

The Sewanee Purple

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UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

SEWANEE, TENNESSEE, SEPTEMBER 11, 1999

Fraternity Renovations Continue

Frustration comes with continued renovation delays

by Ryan Cosgrove

Asst. News Editor

Students new to Sewanee most likely missed all the buzz and hype concerning money raised for fraternity house renovations. The administration last year, motivated largely by Dean of Students Robert Pearigen, in cooperation with the respective fraternities at the University, managed to raise approximately 950 thousand dollars for improvements to the greek houses.

Much of the spring semester last year was accompanied with frustration within fraternities, who anxiously awaited the opportunity to put the money to use. For many returning students, arrival back on campus has brought with it anticipation to finally see the progress of renovations that have been promised for almost a year now. Many students returned to see that their houses had undergone significant changes while other house construction projects have not yet begun.

The delays on the renovation process that several fraternities have experienced can be attributed to many factors. Originally, the University administrators expected fraternities to agree upon a corporate renovation project with all the fraternities using the same contractor. This group effort would allow for a very equal rate of progress on all the houses. This plan did not work, for the most part, as many fraternities decided to pursue house improvements through independent contractors. Chi Psi and SAE employed contractors through alumni



Amber Hodges/The Purple

The SAE house gets new windows. SAE is one of a few fraternities using a private contractor for renovations.

ATO used a local contractor who had already been employed to do work for the fraternity's corporation president in Cliff Tops. Not surprisingly, these three fraternities have experienced the most radical changes over the summer.

Only four of the fraternities elected to work with the university to find a contractor. Delta Tau Delta, Lambda Chi, FIJ, and KA have all drawn up blueprints for their house improvements, and they now await estimates

before they proceed with the renovations. The University has been hoping that the Orion contracting company, the same company working on the new dining hall, would be able to work with the fraternities on their respective projects. The fraternities just mentioned still await a second round of estimates from Orion, but they have also begun to take bids from residential contractors. Once all the bids are in, these fraternities can finally put the money they raised towards renovation.

Hopefully, these fraternities will be able to move towards renovation in the next two or three weeks.

Now, for a rundown of the progress and plans of the respective fraternities:

Sigma Nu has been working with their alumni for the past three years, and has made considerable improvements to their house. Most of this work has been completed for a while now, and no more major plans for improvement should be expected any time soon.

Phi Delta Theta (or the Phi Society), although not largely involved in the university renovation project, also raised money and received considerable support from their alumni. Much of the work on the Phi house was done last year, including a new deck and stairway at the back of the house. No other major plans have been announced, however.

SAE has made substantial improvements on their house since the close of last year. They converted the attic into a bedroom for two people, equipped with heating and air-conditioning. They have replaced many of the windows and cleaned up the basement. They redid the ceilings and walls and replaced a stairway. The SAEs have upgraded bathrooms, and redone kitchen and pool room areas. Also, they got a new main heating system, and they added a new stone deck to the back of the house.

ATO also added a two-person bedroom, making drastic changes to the basement. They redid the upstairs bedroom as well, which is used as a single. The house has also received new floors and windows.

Chi Psi received a new wood floor for the start of last year, but most of the changes to the Lodge have come

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On Campus:

Building projects abound this fall

by David Lumpkin

Staff Writer

This summer the Sewanee campus saw several changes. The new dining hall and the Chapel of the Apostles are growing before our eyes. The sidewalk in front of Cleveland was paved, the parking lot behind Carnegie Hall disappeared, and I'm sure within the past two weeks several hundred unobservant upperclassmen have driven right through the new traffic light on Georgia Avenue. Many students, however, remain unaware of the dormitory renovations that also took place this summer.

The Office of Residential Life decided to place new carpeting in lower Gaylor, also redoing the kitchens and bathrooms. The EMT (Emergency Medical Technicians) house on Alabama Avenue went from nine bedrooms to twelve. By far the most extensive renovations, however, occurred in Tuckaway Hall, the charming inn that's been tucked away on Tennessee Avenue since 1929. I spent my freshman year there, so I can discuss the changes therein from a particularly critical perspective. Apparently attracted to the paupering of an air-conditioned dormitory, upperclassmen and gowmsmen claimed the rooms in Tuckaway before we sophomores could say "Teezavant." But central air wasn't the only addition in the \$1.5 million project. Plumbing and electricity were completely redone to create a

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In Focus: Class of 2003

Class of 2003 Enters Sewanee Amid High Expectations

Freshman class enters as one of Sewanee's most gifted and unique

by J. Douglas Waterman

Staff Writer

The Class of 2003 arrived on the Mountain on August 20th excited and eager to begin a new chapter in their lives. Roughly 50 members of the class had already started getting oriented with the Domain of the University through the "Pie" program. This program primarily involves a number of outdoor activities including caving, rock climbing, and hiking.

"Pie-Week" aims to get students acquainted with each other as well as with a number of upperclassmen, and it also serves to introduce freshmen to the abounding natural beauty surrounding the Sewanee area. The final night of the program was highlighted by a formal Casino Night in Cravens Hall. Students were given approximately \$50,000 in imitation money to use in games such as Blackjack, Roulette, and Craps. This money could be redeemed at the end of the evening for a variety of interesting prizes.

The remaining 344 members of the freshmen class moved into their respective dorms on Saturday. Proctors, APs, and the Orientations Committee began to get the new class acquainted with the school through a number of group activities and various speakers. Freshman Crawford "Crawd" Jones of



Lyn Hutchinson

Freshmen and their leaders following a Pre outing. In addition to being Sewanee's largest class ever, Admissions boasts the Class of 2003 as one of its finest in academics and diversity.

Birmingham, Alabama, speaks of his first week at Sewanee: "I think that our first week here was definitely memorable. Everybody I met, teachers, upperclassmen, and other freshmen included, were all really receptive and eager to help get our college careers off on the right track. We all really enjoyed the Cary Pierce concert at Lake Cheston especially. This was a good opportunity to meet people in our class as well as the older student just arriving back at school. Moreover, it gave us a chance to observe the good looking girls in our grade. I also enjoyed learning from a number of speakers about important Sewanee traditions, such as the Honor Code and the Sewanee Angel. All in all, I had a really good time my first couple of weeks here, and I am looking forward to a really good year." By this responsiveness

from the freshmen, it seems that the Orientations Committee was very successful in getting new students adjusted to college life.

The Class of 2003 is without a doubt a unique, talented group of people. The class contains 394 people: 44% men and 56% women. Geographically, students hail from 32 different states, as well as a variety of foreign countries. The State of Tennessee again claims the largest number of students: Alabama, Georgia, Texas, and Virginia round out the top five home states of the students.

Academically, it seems as though Admissions has once again brought in a very accomplished and ambitious group of people. Impressively, the mid-50% SAT scores from incoming freshmen ranged from 1150-1310. The mid-50% ACT Composite scores ranged from 24-28. The average

Class of 2003

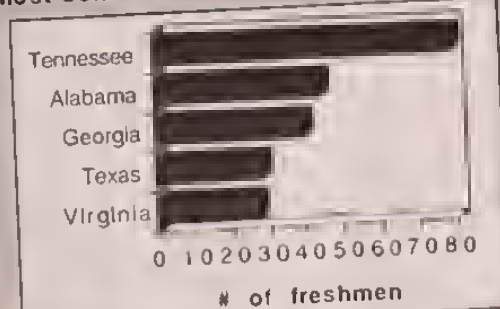
Avg. High School GPA: 3.54

Gender:

Test Scores:
(Mid 50% of Class)
SAT 1150-1310
ACT 24-28

Men 44% Women 56%

Most Common States:



Source: Sewanee Office of Admission

high school GPA for the incoming freshmen was 3.54. The average SAT score for National Merit Scholars was 1408 and the average ACT score 31. Forty percent of the freshman class are members of the National Honor Society, and the class contains seventeen Valedictorians and ten Salutatorians.

In speaking with a number of freshmen, it seems that students applied to many of the same schools during their senior year in high school. Commonly applied to universities included Washington and Lee University, the University of Richmond, the University of Virginia, and Vanderbilt University. A good number of students of the Class of 2003 applied to

Sewanee using the early decision process, so this group likely knew very early on where they would be attending school. Aside from an extremely impressive academic record, the Class of 2003 is also a very diverse, well-rounded group, intensely focused on a number of extracurricular activities. Of the 394 members of the class, 57% were varsity athletes in high school and 24% were captains of their respective teams. 20% of the class were theater participants in high school, 10% were editors of magazines, newspa-

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Hartman and Thompson Named Assistant Deans

New positions filled by Hunt and Richards

by Ed Gerber

Staff Writer

Anyone who has dropped by the offices of Student Activities or Residential Life will have noticed a change. Both Eric Hartman, Director of Student Activities, and Michelle Thompson, Director of Residential Life, have been noticeably more busy lately, and are often away from their offices. There are also new faces about. Nicole Hunt and Daniel Richards.

The source of changes originated in the Dean of Students office this summer; both Hartman and Thompson were asked to take on the role of Assistant Deans of Students in addition to the regular duties. The two fill the vacancy left by former Dean Sharon Spray, who left Sewanee at the conclusion of the 1998-1999 school year. In addition, Hunt and Richards, both Assistant Directors

in the Office of the Deans of Students, joined the Sewanee staff to aid the two new Deans.

Thompson explained that she was both honored and excited by the changes. She is now able to play a larger role in Residential Life; in addition to her work with Proctors and Head Residents to shape the Sewanee dormitory scene, she now handles all policy infractions committed in the dormitories. As she explained, her new role as a Dean puts her in a position to effectively see through the policies she helps set up as Director of Residential Life. Thompson was also excited by the opportunity to take on Dean Spray's role concerning women's issues on the Domain, especially with the debut of the new Women's Studies program.

