

Sewanee Loses Day Scholarship

by Aaron McCollough
Assistant Editor

After a two year trial period, the Day Scholarship program, which has assisted three classes of students and has brought fifty thousand dollars a year to the University in financial aid support, has not been renewed.

The Day Scholarship has provided five thousand dollars a year in financial assistance to each middle income student to whom it has been awarded. It has required that each recipient perform three hours of community service a week and that they maintain a minimum G.P.A. of 2.67.

Clarence Day, who designed the pilot program which has helped 10 students a year attend the University of the South, has decided not to con-

tinue the program, opting rather to invest his money in other endeavors. Sewanee was one of several schools involved in the Day Scholarship program. The program will not be renewed at Rhodes or Furman either. It will be renewed at Centre for at least one year.

When asked about discontinuing the Day Scholarship at Sewanee, Steve Becker, Director of Public Relations, stressed that the Day Scholarship program was "a finite program from the beginning." Apparently, it is common for scholarship programs of this type not to be renewed. Mr. Becker also emphasized that the Day Foundation has not failed to fulfill its commitment to the University of the South. There will be no cut-backs of any kind. Mr. Becker admitted that the University

had certainly hoped that the Day program would be repeated but said that the parameters of the program were such that there had been no absolute expectation.

Mr. Becker insisted that the University is nothing but grateful to the Day Foundation. "We feel very fortunate to have been blessed with the program to be able to bring some middle income students to this University who would not have been able to attend otherwise."

Mr. Becker's sentiments concerning the Day Scholarship program are shared by everyone involved in the program. As one Day Scholar said, "I would have missed out on Sewanee if I'd missed out on the Day Scholarship. I'm sorry to see it go, but I certainly am grateful it came in the first place!"

Full Moon Fever Party Weekend Arrests

News Staff

The rare convergence of a full moon and spring party weekend created an abundance of work for the Sewanee Police department. Saturday night, a man was arrested at a party at the Delt house and charged with disorderly conduct and possession of marijuana. Sunday evening, a man was arrested behind Cleveland dormitory for possession of a firearm.

The weekend also brought a rash of unwelcome, threatening phone calls to several dorms.

Routine Search Leads to Bust

Saturday night at the Delt House, according to the police department, a Sewanee student went to a police officer at the party to report that a non-student was becoming rowdy and causing trouble. The officer asked the man to leave, which he did. He returned to the party shortly thereafter

and "punched another student in the mouth." The student who got punched was apparently not a Sewanee student and is not pressing charges.

The officer at the party called for the department to send another unit, and the man was arrested. During a routine search for concealed weapons, the arresting officer discovered marijuana on the subject. He was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and disorderly conduct. He will appear in court in Franklin County.

"Suspicious Vehicle"

According to the police department, a call received Sunday evening from Cleveland reported a "suspicious vehicle" parked behind the dorm. The vehicle had been parked there for approximately two hours. When an officer arrived, he ran a standard search on the license plate and, finding that the plate did not match the vehicle, asked the driver to step out of the car. When the subject got out of the car, the reporting officer saw a pistol lying in the seat. The

Sewanee's Bell Curve

by Eric Foster
News Editor

Grade Inflation. We've all heard of it. Between the constant stream of statistics about what a breathtaking percentage of Ivy League students are given A's and the periodic Doonsbury cartoons, we know it's out there. But does it happen at Sewanee? Does it happen only outside of the sterile confines of Woods Laboratories? Is the Department of XYZ as easy as your friends say? Your fearless Purple reporter attempted to discover the answers to these questions and more. The results follow.

Dean Says Inflation Not a Problem Here

There are two relevant issues here. First, are grades at Sewanee getting higher every year? Second, are some or all professors giving unreasonably high grades. In a recent interview with the Purple, Dr. Robert Lerry Keele, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, played down the possible existence of grade inflation at Sewanee. Dean Keele said, with regards to the first issue, that he sees "no trend [in grades]

(continued on page 2)

man, a resident of Grundy County, was arrested and charged with carrying a weapon and driving with a revoked driver's license. The man was taken to the Franklin County jail. A second man in the vehicle was not arrested.

Threatening Phone Calls

In the past weeks, and especially during party weekend, a rash of threatening or obscene phone has been plaguing student dormitories. The police department reassured the Purple that they are actively pursuing the case and are taking all possible measures to locate and apprehend the caller. The calls are being received from an off-campus number.



Well behaved party-goers at the KA lawn party. Photo by Lyn Hutchinson

NEWS

Bell Curve, continued

which would cause me to be disturbed." He stated additionally that Sewanee periodically compares its average grades with those of other similar institutions, and that Sewanee is generally "somewhere in the middle."

Addressing the second issue mentioned above, Dean Keele said that he saw no evidence of rampant grade inflation here. Professors, he said, have great leeway in determining grades, and there is no college-wide grading policy. Asked what the College might do if it believed a professor or department's grades were too high, he said that it was "difficult to insist" on a single grading policy, and that therefore his office could only "admonish [them] to be mindful of academic standards."

What is Average?

A quick look at the statistics from last semester makes it quite apparent that grading standards have changed, though certainly not just at Sewanee. The nearly universal grading scale says that a grade of C is "average." If this were true in the here and now, the overall College-wide grade would be a 2.0 on the 4-point scale. It is, rather unsurprisingly, not even close. The average Sewanee grade for last semester, Advent 1993, was 2.88, which is somewhere between a B- and a B. Several departments had average grades above a 3.0. No department was close to an average grade of 2.0. Of course, Sewanee does not exist in a vacuum, and if Sewanee professors suddenly began giving average work a C, graduate school acceptance rates would plummet and sons and daughters of Sewanee would be hard-pressed to find work. Still, it is worth considering where American higher education is headed: In the not too distant future, will a B+ be the average grade? An A-? If a student does work which is average for this college, what grade does she deserve?

Just the Facts

Now for the statistics. These numbers were

not obtained through the Dean of the College's office. The Sewanee Purple managed to find them on its own. In looking at the averages, keep in mind the following: some departments teach courses mainly for majors. Their GPA's are likely to be higher. Other departments teach mainly first year non-majors. Their GPA's are likely to be lower. Departments which teach a smaller number of students may exhibit more variation in their averages, and with a smaller sample the averages aren't as statistically valid. Averages were not available for semesters prior to Advent 1992.

***Average GPA, All-College, Advent '93: 2.881**
(N.B. - the following statistics are for the past three semesters, dating back to Advent '92)

***Average GPA by Dept., Advent '92-Advent '93**
(departments with less than 9 grades per semester excluded)

Chemistry	2.472
Biology	2.520
Mathematics	2.560
Humanities	2.656
French	2.688
Political Science	2.817
Psychology	2.822
Latin	2.832
Economics	2.834
Geology	2.848
Anthropology	2.858
Physics	2.866
Computer Science	2.872
German	2.882
Philosophy	2.898
History	2.899
Spanish	2.966
Forestry	2.990
English	3.009
Fine Arts	3.015

Religion	3.054
Greek	3.060
Italian	3.101
Education	3.134
Theatre	3.203
Russian	3.347
Music	3.386

Average GPA by Discipline, Advent '93 *

Science and Math	2.745
Social Studies	2.840
Language and Literature	2.872
Arts	3.246

** - Social studies includes Humanities. Science and Math includes Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Forestry, Geology, and Psychology. These statistics are for Advent '93 semester only.

Number of A+ Grades Awarded, Advent '93: 29

Number of F Grades Awarded, Advent '93*: 36

* - does not include pass/fail courses

Percentage of A+, A or A- Grades Awarded, Advent '93: 23%

Percentage of B+, B or B- Grades Awarded, Advent '93: 49%

Percentage of C+, C or C- Grades Awarded, Advent '93: 23%

Percentage of D+, D or D- Grades Awarded, Advent '93: 04%

Percentage of F Grades Awarded, Advent '93: .08%*

* - percentages were rounded

Highest Avg. GPA for One Professor, Advent '93: 4.123*

Lowest Avg. GPA for One Professor, Advent '93: 2.091**

* - This professor is from the Psych. dept.

