our own being. Perhaps we are being called to recognize the ways in which love sustains us and to recognize opportunities for giving the same in return, whether to a particular *other* or to something as mundane as turning the earth in a garden, painting the lawn furniture or finishing a poem whose coming has been impeded by a more wintry mood. Or you may allow yourself time for that sudden flash of insight that enables you to see your life in larger terms. Whatever the form, there is more *eros* at our fingertips, more love in our lives than we suspect. The discovery of this mystery can overturn some of our outrageous obsessions — or at least lift the veil which hides so much of the good already under our noses.

Michael Reed of Duke to Speak at Annual Ebey Math Lecture

On Monday April 19, the Mathematics and Computer Science Department will be presenting the annual Sherwood Ebey Lecture in Blackman Auditorium at 7:30 pm. This year's guest lecturer will be Michael C. Reed, PhD, Duke University Bishop-Macdermott Family Professor of Mathematics. Professor Reed will be presenting a talk entitled "Cell Metabolism, Mathematics, and Public Health." The lecture will examine the use of mathematical models to understand metabolic mechanisms that link dietary habits to the development of cancer. This work is essential for the development of effective public health policies and early intervention in the treatment and prevention of cancer. In accordance with the goals of the Ebey Lectureship, this talk will be targeted at a general audience. A reception for Professor Reed will follow his lecture.

In addition to the lecture on mathematical models and cancer, Professor Reed will also present a talk about "Probability Theory and Neurobiology." This talk will discuss the role that probability theory plays in making sense of how the brain utilizes auditory nerve neurons in the transmission of information that requires high levels of precision. The lecture will also be on Monday at 3:30 in Woods Labs Room 230.

The annual Sherwood Ebey Lecture is an endowed lectureship honoring Professor Emeritus Ebey. The goal of the lectures is to present mathematically sound ideas in a manner that makes them accessible to a general audience.

The Freshman Light Up

Almire Sadik

Smoking at Sewanee

Coming back from the pub, I noticed that I reeked of cigarette smoke. I wasn't at all surprised by the smell, for it had become a part of Sewanee. You walk to class and you will notice kids hovering outside of DuPont Library sharing smokes and talking about who slept with whom or who ended up in the hospital last night after a weekend of partying too hard. I don't smoke, but many of the kids at Sewanee do and this norm has become a trend among the freshmen. Along with Northface, rainbows, and pearls, smoking is just another part Sewanee I've come to expect. As a freshman, I can easily say that finding friends and fitting in is hard. Smoking can make it easier for freshmen to fit in, and many have started to smoke because everyone else seems to be doing it. During a concert at Lake Cheston, I was offered a cigarette and even though I had been adamant not to smoke, I took the cigarette and— to my horror— almost vomited right then and there. Afterwards, I vowed never again to smoke another cigarette just because I wanted to fit in. After talking to some of my friends who smoke, I found that they began smoking after coming to Sewanee. When asked why, many told me it was because they wanted to fit in. Some freshmen fail to realize the risks of cigarettes. We've been told repeatedly that smoking causes lung cancer, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and even a hairy tongue but it goes in one ear and out the other. Many just presume that it's

not going to happen to them until it actually does or unless a loved one falls ill or dies due to cigarettes. Having lost my grandfather to chronic bronchitis after smoking for many years, I have come to find that the risks aren't worth the instant gratification one gets from smoking. I realized how easy it is to become addicted and many on campus already have a hard time quitting. Seniors I've come across tell me that they're hoping to quit after college, but if they can't quit now, what makes them think they'll be able to quit after they graduate? Others tell me that it's a "Southern thing" and that everyone in the South smokes, but that doesn't make it okay. Many of the freshmen I've talked to like to smoke because it makes for conversation with others gathered outside for a smoke. If you can't make conversation without a cigarette in your hand, why make conversation at all?

I'm not condemning anyone for smoking, but all I'm saying is that there are healthier ways to make conversation or fit in, so before you light up, think about the consequences. I've known too many people who've fallen victim to cigarettes, and I'm sure that if the people who have died due to the hazards of smoking were able to tell us one thing, it would be either to either quit smoking or never to smoke in the first place.

Off the Mountain

5:00 Minutes

Natasha Cowie

Sewanee is perfect--well, almost. In fact, it can be difficult at times to imagine living anywhere else. Without even its own exit off Interstate 24, Sewanee is rather isolated. We live on a mountain surrounded by nature, and sometimes it is easy to forget that we are part of a bigger picture. Sewanee is part of a state that is part of a nation that is part of the global community. We might not have television in our dorm rooms, but that does not mean that we should be ignorant of the events going on around us. So here are some of the important world and state events for February, for those who genuinely care about the news and for those who just want something interesting to talk about at the fraternity party this weekend.