Hartman will now handle policy infractions arising in the Greek system and school events. As with Thompson, his authority as a Dean complements his current role as Director of Student Activities. Hartman will continue his work with the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Thompson will now take on a larger role with the



Amber Hodges/The Purple

Nicole Hunt, Daniel Richards and Michelle Thompson, along with Eric Hartman (not pictured) form new Dean of Students staff.

Intersorority Council (ISC). The two aren't just filling in for Dean Spray's absence, however. Thompson explained that they are also working on new initiatives, such as the Sophomore Year Experience.

The new roles have forced Hartman and Thompson to become more mobile. In the Dean's office

in Walsh Ellet the two share Dean Spray's former place. Both must also maintain their older offices, Hartman in the Bishops Commons, and Michelle in the basement of Carnegie. Thompson spends most of mornings in her former office, moving back and forth to Walsh Ellet mostly in the afternoons. All this extra movement may keep her in shape, she quipped! Hartman shuttles back and forth as well, spending at least

two afternoons a week in the Deans Office.

As Thompson explained, the additions of Nicole Hunt and Daniel Richards to the Deans Office has made the whole restructuring possible. Both come with impressive credentials. Hunt comes to Sewanee after two years of work with an Atlanta engineering firm. In 1996 she earned a Masters in American Civilization from Brown University, gaining experience in student activities both at Brown and during her undergraduate days at Hollins College. In addition to her role as Head Resident of Hodgson, she works closely with Hartman in Student Activities and the Dean's Office.

Richards is actually returning to Sewanee; he graduated from the undergraduate college with a B.A. in History in 1995. After leaving Sewanee he went on to earn a Masters of Education in College Student Personnel in June of 1999. He and his wife, Emily Richards, a 1994 Sewanee graduate and current Junior in the School of Theology, have become the Head Residents of Courts. Daniel Richards has worked closely with Thompson in the Residential Life Office.

Receiving the Gown



Lyn Hutchinson

Cary McStay gowns Vickie Cogan. New Gownsmen were inducted at Opening Convocation held on Monday.

Police Chief Reports Semester Has 'Been Fairly Quiet'

by Pete Greenfield

Staff Writer

Most recently I had the chance to chat with our head man on the Sewanee Police Force, the Chief of Police, Ernie Butner. He has served 18 years on the Mountain, running down streakers, enforcing the drinking rules, and maintaining general order. He claims that as of yet, the freshman haven't created any real uproar: "It's been fairly quiet". Ernie also notes that there is a new addition to the Force this year, Marie Campbell. According to Ernie, "She's doing good."

We did converse on the law for a while, and I was curious to know the Sewanee vice's philosophy on alcohol enforcement. Ernie replied that the Force would "follow the guidelines of all student activities according to the student handbook" and "we're (Police) not doing anything different this year." As for the underage drinking that occurs at any college, he said, "We cannot possibly get it all... but we're going to follow Federal Law as

closely as possible."

But Police Chief Butner can't stress enough that the Sewanee Police are there to help students. Specifically, if they need a ride: "just call the station (ex. 1111) and we'll come get you." I've done this before, and riding in the squad car as a passenger is an experience after a couple bourbons.

Most fail to realize that Ernie works the Domain even when the students are gone, when Sewanee's population returns solely to residents and summer schoolers. Waiting for the tide of students to rush in is just right fine for Big Ernie though because, speaking in all sincerity, he comments, "I love the students...I really do." And with a bright, nostalgic smile on his face he tells me what his chief told him when he had his first "quiet summer day at Sewanee" on July 4, 1971: "Come August 20th, this place changes."

Ernie also added that he enjoys talking with students and getting feedback, so drop on by the station, and if you're lucky, he'll show you the pictures of his new grandson Mitch.

Buildings

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Tuckaway that is both comfortable and energy-conservative. Water-saving fixtures and fluorescent lights with sensors (walk in, lights on-walk out, lights off) were placed in the bathrooms. Also, the new, recycled carpet will be replaced and recycled again in 10 years. Being 'earth-friendly' was a top priority in renovating the antique dormitory.

Another major concern was preserving Tuckaway's historical features. This included restoring the magnificent front porch, which, I might add, was particularly enjoyed by this ex-Tuckaway resident. Upon revisiting the Tuckaway porch, I was pleased to

see that its stone columns, crude tiles, and Native American symbols remain. Residential Life called in a specialist to repair and clean the porch, maintaining the original tiles and symbols. They also completely replaced the porch's roof, which was steadily rotting away.

While the appearance of the facade was maintained, Tuckaway's interior took on an entirely different feel. I've heard many people say that Tuckaway looks like a hotel, or feels like a hospital. Like a new car, it has a sterile air, a cold, hard face lacking its previous character. But I suppose those of us that like hav-

ing twenty-year-old beer stains on our carpet have to sacrifice something for the sake of improvement. Furthermore, I'm sure that over the years the carpet will collect character, the air will soften, and Tuckaway will establish itself a personality as rich as any other dorm, only its residents will sleep softly in the luxury of conditioned air.

Many changes are taking place here at Sewanee. But while Sewanee expands and improves, it maintains its quaint, comfortably antiquated atmosphere. This atmosphere, at least for this reporter, serves as one of Sewanee's most appealing qualities.

Fraternities

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over the summer. Chi Psi upgraded one of their bathrooms, and they converted their stereo closet into a women's restroom. They redid their kitchen and added new floors to the kitchen and bathrooms areas. In the main room upstairs, they refinished their walls, redid the ceiling and replaced two of the main doorways. They added chandeliers upstairs and new lighting in other parts of the house. They also converted a downstairs room into a single bedroom.

Delta Tau Delta has made plans to refurbish the interior of their house. They plan to redo their chapter room and expect to replace the windows and redo the walls. They will rearrange the kitchen and pool room areas, and they also have plans to redo the deck at the back of the house.

KA also expects significant improvements, including new walls, ceilings, floors and windows for most of the house. On the back of the house, they also have plans for a new deck. They will remodel the kitchen area and upgrade the bedroom. They plan to get a new heating system for the house. They are adding a new roof and fire escape, and they want to get a new gas grill.

FIJI will be directing much of their money towards foundation work, including major waterproofing efforts

They also plan interior work on the bedroom and the main room. They expect to get a new deck, and they plan to make some improvements to the downstairs.

Lambda Chi plans to refinish their walls, as well as other interior work. They want improvements to the bathroom, deck, and balcony as well.

DKE has plans for repainting much of the house. They also expect window repair and some interior development as well.

Beta has the resources for considerable renovation, but they have not finalized any plans yet. They are looking at significant interior renovations and upgrades, but they also face an option to buy their house back from the University.

The fundraising and renovation campaigns that have been taking place the past couple of years represent an exciting movement for the fraternity system at Sewanee. This effort marks a strengthening of a tradition that has been declining at many other Universities. Through these house improvements, the University hopes to begin a lasting cooperation with the fraternities and alumni associations, ensuring the ongoing maintenance of all the houses and a lasting positive relationship between fraternities and school administrators.

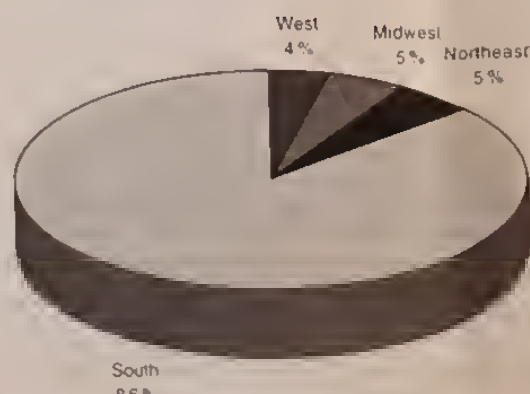
Freshmen

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pers. and yearbooks. 29% of students participated in Key Clubs, Beta Clubs, and other sorts of volunteer projects. 6% were class presidents at some point in their high school careers.

It appears that the Class of 2003, through their previous high school academic achievements and involvement in a number of activities, will be a very productive, contributing force in the Sewanee community. As this new chapter begins in their lives, the new freshman class eagerly anticipates an eventful, memorable 1999-2000 school year.

Class of 2003 by Region



Opinion

Saturday, September 11, 1999

The Sewanee Purple

Moosings: All Things Insightful and Indian

by S.P. Kalita
Web Editor

1997 was the year of Tamagotchis (remember those mutable digital life forms). NASA's Pathfinder went to Mars where it found rocks named Casper and Scooby-Doo among other assorted finds. Deep Blue finally humbled Kasparov. Dolly became the first sheep to be cloned and Will Smith made millions squashing a few bugs. Amidst all these exciting happenings, one particular American mistook the new \$50 dollar bill for play money and another asked me whether I had an elephant in my backyard.

The question didn't surprise me. From the moment I boarded the plane to Nashville, I had ardently prayed for it. I would have been a very disappointed Indian otherwise. You see I was prepared for it. I had done my research. In the weeks preceding my departure-every day, I beseeched American tourists who had the misfortune to be in New Delhi; every night, I scoured the Internet chat-rooms for hapless American souls; and in between, I wrote letters to random addresses in America-all to lay bare the questions that the world's favorite citizens had about India. Having sought the questions, then came the easy and more familiar part-seeking the answers, a grand and glorious tradition for most Indians, involving a hard day's night of compiling and distilling the lore and knowledge of eons that billions of my ancestors have passed from one generation to another. At the end of that night, I was confident that I could answer with equanimity any question posed by my fellow peers.