** - This professor is from the Math dept.

A Year in the Garden: Kevin Watt is Sewanee's 16th Watson Fellow

by Kevin West
Editor

Senior Kevin Watt is the 16th Sewanee student to win a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. The \$15,000 fellowship, available to graduating seniors, will enable Mr. Watt to travel to Nepal to study local agricultural systems for a year, beginning this summer.

Mr. Watt says he will be studying "different cropping systems to look for indicators of sustainability." The Watson Foundation views the fellowship as, to quote the language of the Foundation, "an opportunity for a focused and disciplined *wanderjahr* of [the fellow's] own devising, a time in which to explore with thoroughness a particular interest," the end of

which is, to "test their aspirations and abilities, view their lives and American society in a greater perspective, and concomitantly, develop a more informed sense of international concern."

The Foundation does not require the fellow to produce a major written thesis at the end of the year of study. Nonetheless, Mr. Watt says he will organize the data he collects in a "big written project," which will be added to databases on sustainable agriculture gathered by non-governmental organizations in Nepal.

The inspiration for Mr. Watt's Watson proposal came out of his work last summer on an organic farm in Nepal. The farm grows vegetables for sale in a local cooperative farm market and conducts research on

sustainable agricultural production aimed at market viability.

According to Larry Jones, Dean of the College, Sewanee is one of 52 schools whose students can apply for the Watson. He said that "Sewanee has been very fortunate in recent years to have about one Watson recipient a year...a very good record." The fellowship was begun in 1985.

Mr. Watt wishes to extend his especial thanks to Dr. Sarah Warren, Assistant Professor of Forestry, for her broad assistance in preparing his successful Watson proposal.

Rising juniors interested in applying for the Watson Fellowship should contact the office of the Dean of the College for more information. The application and proposal will be due in the early fall.



Kevin Watt, C'94. Photo by Lynn Hutchinson.

NEWS

Riding Shotgun With BACCHUS

The Rules and Regulations of the BACCHUSmobile

by Rick Sayed

In order to boost responsible drinking for the remainder of the semester and to encourage organizations to get involved with the BACCHUSmobile:

1. The names of the people driving need to be given to the BACCHUSmobile Coordinators, Dick Strong or Evonne Marler, by Wednesday of that week. Drivers are responsible for finding replacements if need be.
2. The driver must take a

breathalyzer test administered by the Sewanee Police Department.

3. Regardless of weather conditions, the BACCHUSmobile must obey all traffic laws. This includes the speed limit.
4. Drivers need to make sure they return the orange light and radio to the police station when they finish for the night.
5. The BACCHUSmobile must remain on the domain. If one has any questions regarding a destina-

tion, radio the police. 6. The BACCHUSmobile will take students to any party or dorm they request.

If you have any questions regarding the BACCHUS mobile, feel free to call Dick Strong (X2165), or Evonne Marler (X2293). BACCHUS appreciates the support you have given this semester, and we hope this support continues to grow. In addition, we want to make a sincere appeal to everyone to have a SAFE summer break.

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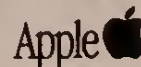


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NEWS

PacerForum Outpaces Dinosaur Technologies

by Kevin West
Editor

It's lively, sometimes contentious. It's exhaustive in scope and exhausting in size. Depending on whether you endorse or fear late twentieth century technology, its either the fast lane on the information superhighway or the last, back-breaking straw in the information overload. It's postmodern to the nth degree. It's here.

It is PacerForum, an electronic bulletin board brought to Sewanee this spring at the suggestion of Laurence Alvarez, Professor of Mathematics, and through the efforts of William Haight, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Faculty Consultant for Academic Computing.

Hi-Tech Bulletin Board

When asked for a one sentence description of what PacerForum is, Dr. Haight said that "electronic bulletin board" is the best description he knows. The metaphor, of course, is to the old-fashioned cork bulletin boards, a kind of public forum where people can pin up ideas, messages, and announcements, or pose questions and issues for public discussion.

The idea behind PacerForum is the same, but the technology has changed from paper, cork-board, and pushpins to a cross-campus network of personal computers controlled by the PacerForum system.

At present, there are approximately 275 registered users on the system, including students, faculty, administrators, and, interestingly enough, the Sewanee Police Department. Dr. Haight says that he has been adding approximately four to five users a day to the system. Anyone interested in signing on to PacerForum should talk to Dr. Haight via E-mail (not via the telephone, please). In order to sign on, one needs to be "somewhat computer literate," according to Dr. Haight, and have

access to a computer hooked up to InterNet.

What's There

Signing on to PacerForum, one finds 16 separate topic-folders (although more are being added all the time), with such titles as Politics: U.S., Campus Politique,

called The Rumor Mill) to the most global issues of international politics.

Why Bother?

Dr. Haight says that the point of PacerForum is "to bring people together from all corner of campus to provide a forum for public

with it." In other words, learning to manage the information overload is part of dealing with late twentieth-century life and, like it or not, paper communication and even the telephone are quickly becoming dinosaur technologies.

Dr. Haight envisions the day when almost all campus news and information will be directed through electronic networks like PacerForum. Imagine: no more SPO, no more newspapers, no more, pushpins and cork bulletin boards. It may not happen tomorrow, but there is no question that electronic networking is the going thing, and it may not be all bad.

Becoming Good Citizens

Some of Sewanee's venerable tweedy types might argue that all this technology represents an irresistibly appealing distraction from academic work. They might be, as Dr. Haight says, "resistant to a headlong rush into technology." However, Dr. Haight suggests an alternative view: that the public conversations on PacerForum in fact dovetail closely with the goals of traditional education. A traditional understanding of education is that it is the means by which youngsters are integrated into society by learning to become responsible citizens. The high-level, serious, issue-related public dialogue that occurs on PacerForum reveals that Sewanee students are living up to this ideal of being well-informed and vocal Sewanee citizens.



Some of the the PacerForum topic boards.

Classifieds, This Week, Student Forum, and two folders established by professors for discussion of their course material.

Open up any one of these topic-folders and inside of each there are ever more bulletin boards. Campus Politique, one of the most popular and lively topic-folders contains eleven individual bulletin boards. The five most popular are: Nondiscrimination Policy, Security and Safety, Sexual Orientation, Diversity in Teaching, and Greek Issues. Other folders contain less weighty, but equally entertaining, topics such as Alas—No News! (devoted to often stinging critiques of campus publications, including the *Purple*), The Music Shop, Good Reads, and Our Favorite Movies.

In short, it seems that there are topics covering practically every aspect of Sewanee life, from the most local (on a bulletin board

conversation...it provides a forum for public speaking and public exchange of ideas."

One often hears that Sewanee students are apathetic or disinterested in social and political issues, or, even worse, that there are no vital issues on campus. The discussions taking place on PacerForum seem to disprove this claim.

Dr. Haight praised the high level of thinking and writing that takes place on the various bulletin boards. He says that there is "good conversation about serious topics" that "hasn't descended into name-calling...I've been very impressed."

The Overload Aspect

Even Dr. Haight admits that PacerForum can be a "terrific time waster." However, he rightly states that "the technology is here, it ain't going away, and we have to figure out some way to deal

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Wilderness Treasure in Danger

by Tricia Matte

Many Sewanee students' first glimpse of Fiery Gizzard Creek comes at the end of a long hike to the cool and shaded water of Sycamore Pool. For others, the first acquaintance comes with the faint sound of rushing waters far below Raven's Point while the sun sets in crimson colors behind the high bluffs across the gorge. An estimated 60,000 people visit the park each year, and 164,000 are reported to have passed through the area last year. Few realize that just upstream, a tributary which feeds this quiet retreat is the center of a heated debate over water resources.

The controversy started in 1991 when the city fathers of Tracy City applied for a permit to dam Big Fiery Gizzard Creek. This decision was the result of a long process of consideration. Tracy City is under a consent order issued to it by the State of Tennessee in 1989 to provide adequate water for its residents. The current water supply is obtained from a deep mine and is extremely acidic. In times of drought the current water supply is insufficient. Everyone agrees that a new supply is necessary for the future; opinions are divided over where that supply should come from.