Recent

World News

4:59 Minutes

Here it is, folks. Ever wanted to be able to sound completely informed about everything with a minimal amount of effort or intellectual ability? This article is for you. Because the *Purple* isn't published daily or weekly, you won't find the latest developments in the bin Laden hide-and-seek or Britney's romance life (go watch TV at the Pub for the updated news), but if you take a few minutes to read this article, you'll have a much better idea of why Haiti's ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide is hanging out in Jamaica, and how iguana farms may help El Salvador's economy.

Let's start close to home. Quick quiz: What country is directly to the north of the United States? Haiti. It's the second largest in the world in terms of land. If you guessed Puerto Rico, you're wrong. Try Canada. It's a cold place, and definitely a county to beware of. The Canadian Prime Minister, Paul Martin, surreptitiously leads his people in suspicious acts of...well, no one's sure exactly what the Canadians are doing, but it's definitely suspicious. Look at the evidence. One national language is not enough for the power-hungry Canadians. Instead, they have two. They like moose. And there's a leaf on their flag. What's up with that?

International (Monde)

On the morning of March 11, simultaneous explosions in Madrid, Spain killed over 200 people and wounded more than 900 others. Within days, officials began to pursue leads toward both the Basque separatist group ETA and al Qaeda. The attacks took place just days before general elections in Spain, suggesting the possibility of a new, politically charged tactic of terror groups worldwide -- use of carefully timed terrorist attacks to influence elections and bring down entire governments. The tragedy in Madrid is widely believed to be one of the many factors in the defeat of Prime Minister José María Aznar's conservative Popular Party.

You might not hear much about the Darfur region of western Sudan, but it's the site of what one United Nations official termed the greatest humanitarian crisis in the world right now. In an attempt to escape a possible campaign of ethnic cleansing by Arab militias, apparently backed by Sudan's government, 810,000 African tribes have fled their homes. For years, Africans and Arabs in the region have clashed over access to good land. Last year, when two African groups began a rebellion against the existing regime, the government apparently responded by giving Arab militias military support. The UN estimates that 10,000 civilians have been killed in the Darfur conflict so far. An additional 110,000 have fled to neighboring Chad. Sudan suffers from a second war, a conflict between the north and south. After 20 years, peace talks for the north-south battle finally appear hopeful.

Canada is reportedly engaged in an attempt to ship tons of excess snow to the Sahara, rather than just letting it melt in the streets. The environmental effects of snow in the world's largest desert would be immediate and severe, says one anonymous expert from the *National Enquirer*.

In another hot part of the world, rebellion in Haiti recently shifted into a widespread uprising. Haiti, occupying about a third of the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea, has been subject to United States involvement for over a decade. Ten years ago, in 1994, President Clinton ordered an invasion of Haiti to restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power (he had been overthrown several months earlier) and reinstate a democratic government. The decision was unpopular but initially successful -- Aristide resumed leadership, American and international forces began to retrain Haiti's corrupt police force, and within two years, almost all American troops were gone.

Happy ending? Not quite. While Americans basked in the glow of their apparent accomplishments, Haiti's fragile democracy crumbled. Aristide, distrustful of the police, established militias instead, one of which gave itself the pleasant name of the Cannibal Army. Last fall, the leader of the Cannibal Army was killed, allegedly by an Aristide supporter. Growing dissent exploded into a full-scale revolt in February, when Aristide was whisked into exile by United States security officials. An interim government led by Prime Minister Gérard Latortue, appointed in early March, plans to investigate alleged abuses committed by the Aristide government and eventually build a criminal case against Aristide.

Canada, for no apparent reason, is being closely monitored in regards to the Haiti crisis. A high ranking U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, explained, "Of course we're scrutinizing Canada. Who's going to trust a bunch of people whose national symbol is the beaver?"

Six nations are currently involved in talks to sort out North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Talks began in August, and the United States, China, Japan, Russia, and the two Koreas began the second round of discussion on February 25. The United States, along with the other Asian nations on the panel, seeks "complete, verifiable, and irreversible" dismantling of North Korea's nuclear programs. Although Pyongyang remains wary of the United States goals for dismantling, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing stated that North Korea's attitude toward the talks remains positive. In an encouraging move, the Koreans conducted planned reunions of family members separated during the 1950-53 Korean War in late March. However, Canada is currently under investigation for allegedly monitoring the talks through their chief undercover agent, Jacques "Beaver" Bond.