For the uninitiated, the very first question someone asked me as I stepped off the shuttle in Sewanee was, "Do you really use elephants for transportation in India, SP?" Now most Americans I know find it hard to believe our fondness for elephants as the preferred means of transportation. So whenever I am asked about it, I painstakingly explain that we consider elephants a low-cost, environmentally safe and hassle-free solution (most Indians find it comforting that elephants rarely drive anyone bananas with transmission problems and what not). Furthermore, elephants don't need gas (which is expensive) and happily make do with green grass

(which is cheap) and other vegan delights. The only disadvantage is the occasional instance when we have an emission problem in a high-traffic street and elephant pooling can always easily solve that. Thus, it is plain economics that sustains our fondness for keeping elephants in our backyards (note, wealthy Indians keep elephants too-white elephants).

Another perennial favorite that people have asked of me is, "Why do women wear a red dot on their forehead?" Again, I carefully clarify to my American friend that technically it's not a dot since it comes in many different shapes - squares, triangles, and ellipses, among others. A better name would be its actual name- 'bindi' (in Hindi, of course). Then I meticulously explain that the custom is derived from ancient times when Indian men honed their archery skills by aiming at their wife's red dot (bindi). In fact, many Indians believe that this helped establish the custom of Indian men having more than one wife. You see, once they mastered archery and started hitting the target...

Over the last two years I have had an amazing time helping people in their quest for better understanding of India and its people, but honestly I am tired of answering the same old questions. One purpose of this article is to familiarize the newcomers with the answers to the above questions, the intention being that you will conceive fresh new questions for me. The other purpose is to acquaint you with another source of information-Raghav Virmani (many of you may already know him as "Rag"). The admissions office in its good heart this year realized the need for another Indian. They probably felt the need for Sewanee to have more than one balanced source of information on India. Anyway, I am awfully glad that Rag is here, because I believe he is going to make my life easier and many of yours more enriching. Rag and I might differ on trivialities of Indian culture but we share the same abiding love for disseminating information about our country of birth. I strongly encourage you to stop him if you see him walking down the road and take a moment to enlighten yourself about India and its people. I have a feeling that he did considerable research himself before coming here and is dying to have a shot at answering your questions.

Here's the Thing:

Smith Over Banks 'Ridiculous'

by Justin Wear
Business Manager

I'm not going to lie to you - Ozzie Smith was a great player, probably the greatest defensive shortstop of all-time, deserves to be in the Hall of Fame, and also deserves to be recognized on any list of the all-time best shortstops. When checking out the latest voting for Major League Baseball's official all-century team, though, I noticed a travesty that simply could not be ignored. Sure, I have no problem that the Oz trails Cal Ripken, Jr. in the shortstop voting, because he should, but the fact that he leads Ernie Banks is ridiculous. Banks was by far the greatest shortstop of this century, and he should lead this voting in a runaway, but even I could live with his losing to Ripken; that could be open for at least a little debate. But losing to Ozzie Smith?

Both Smith's and Banks' careers lasted parts of 19 seasons, and each played almost the exact same number of games: 2573 for Smith and 2528 for Banks, which means that over 19 years Smith played about 2 more games per year. That being said, Banks has significantly more career home runs, RBI, and a higher slugging percentage, as well as more hits, runs, doubles, triples, and a higher batting average. In all offensive categories, Smith leads Banks only in

drawing more walks and striking out less, but even that yields him only a .337 to .330 career on-base percentage lead.

All this with Smith playing on 3 pennant winners in the midst of a line-up that commonly saw Vince Coleman on first in front of him. Coleman's presence created more chaos for the opposing pitcher, causing him to pay more attention to Coleman and less to Smith, which should have made Smith's batting average increase. Moreover, with Coleman's base stealing prowess, Smith saw an extraordinary amount of fastballs and slide steps from pitchers, but even with all this help he was a career .262 hitter. Is a .262 hitter the century's best shortstop, the best shortstop of all-time? Hell, Jeff Blauser is a career .263 hitter, and I don't see anyone throwing out his name for an all-century team.

Conversely, Banks was the one staple for several awful Cubs teams in the 1950's and 1960's, but he still managed to consistently out-perform Smith. In 1969, about the only year that Banks played for a decent team (the Cubbies ended up losing the pennant to the Amazin' Mets in a close race), he hit 23 homers and knocked in 106 runs; in St. Louis' 1982 and 1985 pennant winning years, Smith hit .248 and .276.

Fine, still not convinced? Let's turn to defense, Smith's specialty.

He won 13 consecutive Gold Gloves, led the league in fielding percentage 9 times, and saved countless hits and runs for his pitchers (names like John Tudor, Bob Forsch, and Joaquin Andujar, for you baseball aficionados). His lifetime fielding percentage was still less than Banks', though, .986 to .978. See, what people don't realize is that Banks was no slouch with the leather: he won a gold glove, too, and led the national league in fielding percentage in 1959 and 1960 as a shortstop and then again in 1969 (remember that year?) as a first baseman. He also played some third base and even outfield in his career as well, making him more valuable in my eyes to any all-century team than a no-hitting shortstop with more flash than substance. No flips, please, I'll take the homers and RBI's. Add all this to Banks' two National League MVP awards, the fact that he is the best offensive shortstop of all time (plus one of the games best overall offensive players, per any position), and there should be no question.

Smith is a great player, no doubt, and I know I am hitting some sore spots with Cardinal fans, but take them up with Don Denkinger, not me. The bottom line is that Banks is the best shortstop of this century, flip or no flip.

How Much Do Rankings Matter?

by Nathan Erdman
Managing Editor

Each fall, the *U.S. News and World Report* releases its annual rankings of undergraduate colleges and universities. Usually some sort of controversy or discussion emerges. Nationally, experts and university officials question the validity of these rankings. Here at Sewanee, officials, faculty and students have discussed the importance of rankings in the life of the University and to what degree they should influence Sewanee's policy.

Arguing the pinpoint validity of these rankings seems pointless. Even *US News* admits its rankings are not perfect. They point to their survey as a guide, rather than exact rankings from one to 300. Is

the California Institute of Technology a better undergraduate institution than Princeton? Is Yale a better academic experience than Harvard? Once you get to that level of education it really makes little difference. Is a future employer or graduate school going to choose one applicant over another simply because Yale rates a decimal point higher than Harvard (or vice-versa) in a *US News* survey? And how much difference do rankings make when you get down to directional state universities and underfunded private colleges? Borderline schools like Sewanee seem to be the only ones that care. For reasons escaping understanding, the difference between 25 and 26 results in two totally different impressions. Nonetheless, the rankings accomplish their goals, first to sell magazines, and second to serve as a guide for high school juniors and seniors. In other words the rankings separate the Vanderbilts from the Sewanees; the Sewanees from the UT-Knoxvilles, and the UT-Knoxvilles from the UT-Martins. Speaking of Sewanee, should the University allow rankings and guide books such as the *Princeton Review* motivate administrative decisions and University policies and programs? Continuing to build a quality, renowned, national liberal arts college should motivate Sewanee policy, whether its ranking is 24th, 26th or 52nd. It should strive to be an elite university, not a ranking as an elite university. This does not mean the administration, faculty, students and policy makers should ignore external evaluations and surveys. Rankings such as the *US News* can serve as a general guide indicating to officials where Sewanee ranks in important individual categories such as faculty resources, acceptance rates, average class size and graduation rates. The fi-

nal subjective ranking (although it can be a public relations tool) has less importance than the objective statistical comparisons.

The *Princeton Review* survey however should be taken more seriously than the *US News* rankings, in that they probably have a more real impact on recruitment. For instance, would a quality student discard Sewanee simply because its rated behind Washington & Lee? Probably not on the basis of the ranking alone. However, would a quality student who has little interest in Greek life or heavy drinking discard Sewanee for another institution upon reading the *Princeton Review*? What about a gifted minority student, concerned with racism? This seems much more plausible.

The other reason to take the *Princeton Review* survey more seriously is that it feeds off Sewanee student opinion. If the survey says that Sewanee is elitist or racist, it means that a great number of students feel that way. The same of course is true of categories usually favorable to Sewanee, such as student happiness, effective teachers and campus appearance.

Even with this in mind, the *Princeton Review* survey should be a source of information for further study, rather than a final authority. Rankings and surveys are important. Prospective students and employers across the nation use these as guides. This means surveys and rankings have a real impact on Sewanee and its students. But if Sewanee makes a commitment to improvement, by strengthening its student diversity, teaching, nationwide recruiting, stronger financial aid, and inclusiveness rather than elitism; the rankings will take care of themselves.

The Sewanee Purple

The Official Organ of the Students of the University of the South

Established 1892 - A Legacy of 107 years of Student Journalism

The *Sewanee Purple* is owned and operated by the students of the University of the South. All editorial and financial matters are directed by the Editor in consultation with the staff and under the authority granted by the University Publications Board and the Order of Gownsmen.

Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the editorial staff. Signed editorials represent the views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of the *Purple*.

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Sports

Saturday, September 11, 1999

The Sewanee Purple

Football Opens 1999 Campaign With 14-0 Win

Shutout in season opener sparks new optimism for Tigers

by Ryan Mahoney

Sports Editor

Sewanee's fast-rising football team is off to a rousing start this year, with their recent 14-0 slaughter of Hampden-Sydney on Sept. 4. Coming off a pre-season scrimmage against Maryville the previous weekend, in which the Tigers scored seven touchdowns to their opponents' two, the team looks ready to take a shot at a modern version of The Streak itself. And on this centennial anniversary of what may be the greatest record ever set in college football, Sewanee looks ready to romp.