The proposed dam site is located a mile west of downtown Tracy City just north of State Route 56, across from the Grundy State Forest Natural Area. The proposed dam site is projected to meet Tracy City's needs for 40 years into the future, which was one of the funding agencies stipulations, according to the Farm Home Administrations Environmental Assessment.

Other alternatives exist, but the funding process is complicated and specifications of the funding agencies must be met. In reference to the Ramsey Lake alternative, Tracy City Mayor Charles Fults said, "Some thought that it would work, but the engineers proved it wouldn't, and the funding agencies will fund only this project." Any solution, including the Big Fiery Creek Dam, is not cheap. A review of the project by Consolidated Technologies, Inc. prices the alternatives of wellfields

in nearby coves or upgrading the dam on Ramsey's Lake at about 3 million dollars.

Byron Mayes, a concerned citizen who owns land near the proposed lake, said "They opened bids on the project a week or two ago. The FHA is giving an ACR grant. The city is going to be bonded for \$600,000, and with the grant, that provides about \$3 million for the project. But the cheapest bid is \$1.4 million over the three million. The engineer misfigured the cost pretty badly. So

in February found that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed dam.

The opposition, consisting of some Tracy City residents and area environmental groups, maintain that the assessments conducted by the Farm Home Administration, the TVA, and the Corps of Engineers are based on cursory investigations. For example, year-round flow rates for the Big Fiery Gizzard Stream were calculated from those of the Elk River, based on a comparison of measure-

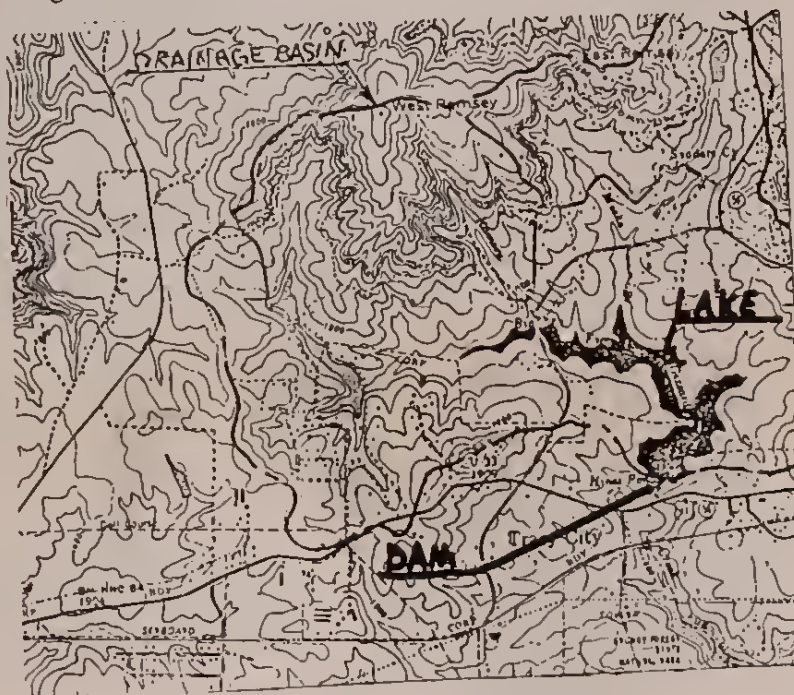
camore Hole [a pool downstream] is generated below here."

According to Mayes, the issue is more involved than just meeting the need for water. He said "This past year, when we were supposed to have run short, we didn't really. We had another spring plus three wells that were running. They just made it look as though we ran short because they wanted to."

A preliminary review of the dam proposal by the EPA criticizes portions of the city's application for the project. Alternatives to the Big Fiery Gizzard Dam are given more legitimacy. "The ground-water supply alternative was not technically evaluated in sufficient detail [and] . . . was eliminated on economic grounds." The review also questions numbers of water consumers in Tracy City: "It appears as if the population figures used in the applicant's report are exaggerated in order to cover undocumented and/or unmetered flows and water losses through leaks in the distribution and storage facilities." The review also lends support to the Ramsey Lake alternative.

According to Mayor Charles Fults, the Fiery Gizzard Dam is the City's only option, "We're just waiting on the judge's decision. We do need it, and we'll need it for the future. [We've] been trying to get it since '89 and I hope we can get it." Mayes said, "We are fighting every inch of the way because we have other options. Since the drought in '87, Tracy City connected to Big Creek Utility, which serves most of Grundy County. They are also connected to Monteagle, which is hooked up to Sewanee. In addition to that, a water line from the Tennessee River is being connected to Sewanee from South Pittsburgh, and we could eventually hook up to that and leave Fiery Gizzard alone."

He became involved because the proposed lake would be close to his property. Mr. Mayes said, "if they built the lake, it would improve my land. That confuses many people, because they just look at monetary considerations . . . I hate to see it disturbed for no reason. If we had no other option, I'd say OK, but we have other options."



A map of the Fiery Gizzard area.

now they are trying to get more money from FHA and to bond the city for more money."

According to Doug Cameron, a member of Friends of Fiery Gizzard and a Sewanee resident, "We're questioning their Environmental Assessment and pushing for a full Environmental Impact Statement, which would take about two years."

Currently, the project is halted by a restraining order obtained by concerned citizen's groups. Mr. Fults said, "We were supposed to start construction the 24th of this month, but with the judge and the court, I don't know when."

Engineers employed by Tracy City claim that mixing and aeration of outflow will insure that temperature and oxygen concentrations in the water will be maintained at acceptable levels. The Environmental Assessment completed by the FMHA

ments for one month with those of the Elk River. Mayes pointed out, "The Elk River is different. It originates in a cave from underground flow, whereas the Big Fiery Gizzard comes all from run-off up here on the mountain."

Mr. Mayes and other opponents of the dam bring in other issues besides preservation of the stream. Mayes said, "They say everything is fine, but they offer no proof. For instance, the city operates an open dump near there, and the run-off would drain into the reservoir, which could affect the quality of the drinking water. The FHA says it is no threat, but they have no proof that is no threat." Mr. Mayes believes that the Fiery Gizzard Dam will not live up to its proponents' expectations, "I don't think it will supply water for Tracy City. This stream runs dry every summer; the water for Sy-

NEWS

Don't 'cha Think Ya Ought to...Recycle

by Kevin Hiers

We are all aware that the new alcohol policy has brought many changes to Sewanee's party life. Without common sources, each person over 21 must purchase his or her own beverages.

Expense aside, the next most obvious drawback to this new system is the increased volume of waste produced at each party. Having monitored two University parties, including Dave Matthews, and having cleaned up after another, I have witnessed firsthand and up close the immense amount of trash left behind on the ground after each party. Of this garbage, most of the materials are recyclable!

Fortunately, the new policy has also limited the type of containers

which are allowed into University parties. Given the propensity for glass bottles to break or to be broken, aluminum cans will be the only means for bringing beer into a party. This fact limits the majority of weekend waste to cans, which are easily recycled.

The University, in conjunction with Waste Not, has provided each fraternity house with temporary recycling bins. In the near future, these cardboard receptacles will be replaced with more durable trashcans marked "for recycling only." We would like to encourage everyone who attends future parties to please use these collection bins. Not only will we help fraternities and sororities in their clean-up efforts, but we will also reduce the amount of unnecessary waste left after each party.



The Reverend Tom Ward was installed as University Chaplain on April 24. There is about three feet more of him not pictured (Chaplain Ward towers over 6'5"). Look forward to an interview with Chaplain Ward in the Purple this fall. Photo courtesy of the Office of Communications.



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Sewanee Shorts

Student Government Recap: To sum up this year's activity in student government, the Student Assembly suffered a severe setback this semester when the Speaker of the Assembly failed to return from Christmas Break.

Jason Pittman, a freshman, won the election for the interim term uncontested. In the course of two meetings, of which one was attended by seven members, the Assembly proposed that the requirement that women must have a 2.00 GPA to rush be removed and replaced with the same mandate that applies for the men, a 2.00 GPA to activate. They also proposed that the fees for the use of Cravens be reduced from the present \$5000.

The Order of Gownsmen, meanwhile, met four times this se-

mester and, after failing to get a quorum at the March meeting, was able to pass at the April meeting an amendment to the OG constitution that clarifies certain procedures. They also named a task force that studied the issue of the operation of the honor code at the School of Theology.