Recent

National News

National (Etats-Unis)

Record gasoline prices are expected to soar even higher in the coming summer months. Oil experts predict that summer prices for gas will increase from the current record of \$1.74 a gallon to \$2 a gallon. Oil supply is decreasing -- due in part to the Iraq war -- as demand is increasing with economic recovery in the US and Asia. Since higher gas prices cause higher transportation prices for merchandise, some economists believe that the cost of consumer goods will increase. Gas prices may already be hampering the "jobless recovery" of the US economy. Canada, too, faces rising gas prices, but they measure gas in cents per liter, which is very confusing (the Canadian average price of \$0.74 per liter is comparable to US prices).

Amendments to the United States Constitution have set presidential term limits, given women, African-Americans, and 18-year-olds the right to vote, established a presidential line of succession, and even (gasp) abolished liquor (later repealed, obviously). On the state now is a proposal that gets a bit more up close and personal -- a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. A drastic measure, the amendment is far easier announced than actually enacted -- chances of an amendment making it through Congress in an election year are slim at most. Surprisingly, although a majority of Americans oppose same-sex marriage, they are evenly split over whether to amend the Constitution. John Kerry, Mr. Bush's likely opponent in the presidential election, opposes same-sex marriage but supports civil unions between gay couples. Vice-President Cheney, who also supports civil unions, is in a far more awkward position. One of his daughters is openly gay.

Canada, meanwhile, is surreptitiously attempting to introduce a Constitutional amendment allowing mated moose full civil rights and automatic naturalization. "The audacity of these mooses...um, meeses...uh...meese...? Anyway, whatever they are, they're undermining the definition of marriage and destroying the entire American lifestyle. And they smell really gross," announced an unnamed source from the United States government.

And speaking of politics, what's up with Nader? The champion of the little person, who drinks grapefruit juice, takes on automobile giants, and slightly resembles Oscar the Grouch (without the green fur), has returned to the field of candidates in 2004 -- this time without the backing of the Green Party. Or anyone, apparently. Nader's candidacy is far more controversial this year than in 2000, causing even his former supporters to scatter. Regardless of what you think of his politics or reasons for running, you have to be impressed by his stamina. Nader celebrated his 70th birthday in February.

Reportedly, Canada is the main source of Nader's funding. Our northern neighbors are involved in a top-secret operation to undermine United States elections in preparation for a complete takeover of all American toothpick manufacturing plants.

Random Interesting Facts (Les Faits Intéressants Faits au Hasard)

Recent

Random Interest News

31 Seconds

To learn to resolve international conflicts, we first have to learn to resolve conflicts in our own homes. Household debate tends to center around a very special room -- *salle de bains*, the water closet. Or simply "the can," if you're a bit more crude. In a meritorious service to humanity, Moen, Inc., a leading maker of plumbing fixtures, commissioned a marketing research group to determine Americans' pet peeves in bathroom behavior. The nationwide survey of 2,000 people bared the facts about what really pisses people off in the bathroom. The top findings: 1. Not replacing a used-up roll of toilet paper. 2. Leaving globs of toothpaste in the sink. (Tie) Leaving spots on the mirror. 4. Leaving dirty clothes on the floor. And, although not specifically covered in the survey, female preferences as to the positioning of the toilet seat are certainly a factor.

Iguana meat, consumed in countries throughout Central America for centuries, is now showing up as a delicacy on a growing number of North American menus. The iguana meat market in El Salvador provides jobs and a way to grow food while preserving the tropical rain forest. Supposedly, the meat tastes similar to chicken, but stronger and tougher. It retails for about \$14 a pound.

Graduating this year? Be happy. Employers are expected to hire 12.7 percent more graduates this year than in 2003, according to a recently released survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). Starting salaries are also up from last year, with computer engineering topping the list at \$53,100. Money's not what it's all about (right?), but jobs are good to have.

Meanwhile, the Canadians continue to threaten the stability of the world by merely existing. Under the iron rule of Paul Martin, they persistently engage in such menacing behavior as shoveling snow, playing hockey, and ending every other sentence with "eh." But their most heinous, and too often overlooked, crime against humanity is their insistence on pronouncing the last letter of the English alphabet "zed." The alphabet, as every educated American knows, ends with "zee" (alternate pronunciation: "zæ," if you're from the South). So be wary, and never hesitate to ask someone to recite the alphabet when in doubt of their true loyalties.

Sources: New York Times, New Yorker, Christian Science Monitor, *Canadian Bacon* (directed by Michael Moore)

Editor's note: The author of the above article is under surveillance after exhibiting Canadian tendencies (namely: wearing shorts to run in January, possessing an uncanny knowledge of maple tree species, and obsessing over Moose Tracks ice cream). Disciplinary measures will be taken immediately if she announces her engagement to a Mounie or is heard to comment, "So, what do you think of them Maple Leafs, eh?"



So, did you finish in 5? If not, keep reading your books!