Fourth-year head coach John Windham is enthusiastic, and well he should be, last Saturday's road shutout was Sewanee's first since 1963, and its 222nd shutout ever. Under Windham, Sewanee will almost certainly reach 14,000 total points over its 105 seasons this year (its accumulated score is currently up to 13,960). And so far, it has already exceeded expectations; the Tigers stomped Hampden-Sydney by a greater margin than in last year's opener (24-14). Even before this victory, Sewanee football was ranked fifth in the SCAC. Its all-time record is still a winning one, at 428-392-38 (.521). Given a few more wins, the University might rise in the polls once again.

Adding to this season's potential for glory are the return of 34 lettermen - thirteen of them starters - and the addition of a host of talented freshmen (26). The Tigers lost no major players to graduation last year. Several of the starters received all-conference honors last year, and several other returners, such as backup QB Knox Vanderpool and sophomore DB Trumaine Polk have made powerful returns from injury. Also, OL Antonio Crook and QB Max Fuller have been selected to the 1999 Pre-Season All-SCAC Offense Team. The talent is there, obviously. It remains



Lyn Hutchinson

A Sewanee Tiger blocks a Maryville punt, during the Tigers' preseason scrimmage against the Maryville Fighting Scots. Sewanee opened the season with a 14-0 win and plays Rose Hulman today.

to be seen whether it will come together more cohesively than last year.

What, then, of last season's slew of close, end game heart-breakers to teams that the Tigers are perfectly capable of taking apart? "We're really concentrating on playing each game to the end," Windham said. A good thing, too; last year the University lost to Rose-Hulman (29-28), DePauw (25-24), and Washington & Lee (23-21), all in the latter portion of the game. And how will this be achieved? "We plan to run an option offense, and a run and shoot passing attack," said Windham.

Indeed, Sewanee's running game has been excellent of late, and it now looks to improve its passing game, as it has already done with Hampden-Sydney, which featured a 63-yard TD pass. Sewanee's secondary is quite young, but talented, according to Windham. Its defense will be aggressive, but quick on its feet, if it wants to avoid future up-

sets. Too many close games last year ended up in the opponents' favor, and the team is determined to put a stop to such situations this year.

"It's a talented, hardworking group of kids," says Windham, and he couldn't be more correct. All-SCAC QB Max Fuller heads up the offense in his third year as the starter, trying once again for a 1,000+ rushing yard season. His backups are Knox Vanderpool, injured for the majority of the last season, and primarily a passer, and freshman Jay Holcomb. All-SCAC fullback Brian Morrison led the RBs last year with 722 yards for 150 carries, and six TDs. Sophomore RBs Devin DeLaughter and Dusty Bright will also return, alongside junior Nathan Shack and freshman K.D. Walker.

At WR, David Witt was the go-to man last year, albeit that he was only given the opportunity to be got less than 10% of the time. Again, Sewanee must

augment their skills here to succeed, and with the help of senior Erik Doell, there seems a good possibility of this happening. On the O-line, look for All-SCACer Antonio Crook, John Kleckner, Michael Phillips, and Jim Tate. Junior Abe Mikell will center once again, and is backed up by sophomore Micah Whiteside. Mark Tucker and Matt Solomon round things out.

The linebackers this year may be the key to several victories, especially against the hard-hitting offense of Rhodes and Trinity. Billy Lewis and Michael Stanley, who combined for 74 tackles last year, return with Bart Pride and Esau McCaulley for support. On the defensive line, the team of All-SCAC honorees Eddie Yeh (53 tackles) and Brian Tyler (27) will be joined by newcomers Chuck McCauley and Tan Meeks. Nick Dietzen, Richard Wittington, Wes Butler, Neal Smith, and Jevon Bozzi should also see playtime,

along with Chris Jones, Justin Chappell, Paul Brazier, Chase Neal, and Jason Downs.

Robert Holley will start at safety, along with Trumaine Polk, Towaski Hunt, and Jason Wheat. Look for action from frosh footmen John Beasley and Wes Bradley, as well. Kicker Ian Huff, who went 5 of 5 in field goals last year, and Bart Pride, who averaged 34 yds/punt, round out the lineup, together with freshman punter Rusty Wood.

This season's schedule follows last year's to a tee, with the addition of a Nov. 13 away match against Stillman College as the final game. This year will mark the first time since 1932 that the University will compete in a full ten-game season. Sewanee will see its first SCAC action this Saturday against the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology of IN. Last year, the Tigers fell 29-28 to the intrepid Engineers. This year, however, the no. 6 Engineers will have to deal with the force behind Coach Windham's assertion that though "we are similar teams, and they've got a great QB, we'll just have to step things up."

After Rose-Hulman, the Tigers head for Davidson College, against whom they suffered a spectacular 9-16 OT loss last year at McGee field. Oct. 2 marks the University's home opener, a match against no. 4 Centre College on Parents' weekend. On Oct. 9, the celebration of the Big 100, Sewanee locks with no. 2 DePauw. No. 3 Rhodes, fellow CAC founder and longtime rival Washington & Lee, and no. 7 Millsaps all follow suit.

Then, on Nov. 6, Sewanee will play no. 1 Trinity University at home on the 130th anniversary of the first game ever played in college football, an 1879 match between Princeton and Rutgers. Curiously, those two teams will not play one another on that date. Trinity, a perennial national contender, will likely find little support from 3,000 cheering Sewanee fans on the grass of McGee field. Ask Coach Windham about a possible repeat of The Streak, of course, and he will modestly reply, "We're just taking it one game at a time."

Remembering 1899, and Looking to a Bright Future

by Ryan Mahoney

Sports Editor

It seems like just about every college and university these days has a team they like to talk about. UNC, for instance, will go on for hours about the time they won the 1982 NCAA basketball championships with four guys nobody had ever heard of, including a certain now-famous Chicago Bulls player (now retired). Then there's Iowa's wrestling dynasty, with nine straight NCAA team championships (1978-86), and six more since. Even Division III Kenyon College has room to brag, with a men's swimming and diving program that has been unbeaten for over twenty years.

Well, it's been a long, long time since our own Sewanee Tigers chalked one up on the books that makes all the rest of these pale by comparison. It is a record that can never be equaled or surpassed. An achievement that will stand for all time. For, one hundred years ago this fall, the University of the South shut out five of the nation's best collegiate football teams. They did it in an unheard-of six days. They did it all on the road, traveling 2,500 miles by train. They scored 91 points. Their opponents scored none. And they're still talking about it. Oh, and by the way, their names then, as they remain to this day, were Texas, Texas A&M, Tulane, LSU, and mighty Ole Miss.

How could this possibly have happened? Well, back in 1899, long before Sewanee's 42 consecutive SEC losses during the 1930s, before its decision to become a founding member of the Collegiate Athletic Conference (CAC) in 1962, and later of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference

(SCAC) in 1991, things were somewhat different. A man named Luke Lea was in charge back then. Lea was not the team coach, but rather its business manager and captain. Recognizing the earning potential a top-ranked team could have, he went about at an incredible rate, sparing no expense to recruit the finest players and coaching staff available in the South.

When the season began, the team proceeded to demolish Georgia, Georgia Tech, Tennessee, and Southwestern, in short order, holding all their opponents scoreless. In fact, over the entire, undefeated season, only Auburn managed to score on the Tigers, and in an 11-10 loss to Sewanee, at that. Then came The Streak, in the first game of which, the Tigers destroyed Texas 12-0. The Sewanee Purple wrote glowingly of how "thrice did Texas hurl her backs against the Purple wall, and thrice did Sewanee repel the onslaughts." And after that incredible season, the University went on to enjoy another 19 consecutive winning seasons, from 1900-1918.

But what of today? Ranked by *Sports Illustrated* this year as one of the top 5 opponents ever of the University of Tennessee, Sewanee has undergone a few changes to its athletic program in recent years. Scholarships have long been unavailable, of course, due to the school's membership in the NCAA's Division III. Team budget cuts, ostensibly to make way for new construction, have not helped either. Nor do today's opponents don't carry the name recognition, media coverage, or money of yesteryear's.

That, however, has done nothing to stop Sewanee from a resurgence within

the SCAC, not only in football, but in all its sports. Tiger basketball, swimming, tennis, and field hockey teams are now at the top of the SCAC, on the level with perennial SCAC all-sport favorite Trinity University. With top 25 standings in national college rankings, Sewanee can now afford to pick and choose from a wider and better pool of student athletes. Given a few more years, Sewanee may help to make the SCAC the little brother to the SEC it sprang from; a true Division III powerhouse.

This year, this general renaissance in Tiger sports has at last made its way into the ranks of the football program. With thirteen returning starters - several of whom were All-SCAC players last year - as well as a host of talented freshmen, Sewanee has moved up in the polls to no. 5 in the SCAC, just ahead of Rose-Hulman. Coming off an impressive 14-0 blowout of Hampden-Sydney last weekend (hmm... that opponent score seem familiar?), head coach John Windham hopes to chalk up two more road victories before the first home game of the season against Centre.

And with this momentous anniversary comes an explosion of media coverage unheard of in university history. You thought the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit last year was well-attended by the press? Try these names on for size: ESPN, CNN, NBC, *USA Today*, and *Sports Illustrated* are all contemplating new stories on The Streak. Practically every major paper in the Southeast - from the *Tennessean*, to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, to the *Orlando Sentinel* has already run at least one article on the event so far this year. History, it seems, is in the making once again.

Sewanee Football Then and Now . . .