Hey Johnson, Stay Out of the Sun: The dorm staff at Johnson has requested that students not sunbathe behind the dorm, out of respect for the new Chaplain, the Rev. Tom Ward. The Rev. Ward's house overlooks Johnson dorm.

Apparently, the previous Chaplain, the Rev. Sam Loyd, had expressed similar concerns about sunbathing behind Johnson dorm because the situation could become, um, embarrassing if the Chaplain were entertaining guests at his house.

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LETTERS

Response to Unfortunate Events of Party Weekend

Editor's note:

On Saturday afternoon of party weekend, an incident occurred at Lake Cheston which has given rise to wide-spread gossip on campus. Briefly, the events were as follows. As free pizzas were being distributed at the Lake Cheston open-air concert, a small tussle or tug-of-war over a boxed pizza ensued between Byron Davis, a sophomore in the College, and Diene Jones, wife of Bob Jones, subscriptions manager at the Sewanee Review. Mrs. Jones took offense at something she understood Mr. Davis to have said and at what she perceived to be his aggressive behavior. Later that afternoon, Mr. Jones left an angry phone message in Mr. Davis's phone mailbox that made reference to the incident between his wife and Mr. Davis at Lake Cheston. Subsequently, the message was distributed to many students on campus via the Meridian Mail system. The incidents of the day gave rise to many, many rumors on campus. Some seemed plausible; some seemed too outrageous to believe.

As a result of these widespread rumors, the Sewanee Purple contacted Mr. Davis and Mr. Jones for comments. The purpose of doing so was to attempt to establish what actually took place, as a way to quiet false rumors and to prevent either party from being demonized in the situation.

Mr. Jones's response to the Purple's query took the form of the letter printed below.

Mr. Davis responded by telephone. In conversation, he stressed

that "it was a bad situation" at Lake Cheston, but that the "story got out of hand." He said, "I think the whole thing has been blown way out of proportion. I'm not blaming anyone and I'm not upset." He repeated that "it was a minor incident" that occurred at Lake Cheston, and suggested that the general chaotic atmosphere at the pizza table confused events and intensified what may have been perceived as a threatening situation.

The Purple feels that the actual events that occurred, while perhaps still open to some interpretation, are fairly consistent from a variety of sources.

It is worth noting that both Mr. Jones and Mr. Davis suggest that the public response generated by the incidents misrepresented or outstripped the actual events.

Thank you for requesting my side of the story of the unfortunate encounter with Mr. Byron Davis at Lake Cheston this past weekend. I feel somewhat caught between the devil and the deep blue sea: I would like to speak but feel it would do more harm than good for me to rehearse my view of the actual events. Dozens of people have asked for my comments. Many people whose opinion I respect have advised me to keep silent, but I choose briefly to speak in this public forum because Mr. Davis's side of the story has been told to the extent that I am now enjoying a kind of notoriety new to me: that of being viewed as a major jerk and buffoon.

I believe most responsible citizens would understand my anger, but I freely admit that I responded to Mr. Davis poorly—to say the least.

In my now famous voice mailbox message—which has been forwarded all over campus and made available to hundreds—I used a manner of discourse wholly uncharacteristic of myself. Those who know me have recognized that it sounds rather feigned. This virtuoso performance, however, has the potential to dog me for the rest of my life.

In attempting to uphold what I believe is right, I fumbled the ball way out of bounds—so far out that no one can even see the ball anymore, and the fumble has become everything. Though I do not mean to excuse my behavior, I spoke in such a manner because I understood Mr. Davis to speak to my wife that way, and I was outraged. I humbly submit that the "dark side" of Bob Jones is his proclivity to anger when he thinks somebody is assaulting his family. In the future I shall most surely employ more formal means for redressing offense. That possibility has clearly been eliminated in the present circumstance.

For my own inappropriate response, I publicly apologize to Byron Davis, whom ironically I have never even met except as a customer when I worked at the University Bookstore. I hope Byron will accept this apology. I never intended him any harm but meant only to jar him awake

to what I think is right in the situation, expressed in a terminology I perceive him to have introduced by the way he spoke to my wife.

I am widely known in this institution and in this community, where I have dwelled in harmony for ten years with all segments of the populace. I will now stand on that reputation rather than on the sad events of April 23. It is a truism of human life that we all make mistakes, and this is perhaps my greatest foible to date—made gloriously public.

Reverting now to that phrase made famous by generations of American politicians, I have no further comment on any aspect of the incident.

Bob Jones
April 26, 1994

Another Vote Against Visitation Rules

The article in the last issue of the Purple about the need to revise the visitation rules was quite welcome. It of course is no secret that in many dorms one can break the midnight rule with impunity. The argument that lack of enforcement of the midnight rule lessens respect for other, more important rules is valid. However, it does not address the fundamental problem with the rule.

Some will claim that the reason for the rule's existence is to enforce late-night quiet hours in the dorms. But this argument does not make sense, since same-

sex visitors are allowed at any hour. The only reason I can see that the rule exists at all is to prevent sexual relations. This effort is based on the inane assumption that anytime two people of the opposite sex are in a room together after midnight, they are always doing something illegal, immoral, or indecent. There is no reason to believe that anything more happens after midnight than before.

It is extremely irritating to me when, in order to comply with the rule, I have to cease whatever legitimate activity I am doing

simply because I happen to be in a women's dorm. I fail to see how my watching a movie, praying, listening to music, or having a conversation in a female's room after midnight is harmful. Placing any restrictions on legitimate activities such as these, simply because of the gender of the participants and the hour of night, is an unnecessary and discriminatory measure which accomplishes absolutely nothing other than inconveniencing students who choose to stay up late.

Duncan Vinson C'97

Lost, Misplaced or Forgotten Outing Equipment

Please look for your own or your roommate's equipment in the Outing Program equipment room. If you have borrowed, forgotten, or lost equipment, please return it to the Outing Program equipment room. It may seem like a little piece of equipment may not be a big deal, but, trust me, the collective price is a large one.

My attempt with one aspect of this office is to provide you, the student body, with the best and most diverse selection of equipment possible. I cannot serve the community in the best way if individual users refuse to abide by the premises of this loaning situation.

To date, we are missing a blue fiberglass canoe, a blue and black first-aid kit, several paddles, a few life jackets, and a purple and white kayak paddle.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Joel Walsh
Director, Sewanee Outing
Program x1214

OPINION

The Sewanee Purple

The Official Organ of the Students of the University of the South
established 1892

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.

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

Letters to the editor are welcomed and should be mailed directly to *The Purple*, deposited in *The Purple's* drop box on the University computer network, or sent via E-mail.

Letters to the editor must be signed with the writer's name, telephone number, year of graduation or relationship to the University. Unsigned letters will not be considered. *The Purple* reserves the right to edit letters for language, length, or matters of excessively poor taste. The editor will serve as final judge of the appropriateness of any submission.

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The Need for Policy

The editor wishes to remind readers that the following editorial expresses an opinion. It is not intended to be objective news coverage. It represents one point of view in the current campus discussion on antidiscrimination.

This editorial will sketch out the function or purpose of institutional policies that guarantee the University will not discriminate against its students and faculty on the basis of group identity, specifically such identity as is based on race, gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. There are three policies that could be amended: the admissions policy, the faculty hiring policy, and the sexual harassment policy. It seems fair to call them, collectively or individually, antidiscrimination policies.

This editorial is inspired by the vigorous and intelligent public discussion now taking place on PacerForum on two bulletin boards in the Campus Politique folder: Antidiscrimination Policy and Sexual Orientation.

It is equally inspired by the events of the most recent meeting of the joint faculties of the University. "The Faculties indicated a strong preference for adding sexual orientation to the list of prohibited grounds for non-reappointment" (Minutes of the Joint Faculties, 27 April 1994). Next, a straw poll found the Faculties in favor of "adding sexual orientation to the non-discrimination in hiring list" by a margin of 2 to 1. This does not represent a policy change, but rather "expresses strong preferences" to the administration on these two subjects (Vice-Chancellor Williamson's word-choice, quoted from a phone conversation.)

The question that students should be asking themselves is: what is the purpose of civil rights policies of this sort at Sewanee? *The Purple* offers a two-fold response.

Primarily, the existence of an institutional antidiscrimination policy guaranteeing the rights of students and faculty, especially minority groups discriminated against in the past, provides a clear, unequivocal institutional response to questions of discrimination. It states positively that the University will not dis-

criminate on the basis of group identity. It implies that regardless of the accidental particulars of birth (such as gender, race, and orientation), all individuals should be considered and evaluated solely on the basis of their individual abilities and accomplishment. It would make clear that preconceived notions of group identity will not be allowed to taint considerations of an individual's eligibility for admissions, hiring, or tenure appointment.

The reason that such a policy needs to be specific in naming groups whose rights are protected is because in the past specific groups have been denied privileges based solely on their group identity. If women, racial minorities, and gay people had never been subject to disestablishmentarianism due to their group identity, it would not be necessary to specifically guarantee their rights. However, in the past, these groups' access to merit-based positions has not been assured.

Such a policy would not be a preferment policy. That is, saying that the University does not discriminate on the basis of race or sexual orientation does not mean that the University grants these groups any extraordinary privileges. It simply acknowledges that they are entitled to the same basic legal, civil, and human rights the University guarantees to others who are not identified by a minority-group membership.

In the second place: less directly, but just as importantly, an institutional statement of antidiscrimination would provide moral leadership for the University. Such a policy would implicitly state that the University believes that all its students and faculties have the right to a life of dignity and security.

This means that the University believes that actions which undermine the dignity or security of any of its students and faculty are not acceptable. An antidiscrimination policy would help create an atmosphere of tolerance and respect. Hence it would indirectly discourage such language as is intended to injure or demean. It would discourage harassment, in all its insidious forms,
(continued on page 10)

A Response to Reverend Barbie

As I tried to convey through voice mail and now confirm in writing:

The faculty, student body, and administration of the School of Theology were deeply offended by the "cartoon" of the Barbie doll bishop on the back page of the *Purple* (March 28, 1994). Since it was unsigned, we can only assume that it was approved by the whole staff.

We acknowledge the principle of the first amendment and a free press. But we find it difficult to understand how this was a positive contribution to rational debate, a fundamental purpose of a university, perhaps especially in

this case an Episcopal university.

We would also point out that one of the most consistent characteristics of bigotry and prejudice is the assigning of negative stereotype qualities to a whole category of people. What you would not tolerate being printed about racial, ethnic, or other groups should certainly not be printed about ordained women.

I only ask that you not repeat such a mindless and hurtful "contribution."

The Very Reverend
Dr. Guy Fitch Lytle, III,
Dean, The School of Theology

OPINION

Rumblings From the Right

Eric Heil

The Purple's editorial staff argued in the paper's last edition that the University's visitation rules are silly, insulting, and largely ignored by dormitory staffs and residents. The Purple further charged that such rules place dormitory staffs in an awkward position and undermine the authority of the University's other policies. The paper called upon the administration to remove the current limited-hours visitation policy. The Purple was wrong.

The Purple's basic argument, that the rules are largely ignored, may well be valid. The weakness in the editorial, however, was in the assumption that students should be authorized to make their own decisions about visitation. It is thoroughly preposterous to suggest that the University should officially assent to a practice which is an utter violation of its educational and spiritual mission. In stating that young men and women at the most formative period of

their lives should be allowed to do anything they desire, "behind closed dormitory doors... as long as no one else's rights are trampled upon," the University would be leaving behind not only its moral roots, but also common sense.

Rules are not meant to be broken. They are meant to be followed. But when a rule is broken, or ignored, that does not mean that the rule is necessarily a bad one. Take the example of speed limits, for instance. Laws governing safe driving speeds are frequently broken by motorists and ignored by enforcement officials. Perhaps these laws are foolish, but it is not the degree of noncompliance which makes them so. Even if everybody followed the speed limits, they still might be a bad policy. Similarly, the rampant violation of coeducational visiting rules should in no way be used to pass judgment on the policy itself.

An important point that the Purple failed to address was that the "closed dormitory doors" of

University students are, first and foremost, part of a dormitory. In a private home, students might have considerably greater freedoms, but the school's responsibilities for maintaining order, safety, and propriety demand that it seek to prohibit certain activities. The failure to actively pursue enforcement of these rules has clearly led to the increasing incidence with which they are broken. The administration recognizes the impracticalities of rigidly enforcing some of its own laws.

In placing limitations on visitation and cohabitation, the University is making an important statement about how it feels its students should try to live. These restrictions must be seen not as selectively enforced infringements on the rights of man, but as part of a broader code of ethical conduct. Above all, rules such as these can serve as a model for moral guidance and an anchor in a rapidly changing world.

It's a darn good thing nobody listens to the Purple.

Policy, continued

that is based on group identity.

The spirit behind such a policy would be something like the following: We come together in this academic community to study, to learn, and to challenge our complacencies about the order of the natural and human world. In order to create the environment of enlightened and varied debate vital to such a project, we affirm that all qualified persons be guaranteed access to our academic community, and that they be entitled to work here without fear of retribution because of their group identity, including, but not limited to, group identity based on sex, race, religion, national origin, and sexual orientation.

* * * * *

For information on how to access PacerForum, please see the article "PacerForum" on page 4 of this issue. Minutes of the Joint Faculties meeting are available through Public Info/Distribution on AngelNet.

SHENANIGANS 398-5774 OPEN Mon-Sat 11:30am-11:30pm Grill closes at 9pm Sunday Brunch 10am-2pm HAPPY HOUR Thursday 5 p.m. until closing Friday 3 p.m.-5 p.m.

Cumberland Mountain Bike Classic Results

Beginner Junior Women—ages 18 & under (12 miles)

- 1) Asha Kays 1:36:00
2) Jeanne Porter 1:46:00
3) Carrie Peterson 2:01:00

Beginner Senior Women—ages 19 & over (12 M)

- 1) Mary Ann Ozier 1:15:10.9
2) Karen Casteel 1:21:39.2
3) Frances Lumpkin 1:26:25

Sport Women (24 M)

- 1) Angie Bukley 2:27:09.0
2) Kate Tracy 2:55:16.0
3) Gail McClellan 3:04:33.0

Expert Women (36 M)

- 1) Elizabeth Strong 3:15:09.0
2) Robin Wecksler 3:30:23
3) Gretchen Reeves 3:34:52.0

Beginner Junior Men—ages 18 & under (12 M)

- 1) Jon Stierwalt 1:01:21.9
2) Craig Brownhouse 1:03:21
3) Eric Anderson 1:06:29.7

Beginner Senior Men—ages 19 & over (12 M)

- 1) Yates McKenzie 59:32.6
2) James Henley 1:00:24.9
3) Burton McKenzie 1:00:52

Sport Men (24 M)

- 1) John Lowe 2:02:16
2) John Gaffney 2:02:21
3) Jay Wahsley 2:04:20

Veteran Men—ages 35-44 (24 M)

- 1) Gregg Hardwick 2:03:13
2) Van Purser 2:06:44
3) Kenny Marshall 2:07:49

Master Men—ages 45 & over (24 M)

- 1) Woody Deutsch

Expert Men (36 M)

- 1) Eric Lemaire 2:46:08
2) Gregory McBee 2:52:07
3) Glenn Poupore 2:55:54

SPORTS



Frances Lumpkins practices for the equestrian team. Photo by Lyn Hutchinson

Lady Tigers Heading to Nationals

by Tyler Vaughey

When most people considered the prospects of the 1994 Lady Tiger tennis team, it appeared as though this season would be a rebuilding year. Having lost All-Americans Cameron Tyer and Becky Jo Doncaster to graduation, the women's team lacked the strength at the top positions to compete on the national level. However, contrary to many predictions, the women's team has maintained its standards of excellence and gained another berth to the national championships.

Although the team in recent years have succeeded with the talent of a few star players, the 1994 squad has relied on depth and consistency. Many opponents on their schedule have earned national rankings, and in order to return to the national championships, the team was required to compile an impressive record against South region rivals as well as teams from the Mid-West and California.