1899	1999
October 21 @ Georgia 12-0	September 4 @ Hampden-Sydney 14-0
October 23 @ Georgia Tech 32-0	September 11 @ Rose-Hulman
October 28 Tennessee 46-0	September 18 @ Davidson
November 3 Southwestern 54-0	October 2 Centre
November 9 @ Texas 12-0	October 9 DePauw
November 10 @ Texas A&M 10-0	October 16 @ Rhodes
November 11 @ Tulane 23-0	October 23 Washington & Lee
November 13 @ LSU 34-0	October 30 @ Millsaps
November 14 @ Ole Miss 12-0	November 6 Trinity
November 20 Cumberland 71-0	November 13 @ Stillman
November 30 @ Auburn 11-10	
December 2 @ North Carolina 5-0	

Source: Sewanee Sports Information

Field Hockey Starts With Key Victory

by Catherine Woody

Staff Writer

The 1999 field hockey season got underway this past weekend at home, with a win over Wooster, after opening opponent Hanover forfeited their match. In past years, Wooster had been a tough opponent for the Tigers, who previously managed to defeat Wooster only once since head coach Chapman Kern took the reins. However, the Tigers were ready to play on Sunday. Under the hot sun and in front of a good crowd, Sewanee looked fast, strong, and in control immediately following the opening whistle.

Wooster was caught off guard by the speed and perseverance of the Tigers. In the first ten minutes of the game, returning starter Katherine Kelly managed to put in a goal past Wooster's frenetically diving goalie. Sewanee kept the pressure on Wooster's defense, allowing senior Christy Frazier to knock home a goal of her own. Freshman Eliza Colson finished up the Sewanee scoring spree with a third goal. Sewanee went into half time with a solid 3-0 lead. In the second half, however, the Tiger offense was unable to put another one past Wooster's tough defense. Nonetheless, thanks to the impres-

sive play of the Sewanee backfield, the Tigers survived a last-minute attack from Wooster and hung on to give junior goalkeeper Jaclyn Williams the win, and the shutout.

The win against Wooster was exactly the kind of start Sewanee wanted for the new season. The squad this year consists of ten upperclassmen, including returning seniors Tricia Davis, Dervla Delaney, Christy Frazier, and Mokie George. Delaney and George will be sharing captain duties this season. They are joined by three sophomores, three juniors, and an overwhelming underclass of nine freshman stickers. The program also picks up assistant coach Joe Underwood for this year.

Sophomore starter Kelly said the return of seniors Davis and Frazier from full semesters abroad last year, as well as the addition of the freshmen and new player Gonos (taking a break from Sewanee's conference champion swim team), will be a great asset to this season's squad. "We have good depth this season on the bench. Being able to sub fresh



Lyn Hutchinson

The Tiger field hockey team attacks the Wooster goal. The Tigers defeated Wooster 3-0, in their first on the field contest.

players in for tired ones will really help us out," Kelly stated.

The Tigers hope to defend their conference title to become K.I.T. (Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee) Conference Champions for the second year in a row. The team also hopes to improve on their regional play this season. Looking ahead in the schedule, Sewanee will soon hit the road for an extended stretch of away games. Now with a 2-0 record, the team will head to Vir-

ginia to face Sweet Briar and Roanoke (Sept. 11-12). On Sept. 17-18, the Tigers travel to Memphis to face the double threat of Ohio Wesleyan and Rhodes. The stretch of away games comes to a close on the weekend of Sept. 24-26 when Sewanee plays Transylvania and Centre. The team returns home for Parent's Weekend, however, for a rematch with Rhodes on Oct. 2 and the challenge of Bellarmine College the following day.

Volleyball Wins First Tournament

by Nikki Garsombke

Staff Writer

The University of the South women's varsity volleyball team swept away all competition this weekend at the Maryville Kickoff Tournament. Sewanee squared off against a tough field, which included Maryville, Greensboro, Covenant and Emory and Henry. They lost only one match - an extremely tight 2-3 final - and walked away with the championship trophy. Leading the team with incredible hits, lightning quick reflexes, and bounding enthusiasm and energy was sophomore star Laura Landers. Much of the team's success can be credited to Landers' amazing gameplay this weekend. She is very optimistic about this season. "We played great this weekend, and I know this is going to be a really good year. We have a lot of skilled players coming back and some awesome freshmen," she said.

Another key player to watch is freshman sensation Laura Dodd. Hailing from New Orleans, LA, Dodd is one of the team's best setters; her skills have been praised by many as accurate and consistent. She also has high hopes for this season. "I think it's going to be a lot of fun. Everyone has a lot of talent," she said. Other standout freshman players include Laura Somel from Potomac, MD and Lindsay Hevron, also from New Orleans.

Next weekend, the volleyball team will head to Virginia to play in the Emory & Henry Tournament. The Lady Tigers hold their first home game on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 7:00 p.m. versus Fisk College.

Cross Country Finishes Second in Sewanee Invitational

by Vickie Cogan

Assistant Sports Editor

The Sewanee cross country teams are headed to the Centre College Invitational meet this weekend in Danville, KY. This is the second meet of the season for the Tiger teams, which first competed at home this past weekend in the Sewanee Invitational. The women's team had a strong second place finish, only 21 points behind powerhouse Emory University. Finishing 60 points behind Sewanee was Beville State Community College, followed by the Uni-

versity of North Alabama, Lipscomb University, Cumberland University, Middle Tennessee State University (Division II), and Gasden State Community College. The men's team finished a close fourth, only three points behind MTSU, while Emory took first and Beville placed second. North Alabama and Lipscomb took fifth and sixth places, respectively.

As always, head coach Cliff Afton is looking forward to a strong season. Many of the returning runners are starting the season off in better shape and with faster times. The Tiger women finished second place in the conference last

year - a scant 9 points behind first - and third in the region, just missing a team qualification for NCAA Division III Nationals. Although the women lost two individual national qualifiers last May, they still have a strong team, and they're hoping to run just as well this season.

The team is once again led by three-time All-American senior Heather Stone, who is motivated more than ever to finish her college career on top. In May she went to nationals and placed eighth in the 800M run, sixth in the 1500M indoors, and second in the 1500M outdoors, only .37 sec. away

from first place. At the Sewanee Invitational, she ran faster than any Sewanee woman has run in a season-opening meet. Supporting her and coming out with improved times are junior Katherine Koepke, sophomore Jamie Patlovitch, and sophomore Meg Martens.

Afton believes that the men are stronger this season too. They finished in fifth place at last year's Conference meet and hope to improve their ranking with the help of upperclassmen Ben Myers and Jason Green, as well as the current men's leader, freshman Jed Leonard.

In the sport of cross country running, Sewanee generally competes with DePauw University, Rhodes College, and Centre College for the top spots. The season is progressive; all meets prior to conference, regionals, and nationals are for experience in competition and preparation for the championship meets.

This year, all SCAC teams will compete for the conference championship at Hendrix college, after which all teams in the 10 state South/Southeast Region will compete for rankings at the regional meet - to be held here in Sewanee - with hopes of qualifying for nationals.

Tiger Soccer Teams Open 1999 Seasons Successfully

Men's team earns two wins at Kyle Rote Invitational

by Webb Milward

Staff Writer

The Sewanee Tigers men's soccer team reported to practice on the 18th of August. In the three days leading up to the arrival of the freshmen, the team enjoyed three-a-day practices that awakened them from their summer slumber. They also enjoyed a beautiful scenic tour of our beloved mountain while running three miles up it after their first scrimmage. The Tigers opened up the season on Sept. 1 against Huntington. The team broke out of the gates fast, with many scoring opportunities taken early in the game. A few close calls also occurred, as many of the Tiger forwards keyed in on numerous scoring opportunities that unfortunately found the clanging end of the metal posts and crossbars.

Although the Tigers came up short, suffering a 1-0 loss to the Alabama team, they felt good about their first game. "We expected a few mistakes, since it was our first game, so that was natural, but we were unhappy with all the missed opportunities and our inability to finish down the stretch," said freshman midfielder Chris Wooster.

On Sept. 4, as parents and avid soccer fans rolled into town, the squad prepared to compete in the first game of the weekend-long



Lyn Hutchinson

Ryan Davis attempts to shoot past Fontbonne's goalkeeper. The Tigers have started their season at 2-1.

Kyle Rote Junior Invitational. The Tigers began the tournament with a match against Fontbonne. The team made no mistakes this time, demolishing the other team with a hail of goals and overall dominating play. Sophomore Ryan Davis connected on three goals, giving the forward his first hat trick of the season. Also contributing to the beating was Junior Scott Polancich and freshmen David Allen and Andy Leffler, who each scored one goal a piece. When the final horn sounded, the scoreboard read Sewanee 8, Visitors 1. On Sunday, the team took on Webster, in their second game of the tourney. Although sophomore Andrew North knocked in a goal for the Tigers, it was not enough, as the squad was defeated by a score of 2-1.

On Thursday the 9th, the team will be hitting the road for a two-game trip to St. Louis. On Friday,

they'll be competing against Washington University, and on Sunday, they square off against the University of Chicago. The coaches and team have a positive outlook on the trip as they continue to make adjustments before the start of Conference play. "I think that it will be good for us, before the real nitty-gritty of the season begins," stated team manager Eric Entrekin. The Tigers begin playing conference games on Sept. 17, when they open against Millsaps at home.

"Without a doubt, the upperclassmen leadership on our team has really stood out," stated freshman David Allen. The sole returning senior on the squad is Forrest Deleot, who has fought hard to come back from a season-ending injury last year to become one of the team's marquee defensemen. (Look for an up-close interview with Deleot later in the year).