Returning from spring break with a 3-2 record versus 5 ranked opponents, the Lady Tigers established themselves as legitimate contenders. Following a third place finish in the South Region tournament, as well as a victory over second ranked Kenyon College, the women positioned themselves to silence the critics who had condemned them in the pre-season. Later, on April 9, an NCAA committee rewarded the team for their efforts with a #9 national ranking, virtually ensuring an invitation to the championships. With only the SCAC conference tournament remaining, the team was destined to make the

trip to the "Big Dance" as long as it avoided an unforeseen upset. Yet during the SCAC tournament, held in Atlanta, GA, the Lady Tigers not only defended their ranking but fortified their status as a perennial powerhouse. Facing Trinity University, the top ranked team in the nation, in the finals, the women lost a 5-4 decision, the most competitive match that Trinity has experienced all season.

Although the women's team is lead by Kristen Ialacci and Linn Wheelless, winners of the Rolex doubles championships, every member has made significant contributions. Helen Boehm has played well at the #3 singles position and teamed with Freshman Lee Williams, the #5 singles player, to form a successful #2 doubles combination. Elizabeth Irwin has compiled an impressive record at the #4 singles slot and Kristy Kiser and Amy Barber have added depth to the #6 singles and #3 doubles positions.

While you are enjoying the festivities of graduation week, remember that there are 7 individuals who can not afford to relax. The women's team has overcome a series of obstacles on the court, as well as from their critics. The Lady Tigers are en route to the ZOO, in Kalamazoo, MI, so they must save their spring dances for the biggest dance of them all. So if you pass one of these lovely ladies in the hallway, wish them luck, they have been steadily climbing a mountain of adversity, and now merely require a push to elevate their status from contenders to 1994 national champions.

Men's Tennis Ends Difficult Season

by Tyler Vaughey

As the 1993 season ended, the men's tennis team looked happily towards the future. Having earned a #9 national ranking with a starting line-up consisting primarily of underclassmen, expectations for the 1994 campaign were extremely high. As a result, a rigorous schedule was designed that would possibly enable the team to establish itself as a legitimate contender for the national championship. However, as the 1994 season concluded in the SCAC tournament in Atlanta, the Tigers appeared to have been undermined by such lofty aspirations.

Although the 1994 season was respectable, the tennis team was bitterly disappointed. The Tigers finished with a 10-11 record and failed to return to the national championships. Freshmen Tim Dargan and Wes Talman proved to be positive additions to the team that appeared to have its deepest line-up in recent years. However, although the team contained an abundance of talent, it lacked the essential ingredient for success on the national level, confidence.

Possibly the most dangerous opponent that the Tigers faced all season was not their difficult schedule, but their own lack of confidence. Having struggled against 12 of the top 20 teams in the nation, the team stumbled into the last week of the season feeling uncertain in regards to its own capabilities. A dual match against rival Emory University, ranked #8 nationally, and the conference tournament which included Trinity University, ranked #5, provided the Tigers with a chance of attaining redemption. In order to reach the national championships, the squad needed to win against both universities, a feat that was accom-

plished in 1993. However, although the team played well, it could not reach the necessary level of success. The Tigers lost 5-4 against Emory and 6-3 against Trinity by failing to take advantage of several match-point opportunities.

Although the season was somewhat disappointing, there were individuals who posted impressive records. Co-Captain Lanny Lewis established himself as a dominant force at the #6 singles and #3 doubles position while providing a great deal of leadership. Lee Hamilton won several important matches as the #3 singles player and was a key replacement in the doubles line-up. Brian Morrow was a solid performer at the #2 singles position and teamed with K.C. Home late in the season to fortify the #1 doubles spot. Home and Morrow compiled a 7-0 record while Home played well at the #1 singles position, earning a #22 national ranking. In late May, both Home and Morrow will compete in the national championships, hosted by Redlands University in Redlands, California.

To say that the 1994 campaign was a failure would be an injustice to Tiger Tennis. The team finished ranked #4 in the South region and won several important matches, the most impressive a defeat of Kenyon College, ranked #13 nationally. The men's team is extremely talented and will continue to be successful in the future, yet its high hopes did prove to be a limiting factor. This season has been a learning experience, and having endured another highly competitive spring, the 1995 Tigers may be prepared to regain the form that paved their way to the "Big Dance" in 1993. Tennis, like all sports, has its pitfalls and peaks, and if the team recaptures the hunger and confidence that can elevate its productivity, the winning will take care of itself.

Married couple teaching summer workshop at University seeks 3 BR, 2 bath, house in Sewanee to rent July 22- July 28.

Call (615)-385-0863 in Nashville with information.

SPORTS

Lady Tiger Tracksters Take Three in a Row

by Amy Covington
Sports Editor

Dreams do come true, at least for women's track coach Cliff Afton. His speedy Lady Tigers recently made him the proud owner of yet another SCAC championship, the third in as many years. With a solid cast of veterans and some talented newcomers, the team made a solid run at the championship, overcoming a strong crew from Rhodes to take the meet by thirty points. "It just seemed to all come together in the end," said freshman Abi White, "We bonded as a team and ended on a good note. It made the season worthwhile."

Although most everyone for Sewanee had at least a personal best at the meet, several of the team members had outstanding performances. Daphne Skipper finished as the high point winner for the meet, followed closely by Quisha White. Skipper took first place in the 10,000 meter, 1500

meter, and 3000 meter races. She placed second in the 800 meter, and was a member of the first place 400 relay and 1600 relay teams. White also was a member of the two victorious relay teams, as well as taking first in the 100 meter, second in the quarter mile

"We all had to give our best because we knew how much it meant to the seniors; we couldn't let them down"

- Marla Marcum

and 200 meter races, and second in the high jump.

Michelle Parks provided another highlight for the Tigers, taking first in the 400 with a conference record time, first in the 200, and also as a member of the relay teams. Kiisha Walker was the fourth member of the relay teams, and took second in the 400 hurdles and third in the 100 hurdles for her individual events. First year member Marla Marcum placed fourth in the javelin to give Sewanee some points off the track.

Afton credited the rest of the team with an outstanding season, saying "They all improved right up to the end." Polly Bass came away with personal bests in the 10,000 and 3000 meter events. Abi White also had her best ever times in those same events. T. Jai

also set the school and conference record in the 400 meter contest. Skipper set both the 800 and 1500 marks, something she'd done twice earlier in the season, and Marcum came away with the javelin record. Overall, Kiisha Walker still remains first in career scoring for Sewanee, with Daphne Skipper second and Quisha White third. Skipper still has a shot at national competition, with a few meets left to qualify. She was less than a second off the provisional time, so the possibility for post-conference competition is good.

Marcum summed up the meet in this way, "We all had to give our best because we knew how much it meant to the seniors; we couldn't let them down." Added White, "This was definitely the best one yet because we really had to give everything we had and then some. The level of competition was higher, and all the other teams were out to get us. We rose to the challenge, and were rewarded for it."

Men's Track Team Continues a Winning Tradition

Placing Second in Conference, Men's Track Just Missed a Threepart Championship

by Robert Griffith

The Sewanee men's track team went into their conference meet at Oglethorpe two weeks ago with high hopes and a very successful record in past conference meets. According to head track coach Alan Logan, the men's team was as good as any he had seen in years. They had a lot of potential and Coach Logan saw this year as Sewanee's year. After winning the conference championship two years in a row, the men's team has had to settle for second place for the last two years. Over the weekend, Sewanee was seeking to continue their older tradition and

bring home the S. C. A. C. title.

Sewanee had an excellent showing in Atlanta and, in Coach Logan's words, had as "good a meet as they could have had." Needless to say, he was not disappointed. The team did very well as a whole and individually, but had to settle for second place behind Rhodes. The Sewanee team was, on the whole, a better team in terms of quality, but the more numerous Rhodes team won out in the end. "It is hard to beat a team who manages to get three runners in each race," says Logan. Rhodes managed to garner more points only because they had more runners, not necessarily because they

were the better team. According to freshman distance runner Jason Bowyer, "It's hard to beat a team even when you finish first, because they would finish second, third, and fourth."

Coach Logan credits much of the track team's success to what he calls his "outstanding athletes." Senior Jamey Goss had a good showing at the conference meet and managed second place finishes in the 400 and the 200 and was a member of the winning 4 X 400 relay team. Goss also came in fourth place in the high jump. Brad McLane, also a senior, finished fourth in the 800 and was also on that 4 X 400 relay team.

Thad Moore ended up being the high-point man in the meet with his second place finish in the shot put, first place in the discus, third place in the javelin, and fourth place in the pole vault. The most impressive freshman of the season was Jeb Bridges, who came in third in the 400, second in the 800, and ran on the 4 X 400 relay team, and ran on the second place 4 X 100 relay team.

Coach Logan sees the future of Sewanee men's track as being very bright, and, with recruiting going as well as it is and the number of returning underclassmen, Logan sees the track team as being competitive for a long time.

LIVING ARTS

Mark Richard Is Sewanee's Local Literary Lion

by John Sullivan

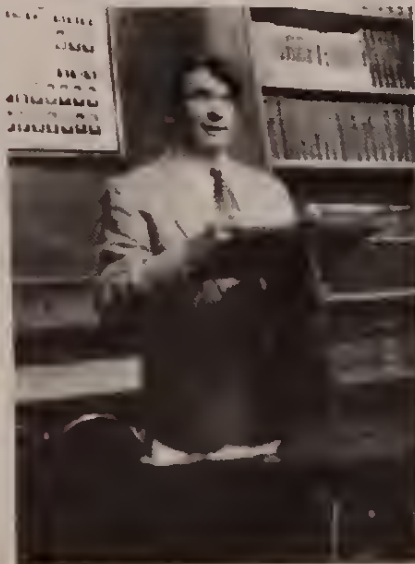
Considering the fact that novelist and short story writer Mark Richard (pronounced Ree-shard) is currently standing on a peak of success most up and comers would dribble over, he seems relatively unobsessed with living or discussing the writer's life. Despite the publication of an award winning book of short stories entitled *The Ice at the Bottom of the World*, an acclaimed first novel called *Fishboy*, a current profile of Tom Waits in *Spin* magazine, and an two-part article on the writer himself run in the *New York Times Book Review*, (all topped with an onslaught of screenplay offers) Mr. Richard was far more interested in the arrival of his hammock on the day I interviewed him than in any subject pertaining to his work.

As someone once said of Elizabeth Bishop, for Mr. Richard, "Life seems to come before art." It is precisely this fierce interest in and loyalty to the details that comprise the daily grind, that underscores Mr. Richard's potency as a writer. He is intimately acquainted with the life of working men and women, and employs an active curiosity to the more mundane, anonymous parts of experience. This is perfectly in keeping with Mr. Richard's personal balance between art for its own sake and writing as communication. He believes that a good writer must have a firm grasp on the state of his society. "We're a product of a culture," he says, "We have a culture here that is pretty apocalyptic and has a short attention span."

If he's right on two counts, then his work satisfies both needs. His stories read quickly, and are accessible enough to entertain, but they often disturb in their accuracy, and are wrought with an ominous streak of natural disaster and loss, floods, drownings, house burnings, and bizarre accidents. But even Mr. Richard's most surreal writing reveals a man interested in life as it is, not as it should be, and his experience with that life is not wanting.

"I've had several careers," Mr. Richard said, after lamenting the fact that the hammock stand had not arrived with the hammock. "I've been

a commercial fisherman, I've been a real estate salesperson, I was a naval correspondent, I worked for an ad agency, and I was an aerial photographer. Some part of me looks at this writing thing as a phase I'm going through and thinks maybe I'll have another career after writing. Maybe I'll go into the seminary. Maybe I'll



Professor Richard lecturing at the Chi Psi Lodge. Photo by Christian Cutler.

go into politics. Maybe I will make some artsy craftsmy thing, [a hammock stand?] but for me I think writing should be a way to chronicle your life, not a way to live it. I want to have experiences in the world that would not come to me solely as a writer. I'd like to do things that don't have anything to do with writing."

One wonders if a decision to leave the rush and anxiety of New York City was not one of those things. When Tom Waits called Mr. Richard recently, and got his answering machine, the singer asked confusedly where in the hell Sewanee was, "The pacific rim...pacific coast?" and hung up in fear that he couldn't cover the telephone expenses. But Mr. Richard seems to have been prepared for a reprieve from the pressure and social suffocation of pushing your own work in a big city.

"I had spread myself too thin, mainly through promoting the book and everything else, so this came at a good time. I was beginning to sort of self-destruct in New York a little bit. You get caught up in the machinations of New York. You can either go out every night to parties to see and be seen and promote your work from years past, or you can stay home

and do your work. But it's hard to stay home when there are so many distractions, things that are extra-literary. After I got into the rhythm of this place and got the class on its feet, New York began to seem like a small and distant place. Giving my last year a brutal inspection, I saw that I had not done much serious fiction writing and it was time to reset priorities."

For Mr. Richard, priorities include a new novel, which he will describe only as "an apocalyptic political satire set in a city like Virginia Beach," and two screenplays. His responsibilities here, as a Tennessee Williams' Fellow, are intentionally light to allow time for his own work. He teaches a creative fiction class once a week, helps to judge the applicants for the Writer's Conference, and makes the faculty social rounds.

As for the class, he finds it personally rewarding. "Teaching is like going to AA," he says, "A sponsor in AA is kept sober by preaching the gospel to the person they're sponsoring, and I think that as long as I reiterate the important things about writing—that it is a serious attempt to convey news of the heart, that it is a re-invention, and a process where the writer has to be pretty honest with himself on certain matters—it helps me. I learn from students when they have a fresh, peculiar vision or world view. And I think that's the hardest thing for students to bring to a class because they've been asked to submit certain types of papers, they've been asked to formulate themselves, to articulate their views, in a certain way. The most important thing is to tell students that they have the liberty to write. You have to give yourself license to write, and you have to be fearless in saying the hard things and not just the obvious things. It's such a temptation to give the world what we think the world wants."

As for the obligatory "Is it right for a writer to try and talk others into entering a career that only leads to misery and starvation," question, Mr. Richard shrugs that off. "I think on the surface I've had periods of a miserable life, but I've enjoyed most of my life, and I'm enjoying where it is now. Most people will fall away from writing for reasons that have

nothing to do with writing, more for reasons that have to do with money, marriage, ambition, or lack of ambition. All the warnings that people have given me, they were true, but the things they warned me about never happened because I never accepted them as something that would happen. The fact is one out of ten students will have the talent to become a writer right off the bat. But there's such a thing as will over talent, and some people can make it in writing by sheer industriousness."

Mr. Richard's own "making it" as a writer sprung as much from his self-assurance as it did his remarkable abilities. "When I decided to become a writer at age 30, I said, 'I will move to New York. I will write a book, and it will be published, and it will receive critical praise, and I will write another book.' And that's exactly what happened. It didn't happen in exactly the way I thought it would, but it happened nonetheless."

For the future, Mr. Richard looks ahead with the same confidence. "My life seems to have been a progression, which is kind of like writing itself. You don't know what you're going to find at the end of the story or at the end of your life. I have no idea what I'll be doing in ten years." Probably not fishing.

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LIVING ARTS

MSG Fix At Human Chinese Restaurant

by Seth A. Eaker
Restaurant and Food Critic

Do you ever get that craving for Chinese like I do? I mean, I don't know about you, but the hunger for good ethnic food really gets to me and even though I work for Marriott, the sweet and sour pork at Cafe Gailor just doesn't cut it for me. So I decided to try a new restaurant in Manchester, The Hunan Cafe. Now this place has a great buffet at a low price. I managed to get out with my lunch partner for only eleven dollars for the two of us. I have had the buffet every time that I have gone, but their menu is really diverse.

To focus back on the buffet, though, the majority of it is fried, but there are definite non-fried options. The ambiance is good, although the "folk Chinese" dinner music sounded a bit like country-and-Zen temple chant muzak. There is also a private dining area for those large party needs (think rush). I did feel that it is the place for the insurance salesman's power lunch, and the secretaries' gossip hour. Don't let that interfere with your dining pleasure, though. There have never been any other students or administrators around when I have been there, and that in and of itself is a distinctive plus. Carry out is available, but they don't deliver.