Lady Tigers debut season with three strong victories

by Webb Milward

Staff Writer

The Women's soccer team began this year on the road with a trip to Atlanta, where on Sept. 1, they defeated Agnes Scott 4-0. Sophomore Kathy Schmidt scored a remarkable goal to get the season off on the right foot. The Tigers then traveled to Greensboro, NC, where they played two games against strong teams. In the first game, the squad competed against Guilford, where thanks to strong defensive play and in-your-face offense, the Tigers came away with a crushing 5-1 win.

The following day (Sept. 5), the team went head-to-head with Greensboro. Apparently, home field advantage did not play a big part in this one, as the Tigers trounced their opponents to the tune of 3-0. Freshman Amanda Seifert, who scored all three goals for the Tigers, has impressed both onlookers and teammates. Another sophomore, Jen Simoneau, has been a consistently strong player for the Lady Tigers. She has scored several goals of her

own, and looks to continue with her success.

"We look forward to building off of these first three victories, and hope to take our potential to the limits in hopes of a very strong season," stated Schmidt. This weekend, the team returns to the Mountain to participate in the third annual Sewanee Classic. On Saturday, they lock heads with Kenyon College of Ohio, followed by a huge game Sunday against Maryville. "We anticipate a strong showing this weekend," stated Simoneau. The team also hopes to keep their undefeated streak going through the weekend.

The Tigers begin conference play on Sept. 17 at home against Millsaps. The outlook for the year remains good, with three returning seniors filling out the squad's largely underclass roster. Senior leadership has definitely been found in Stephanie Murray, who plays stopper and is a standout on and off the field. "Things look good this year, we hope to build up our talent and really go after many teams in the league," said Schmidt.

Deleot's experience, combined with the outstanding play of junior co-captains Josh Mixon and Matt Cole, makes the outlook for the season very positive indeed. Also look for junior Scott Polancich to be lurking around the goal, badgering the keeper with his wide array of smooth moves

and powerful sharp-shooting. The eight freshmen on the team have also made a big impact thus far. "We immediately felt accepted, and the upperclassmen have really taken us under their wing," exclaimed freshman Andy Leffler. "We just hope that we can pull our own weight."

The Arts

Saturday, September 11, 1999

The Sewanee Purple

Arts Scene

The Brighter the Fire the Hotter the Gold

by Charles Fiore

Arts Editor

Well, welcome back everyone. I've been away a while, but hopefully I have a little more to say having spent the last eight months in that modern day Rome they call New York City. The Big Bad Apple.

I had the opportunity to direct a show this summer, a one-act written by Israel Horowitz in 1968 called "Morning." It is best described as an edgy, dark comedy about a black family the morning after they take magic pills to turn white. Needless to say, given the time it was written, it is full of anger and venom, and plays on well-known stereotypes to shine light on society's darker corners. It was admittedly offensive, but I believe it was offensive in the right ways, which is a dangerous line to walk but I've never been one for Ibsen.

That said, we experienced the normal rehearsal process and made our way into production week. Mine was only one of three one-acts which was to be performed. I had a feeling that the mix of white actors playing blacks coupled with the harsh language and general bigotry depicted in the show made for a volatile concoction, but that was what had drawn me to the show initially and I anxiously anticipated the performance.

Opening night we had a packed house. The show went on as planned. As expected, people weren't really sure what to do with themselves. Should they laugh? Should they walk out? This blatant racism couldn't still be relevant now, could it? Not after all we've achieved?

After the show had ended the head of the studio we had been using pulled me aside, right there in front of the mingling audience, cast and crew, and yelled at me. His face was a brilliant red, his veins pushed out the side of his neck. I was sure he was going to have a heart attack right there. Keep in mind this man is someone who has been around, who has friends everywhere in the theatre world and has given rise to actors such as Ed Norton and Betty Buckley.

"This is the most offensive piece of theatre that has ever been in this studio! This show goes against everything the studio stands for! This show destroys everything my generation has worked for in the past thirty years!" etc etc blah blah blah.

I just stood there. What else could I do? It wasn't that I was being attacked personally. It was my art that was under fire, a creation which I had poured myself into over the last month and a half. I stood my ground. I looked him in the eye. He demanded I cancel the show. I adamantly refused. But because I was only 1/3 of the producers, and the head of the studio had begun to call everyone on the reservation list to warn them about this "terrible show," I was pushed out. 21 years old, first show in New York, and the damn thing gets canceled for being too offensive.

But it made me think. How

Mira Gerard Shows at Stirling's Gallery

Sewanee artist returns from Italy with new portfolio.

by Jordan Martins

Staff Writer

Painter Mira Gerard recently spent time in Italy studying art and painting and the resulting body of work is now on display at Stirlings Coffee House, with work in acrylic, India ink and gesso, as well as other media used in various fashions. The body of work as a whole is clearly influenced by the European tradition of painting landscape, still life and in particular figure and portrait. Gerard has an evident skill and aptitude with the elements of art in her handling of light, form, detail and composition. The work is indebted to the traditions of art she studied while in Italy, but also displays a fresh and vibrant handling of the subjects.

Although the work is representational, Gerard herself does not have this standard in mind, maintaining that art and the aesthetic are of more interest than simply representing reality. This attitude does much for her work by giving a personal and energetic feel. With the exception of a few gestural figure drawings (done in gesso and India ink) her work is sharply detailed and realistic. *Jessica* is a very Surrealist painting of a nude woman at a stone table amidst an ambiguous natural environment, echoing of Dali's style. The attention to detail is remarkable and complete. The contrast of value and color cause the figure to stand out. Gerard manages to give her subject a real expression that goes beyond just the brush strokes. *Jessica's* gaze is eerie and disturbing in its indifference, juxtaposed with the dark background and a silver object on the table in front of her, a dichotomy of culture and nature. Freudian symbolism (again, like Oali) could be appropriate here, but I'll leave the intellectual masturbation to someone else. I would guess that the artist is not painting with the idea of deterministic analysis.

Other pieces have the same at-



Amber Hodges/The Purple

Gerard's portraits like *Katarina*, 1999, Oil on Canvas, are influenced by the European traditions.

ention to detail and ambiguous setting (*The Deep*, for instance), but with a mysterious haze to them, yielding a vintage, rustic look. In her artistic statement Gerard mentions that she is not attempting to capture any particular moment, but rather, the passage of time, as I take it, the imagery and archetypes of life. The mysterious and ambiguous tones in paintings like *The Deep* and others achieve this expression of the passage of time by conveying a certain essence of the subject—they are detailed but the details don't compartmentalize the subject in a certain moment or setting.

Still life work is represented in *Pearl* and *Pear 2*. Again, Gerard's attention to detail and lighting is remarkable in these studies. The objects are full of color, but in a very realistic way. The color and

vibrancy don't take away from the fact that these are pears, but rather convey the realism by showing the color that a live, real pear has. Often times still life is either too dull and lifeless or too colorful to the extent that the subject doesn't seem real. Gerard has achieved a comfortable medium.

A few gestural figure pieces are also exhibited. *Man Reading* shows that Gerard can not only demonstrate ability to convey detail, but can also employ more painterly techniques while maintaining form and lighting. This piece demonstrates a very free and vibrant stroke of the artist as her quick gestures of the brush produce a coherent scene of her subject in proper proportions with consistent shadows and highlights. It also has a strong composition bringing focus to the sub-



Amber Hodges/The Purple

Woman Reading, 1999, Oil on Canvas

ject with out dulling the background.

The strongest piece in the show is a combination of Gerard's detailed approach and gestural abilities. *The Storm* is done in black ink and gesso, making a bold contrasted image. The central figure is a woman, with a stormy sky in the background. Photographer's would have an appreciation of the balance of tones—there are sharp, full blacks, pure whites, and everything in between. Gerard's emphasis on light in her work is no more apparent than in this work. Direct and reflected light strike the subject boldly, each detail sharply carved out in the face. The woman in the painting looks strong and courageous against the stormy background and has a Scarlet O'Hara-ish look to her as if she were about to say, "as God as my witness I will never go hungry again." As in *Jessica*, the face is expressionless, but expresses an inner integrity and dignity, reinforced by the strong lighting. The area below the neck line is done very painterly in gesso, each stroke cutting across the canvas composing the heroin's dress. *The Storm* is a wonderful and lively balance of Gerard's abilities.

Gerard's show is balanced, demonstrating her skills in traditional art, as well as a fresh personal touch. Each painting is complete and refined as though the artist achieved what she had envisioned in each painting. While the work is not on the cutting edge of the art world (not that it needs to be), Gerard's ability as a painter is remarkable and rich in content.

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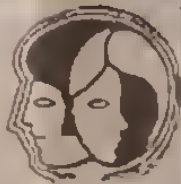
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Artist Profile: Inside the Semi-finals

by Cole Cottrell

Staff Writer



Amber Hodges/The Purple

Pat, Austin and Blake comprise the Semi-finals, one Sewanee band to make it off the Mountain.

It's a blisteringly hot Saturday, and the Purple staff photographer assembles her subject, the band Semi-finals. Austin Lacy, the band's drummer, has his head in his hands. Pat Hayden, guitarist and vocalist, comments, "I have one phrase going back and forth in my head. You are not what you own. You are not what you own." The band refuses to be photographed with the guitar that Stirling's provides for its customers' enjoyment. Blake Harkey, Semi-finals bassist, sits sublimely on the picnic table bench. "I'm just here, that's all my pose is saying." Semi-finals has three members, all juniors at Sewanee. They introduce themselves as Blake Amarillo, bassist, Patrick Sweetwater, guitarist, and Austin Christie, drummer. They've been playing together for about six months, and have just begun to play outside the Sewanee area, including shows in Athens, Georgia and Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Purple: Why when anyone in Sewanee asks about Semi-finals do they call it "Pat Hayden's band?"
Sweetwater: I have absolutely no idea. Maybe because I'm the wanker that talks into the microphone the most. But that's really pretty arbitrary. Whoever says that we're Patrick Hayden's band has obviously never seen us live.
Purple: How did y'all get started?
Amarillo: You want us to talk about the first incarnation?
Sweetwater: That was a more amateurist undertaking. Things really started when I had a couple of riffs, and I said, "Austin, I'd like to play with you." This was after the original incarnation had broken up, and we got together to play and the old bass player, The Face, didn't show up, and he (gesturing to Blake) did. I hated his guts.
Amarillo: He hated my guts, I hated his guts, we (pointing to Austin) got along. So Pat told Austin to give me a call.
Sweetwater: I didn't give him a call. He just sort of showed up at the practice. I would not have even given him a call. You know, we hated each other. But he showed up and he played bass really well, so in light of that, we formed this bizarre friendship that's fake and only exists because he (Blake) can play bass.
Purple: This last Wednesday you had a show in Athens, Georgia. How did that come up?
Amarillo: We got to know a band in Athens, called Michael, last year and they called us kind of last minute and said, "Hey, we need an opening band."
Christie: It wasn't last minute.
Amarillo: No, it was I guess two weeks prior to the show. We were originally slated to play in Athens in two weeks, but they pushed up the date to September 1st, because the venue was better.
Christie: We like playing with these guys; they like us.
Sweetwater: They don't seem to think that we're horrible people.
Amarillo: They're coming the 25th of September to play with us again.
Purple: At Stirling's?
Amarillo: No, to WUTS fest.
Christie: A few bands are coming, Macha, and Aberdeen. We're also trying to find some bands from MTSU.
Purple: Where else have you played besides Sewanee?
Amarillo: Chattanooga, mainly.
Sweetwater: We've only been together 3...4...5...6 months, maybe?
Christie: Six months.
Sweetwater: We've just recently started taking our message outside of our locale to the world. Like the Apostles. We're a lot like the Apostles.
Purple: I heard a rumor that you're going to get a record deal. What's going on with that?
Christie: We're going to do a seven inch with this band out of Athens. We're going to go into the studio over fall break. It's not like a Warner Brothers cut, you know? It's punk rock.
Sweetwater: People have started to sort of know who we are, which is kind of nice. But nobody should think we're about to get guitar shaped swimming pools or anything.
Purple: I've heard Blake describe your music as "emo." How would you describe your sound to the uninitiated?
Sweetwater: The sound of three guys with head colds.
Christie: What do you want us to say, we sound like this or that band... I

would say noisy and snotty.
Sweetwater: Noisy and snotty, definitely.
Amarillo: Dark, at times.
Sweetwater: Sometimes we try to be brooding. And we try to be violent, but not the kind of violent like punching you in the face. More like pinching you.
Amarillo: Stealing your stuff.
Sweetwater: Sneezing on you. That's what I try to do with my vocals, sneeze on people... Spaz core, I'd like to be called spaz core. We write our music in spasms, sometimes. Or emotional hardcore. Or post-punk. These are all buzzwords.
Amarillo: I like indie pop.
Sweetwater: I don't. That's what the newspaper in Athens called us, and I was really not happy about that.
Purple: Who would you call your influences, people who have helped you get to where you are now?
Christie: I can tell you what I'd like to do; I wouldn't want to be where they are, but Fugazi. They never compromised their politics, ever, and they've played a thousand shows.
Sweetwater: I don't think I feel comfortable citing influences for Semi-finals because it's too personal.
Christie: I'm not saying we sound like Fugazi. I want that to go on the record. We don't think we're Fugazi. They just did it themselves, and that's what we want to do.
Purple: You mentioned politics. What do you consider your politics to be?
Christie: Politics?
Sweetwater: Do it yourself, the kids can make their own scene. We started this band after being jaded, ironic

indie rockers for too long; the only people we knew that made any sense to us were these kids we knew when we were sixteen years old who put on their own concerts and made their own fanzines out of photocopies of notebook paper. They decided we had to have some subterranean way of communicating with one another. They sidestepped the line of mainstream culture. Each of us can express ourselves better through music than speech or language.
Amarillo: As you can probably tell.
Sweetwater: Yeah, and it gives us a chance to talk to thirty people instead of to just three, the way you would in a normal conversation. It's a way of shaking people up and sort of communicating... we don't want fame and guitar shaped swimming pools and all of that. We want to travel across the country and play in garages because we know people that have done it. We're sidestepping a lot of the art that music is supposed to be about.
Amarillo: We're not trying to sell Semi-finals. We're not about making fans.
Christie: We've had shows where we played to five or six of our closest friends. That's fine.
Amarillo: Bands at Sewanee can get to the point where they play around here, at fraternity parties or whatever, and they get comfortable. We don't want to get comfortable. We've actually moved around. Some of our songs are conventionally hard core, and others lean toward hard rock.
Christie: There are bands that will play, and two or three hundred people will show up and are really into the

music. That's great, but that's not who we are. We could probably get to that point, but that's not what we want to do. It's great for those bands, and please, play, but it's not us.
Amarillo: Yeah, and I'll be in the audience, too. I'll go and watch.
Purple: Why do you think that the Sewanee community has taken so much interest in you recently?
Sweetwater: It would probably be thirty times more interesting to interview Mary over there. Don't interview us like we're this art thing, a cultural event at Sewanee. That's what we're trying not to be. We're just three wankers who have instruments.
Christie: I think people were surprised when they heard that we were playing somewhere else. There are tons of better guitarists and drummers on this campus... I will say that Blake is the best bassist at Sewanee, but there are other musicians who are better than Pat and I...
Sweetwater: Probably one in every dorm.
Purple: One last question. Where did the name Semi-finals come from?
Sweetwater: We were in Atlanta watching this band...
Amarillo: The band just blew our minds.
Sweetwater: The whole scene just blew our minds.
Christie: And we realized we were never good enough to be finalists like they were.
Sweetwater: The Semi-finals thing also relates to the whole idea that we don't want to be musicians, and have guitar shaped pools. We're happy to just be seen, to enter the competition. There's something about failing, too; trying your weird offense that gets decimated by the forty-niners.
Amarillo: But you were there.
Sweetwater: Right, but you were totally there, and you've got the bruises to prove it.
Amarillo: It's being a sparring partner for Mohammed Ali, and you get the shit beaten out of you, but you got the chance.
Sweetwater: The pop scene doesn't need more rock stars. It just needs more kids picking up more guitars. The population just needs to get bigger and bigger so the conversation can get bigger and bigger.
Christie: I just want to play rock and roll.
Sweetwater: Please don't print any of our weepy, autobiographical monologues.
Christie: But you can print that I just want to play rock and roll.

Semi-finals will be playing at WUTS fest on September 25th at Lake Cheston. The show will begin around 9:00 pm, and will feature three other bands, Michael, Aberdeen, and Macha, who is currently number 1 on the CMJ music charts. But don't feel obligated to go. They'll be out there playing whether you're there or not.

from page 6

Arts Scene

often are we asked to defend our art? And how many of us could? I had never dreamed the show would cause such an amazing outbreak of negative emotion. I had hoped to shock and get under the audience's skin, but never imagined it would come to all that. But the truth of the matter is, you have to be careful. If nothing else the experience proved that art is still absolutely capable of being the most powerful form of experience. Of absolutely upsetting someone to the point of frantic inanity, or of soothing the beast.

Last semester I know there was a big ruckus over a fine arts major's senior show. People thought it was pornographic and refused to let it be displayed anywhere on campus. I've seen the paintings and am not surprised at Sewanee's reaction, but the artist in question receives my props for raising the stakes and putting himself on the line.
Now, I'm not painting myself or the senior artist as some kind

of hero for deliberately choosing to walk into the fire, but how many artists fully consider the potential response to their work? How many strive to be on the fringe? I never had before, but the truly wonderful part of the experience was that after it happened, a fire was lit inside me. As if all those years of morose insanity and nights spent pouring sweat over a script or a computer were suddenly justified. And I wanted to taste it again.

As artists we absolutely have the ability to instigate change. And I do honestly believe that certain forms and structures must be learned and mastered before they can be broken. But you should always keep your mind on the ultimate goal. Never play it safe. Don't give a damn about what anyone says, because they probably are too ignorant to understand it. To quote John Steinbeck, "Unless the bastards have the courage to give you unqualified praise, I say ignore them." Damn

right.
So I went out there and I caused a fairly substantial ripple in my small, humble corner of the pond. I still 100% believe in the relevance and importance of "Morning," and wouldn't go back to choose another play even if I could. But it was a lesson learned. When you choose to make art your life you are no longer creating just to hang a canvas on your walls or read some poems to your friends. You are claiming that you have something to say, and when people listen, be ready for the heat. Because art is there to strike something within us. And it will not always be positive (thank-God). But what really matters is that you have presented yourself, and when the time comes to stand your ground, you must be ready to do so. The first pioneer in the wagon train is going to take some arrows. But gold shines brighter when it is over a fire. Don't be afraid. Get angry.

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Velvet Never Forgives: Applebaum Shows in Sewanee Gallery

by Kelly Smith

Editor-in-Chief

Ayenne Applebaum's "Explorations," a collection of mixed-media sculptures and paintings, opened in the University Gallery last Thursday. The pieces are at first a bit puzzling, most of them volatile, abstract forms painted from bubble or smoke machines on clashing canvases of wallpaper, gold-sequined fabric, pink vinyl, or velvet.

The most memorable piece, the triptych "Come on, Come See, Come Clean," mesmerizes up close, where the texture of white patterned wallpaper, dark velvet, and red vinyl become part of the forms she painted from smoke. Velvet, Applebaum claims, is the hardest material on which to paint. Velvet never forgives. Forgiveness indeed becomes an issue with further examination of other works, as I see how the artist has hidden these beautiful, often sensual, images on such hideous forms. "The whole show was so varied with a couple strong works but with many disruptive pieces that fragmented it," said senior Molly Schneider.

Applebaum stated early in her presentation, "my work is about if you don't look under the rock, you don't get the prize." I'm a little confused. What is the rock any-

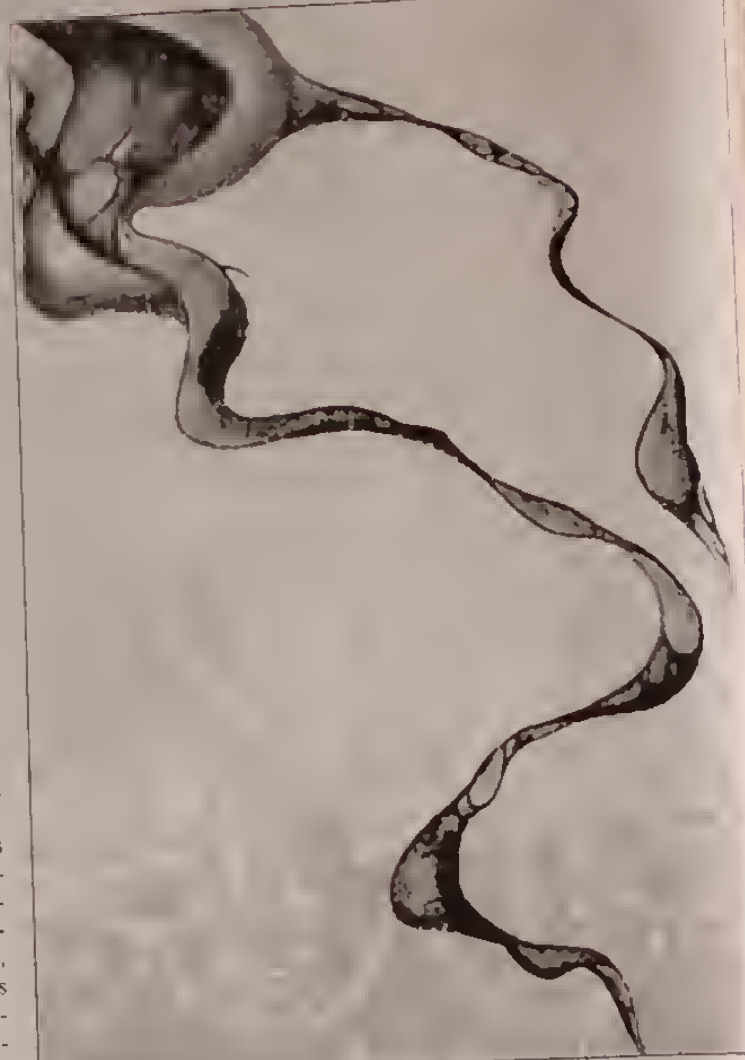
way, and where's my prize? If the rock is art's aesthetics, then she surely goes under the rock or beyond it somewhere. She uses pink-lipstick colored vinyl and tacky chintz wallpaper for 'complementary' paintings. She tests the belief that art is about aesthetic and turns to contrasts, not only in pairing vinyl and chintz, but also in painting true lines and ethereal images on downright ugly backgrounds. "Wedding Series" transfers a sensual, (she calls it 'obviously menstrual' but I'd just say 'probably sexual'), foam onto a terrible patterned paper suitable only for a wedding album from the early 80's. This is her prize.

Back to that same "rock," Applebaum exhibited a touch of bitterness for art that she says is meant only for "hanging walls," presumably work that is enjoyed only for its beauty and lacks statement. But in reaction to the designation of "Explorations" as feminist art, Applebaum assured her slightly baffled audience that her work's only social commentary is that it's a "pun on couch art," the kind meant for hanging walls. I don't think I'm satisfied for just a pun as my prize. True, satire is a valid form of expression, but in making a statement about the triviality of aesthetic art,

Applebaum has forsaken something beautiful for inspiration that reads more like a gimmick.

The reality is that the rock is the prize, that the art itself is more central to the work than the statement. I regret that the artist here feels she needs to grasp something "deeper," as her talent is obvious. There are countless instances where words can weaken visual images, and I think this is one of those cases. I don't want to claim that art should always be pleasing and beautiful and nice to look at, because art can be shocking or grotesque as long as that shock comes from something more than the desire to spite anyone who buys art for their living room.

I'm not convinced, however, that what she said she meant for these pieces is what she really meant. I think maybe she was just giving some explanation because she felt she needed one, especially when you look at some of the more obscure pieces like "Night Planning, Keeping Warm." This mixed-media sculpture combines stone images on Inoleum with silver covered (actually heat blanket) tiles. The bubbly lines, common to many of her other pieces, evoke an organic quality that is actually her strength and true inspiration, which should come before any kind of statement critics want her to make.



#113, 1996 Oil on Fabrics

Gran Torino's Stephen Decker Talks About Sewanee

by Pete Thompson

Music Critic

Quite honestly, there aren't that many bands that come to Sewanee that I walk away from feeling like I've just heard a pretty good band. But bands like this past Saturday's Gran Torino are the exception. They're the type of band that I can listen to and tell that there's more to the music than what's coming through the speakers—these guys know each other. They know each other's style and are comfortable enough with each other that they can each jump off on their musical tangents and fall back into place without any problem.

The Sewanee favorite made its

fourth appearance at Lake Cheston on September 3. Hundreds of students made their way out to the natural amphitheater to hear the Knoxville-based Torino with their unique blend of rock-and-roll, funk, jazz, and alternative styles. What seemed like a breath of fresh air at Sewanee, Gran Torino seemed to live up to the eager expectations of the students.

I had a chance to talk to Stephen Decker, lead guitarist of Gran Torino, over the phone. Here's what he had to say about Sewanee, Gran Torino, and who was the better Captain of the U.S.S. Enterprise.

PURPLE: Your manager tells me that you've been in the studio today. Have you been working on a new CD?

DECKER: We've been working on a new CD. The release date is up in the air... we're trying to see if we can get ourselves a record deal and release it on a major label. We're hoping to get it out by January, but if we do sign a record deal, we might have to redo a couple of things.

P: What was your favorite thing

about playing here at Sewanee?

D: I guess I spend a lot of nights in nightclubs and when I'm done I just hit the sack, but I hadn't seen the stars in a while. It was a really nice night when we played. We're just driving out to [Cheston] and saw a couple of deer and were like "WOW!" It's a really pretty place up there at Sewanee. You guys have a really nice place to go to school.

P: Thanks... how long have you guys been playing together?

D: Well, the whole thing started coming together in the summer of '95. Chris, the singer, and Todd, the bass player, put the band together and that summer we all met. Most people were planning to go to UT in the fall and the guys in the horn section were all in the marching band.

P: What's the most amazing thing about playing music for people in your opinion?

D: It's just amazing that this is my job—that I can live off this and it's so fun and it's such a dream come true. It's something that I really get off on, you know.

getting up there to play guitar.

P: What would be your advice to anyone that's an aspiring musician that's trying to make it?

D: Well, I really don't know. As far as me, I fell like I fell into this situation and things just started happening. A lot of people are out there working really hard and it doesn't happen to click. If someone were out there trying to do it, [I'd say] just give it a shot, but keep it in perspective. It doesn't seem to work for some people and it involves a lot of luck and a lot of people work really hard.

P: What CD is in your CD player right now?

D: The Best of Chic—you know, "Good Times" and "Le Freak". Man, I love Nile Rodgers. Actually, there's this Playstation game—NBA Live '99—he does all the music for it... ah man, it's killer. When ever you hit pause and you sub in a player it plays... it's hip.

P: I wanted to ask you some stuff... pick one of the following and tell me which one you like and why. First, Captain Kirk or Captain Picard?

D: Captain Picard. He's just the ever-man, everyday professional. The kind of guy who gets the job done and is smart enough to figure stuff out. Nothing against Captain Kirk.

P: How 'bout the Beatles or Elvis?

D: The Beatles. Because it was a group thing. Say what you want about Elvis. I think the Beatles put together a group of guys who were really super-creative.

P: Steven Spielberg or Stanley Kubrick?

D: That one's really tough. You know, nothing against Spielberg. I guess Kubrick because he's against the grain and always in complete control of whatever his work is. He was like, "I'll do it my way or I won't do it at all." Never compromising. That's just kind of an ideal kind of thing. He's made some great movies.

P: What's your favorite Kubrick film then?

D: I'd have to say 2001.

P: Here's the real tough one—Shel Silverstien or Dr. Seuss?

D: Seuss. I guess because that's from my childhood. I'm a lot more familiar to him and he hits a lot closer to home.

P: Where do you see the band in the next five years?

D: I would really like to be on a national level and just touring all over the country. The southeast has been really great to us. It might be the best place in the country to tour because there are so many great supporting fans who like to go hear live music. And there are a lot of great places to play.

P: Anything you want to say to the people at Sewanee?

D: Thank you for coming out. We're sorry that they put that seal-folding in front of you and hope to see you all again.

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