If you are eating the buffet, obviously the service is as fast as you want it, but the entrees around me came with a rapidity that nearly

approximated machine gun fire. However, there was one pet peeve that really got to me, SMALL WATERS. I hate having an MSG attack of thirst and not having a large glass of water or tea nearby. To alleviate this, I recommend the jasmine tea: they bring you a pot, and those great ceramic cups without handles.

They take Visa, MC and Amex, but not out of state checks, so be sure to not leave home without the cards or cash. To get there, just take I-24 to Nashville and exit on 114-Manchester (about 20 mins total driving time, just long enough to decompress from that eleven o'clock class), turn left after the exit and it is about 2 miles down on the left.

Food Quality: *** + 1/2

Food Variety: ***

Atmosphere: ***

Service: ** + 1/2

Overall: *** + 1/2

Mr. Eaker rates from 0-5 stars in each category

0 = Not worth the land it's built on.

1 = Barely considerable.

2 = Average: think Gailor on a good day.

3 = Above average, bringing home a doggie bag won't scare your roommate.

4 = Worth an hour drive with your formal date that you don't like, just to go.

5 = Why take a Sewanee Angel, you will never want to leave.



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LIVING ARTS

Strange Things Afoot at the Old Dairy

Sewanee Underground Filmmakers to Surface

For the past few months, some odd noises have been heard at the old dairy, late at night. Passers-by on Brakefield Road have seen lights on at all hours. Fortunately, the cause has been determined: some would-be filmmakers have set up shop there.

Sewanee's Fine Arts department has a video/film production nestled in one of its more obscure branches, and several of the students have been involved in large projects this semester that have presented some interesting problems, to say the least. Three of these films are going to have a public showing this week. This article isn't a review but rather a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the movies.

Mr. Edgens's Monster Masks

The most complicated of the films by far is Branán Edgens' *Dying*, a film he describes as "an exploration into the metaphoric imagery conjured up in the mind of a dying man. As he dies, the images change and reflect not only how it feels for him to die, but also how he feels about his own life." Those who are familiar with *Jacob's Ladder* or *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge* will find this film to be along similar lines. The film involves numerous special effects, including a very realistic gunshot wound and several strange creatures. Mr. Edgens is a meticulous director who pays strict attention to detail in the effects he creates, carefully arranging lighting and makeup for each shot—a process that takes forever.

One of the more outlandish scenarios that occurred while shooting the film involved the director, dressed in a bizarre costume and mask, wading backwards into Lake Cheston and submerging himself. One makeup job involved gluing latex prosthetic appliances (the same stuff they use in the movies to change people's features or create monsters) over an actor's entire body. This took over eight

hours to apply and five hours to remove, for about two hours of shooting which yielded roughly two minutes of the movie. Other effects include a fake head, a mechanically operated "tongue,"

change it in the rain. The next time he parked near where we were shooting and got a parking ticket. It ended up being the most expensive scene for him he'd ever been involved with, and it wasn't



Filmmakers Branán Edgens, Jonathan Meiburg, and Michael McWhirter.

and an actor who appears in two places at once. The movie promises to be an interesting experience, to say the least.

Mr. Meiburg's Angels

Another film to be shown is Jonathan Meiburg's *Kayla*, a narrative film "with a plot and everything," promises director Meiburg. The movie concerns a girl who believes that she is visited by angels and her relationship to a close friend. "I tried to get a really spiritual feel to the whole thing," says Meiburg. "I hope I've succeeded." Production of *Kayla* has involved the construction of a realistic set in the dairy which includes 67 candles. During shooting Mr. Meiburg was worried "that I'd burn the Dairy down, so I was really paranoid. I kept a fire extinguisher with me all the time."

One scene of the film, shot in the graveyard, ended up being a nightmare of another kind - for Mr. Edgens, who served as assistant director on the film. As Mr. Meiburg explains it, "the first time we went to shoot, it was raining, and he rolled his car over a ditch and completely destroyed one of his tires. So he had to

even his movie."

Other amusing moments in *Kayla* have included a scene in which the actors had to cover each other in fingerpaints, and a scene shot in the chapel which was suddenly overrun by an army of small

dogs. The film, says Mr. Meiburg, "has been a real learning experience. I'm looking forward to doing this kind of thing for a long time to come."

Mr. McWhirter's Drugs

Also to be shown is Michael McWhirter's *GIGO: Garbage In/Garbage Out*, a bitterly funny attack on the TV- and drug-dominated culture that modern people find themselves in. The film concerns the life of one man who has to go to extremes to find out just how hard it really is to relax. Mr. McWhirter's style is frenetic and charged with energy, often making use of collage-like streams of television and film images to launch a sort of assault on the audience. His film also involves a psychiatrist who is anything but helpful and a drug that makes Prozac look tame. "It's a silly movie," says Mr. McWhirter, "but I'm kind of trying to make a point. I hope people like it."

The three films will be shown in Blackman Auditorium at 8:00 PM this Thursday.



Sewanee's performing dance company, Perpetual Motion, geared up for its annual production of "Dance Festival '94." Featured dancers were (pictured above) Kimberley Baum, Marla Green, Elizabeth Bowie, Amber Paul, and Hollace McKnight.

"Dance Festival '94" took place on Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, at 8:15 p.m., with a children's matinee on Saturday, at 2:15 p.m., in Guery Auditorium. The program included contemporary and classical ballet, jazz, and tap. Photo by Lyn Hutchinson.

BACK PAGE

Pink Floyd's "Division Bell": All in all it's just another...

by Jonathan Meiburg
Arts Editor

The past few years have seen the coming of the age of "Jurassic Rock": rock stars of the 60's and 70's attempting to tour again, to record again, to conjure up again whatever magic made them famous. Paul McCartney, the Rolling Stones, the Who, the Moody Blues, and Eric Clapton, to name a few, have all achieved varying degrees of success in regenerating interest in themselves as relics, and a few (Clapton and Neil Young being prime examples) have brought their careers to an all-time high.

When Pink Floyd (or The Pink Floyd Sound, as they were called) started up as a college band in 1967, I'm sure they had no idea that they would be joining the ranks of this burgeoning group. But here they are nonetheless, 27 years later, releasing a new album and touring once again.

The band has a strange history; originally formed by bassist Roger Waters, keyboardist Richard Wright, drummer Nick Mason and guitarist/vocalist Syd Barrett, they survived the self-destruction of their front man in the first two years of their existence. The flashy and eccentric Barrett was replaced by the placid, long-haired guitarist David Gilmour, but it was Waters who assumed control of the group and propelled them into their greatest popularity, starting with 1973's *Dark Side of the Moon* album and followed by the ethereal, stoned *Wish You Were Here* in 1975.

Waters assumed total control of the group after 1977's *Animals* and went on to produce *The Wall* and its introspective, poorly-selling follow-up *The Final Cut*, under the name of Pink Floyd.

He used session musicians in recording, however, with only Gilmour remaining from the original group as a real musical presence. The Waters-era albums were masterpieces of layered production with complex story lines and clever, razor-sharp lyrics. Musically they became progressively more brooding, darker and thicker, without a hint of the psychedelia of the early albums.

But after 1982 Waters left the group and attempted to secure rights to the name, which he found legally impossible and, as a

sort of revenge, Gilmour recorded what was essentially a solo album with a modicum of help from Mason and Wright and released it under the title of *A Momentary Lapse of Reason*, using the Pink Floyd name. Gilmour had the sense to structure the corresponding tour as a sort of "greatest hits" extravaganza with a double helping of the lasers, lighting effects, and giant inflatable creatures for which the Floyd became famous in the early days. Audience response was tremendous, and when the tour ended in 1990, the Gilmour model Floyd was riding a new wave of popularity by cashing in on nostalgia.

It is this lineup that has produced the new album, *The Division Bell*, which, after the vacuous *Momentary Lapse*, had more than enough potential to be a complete disaster. Surprisingly, it's very satisfying. Wright and Mason have become musically evident again for the first time since *Wish You Were Here*

(which the new album resembles remarkably). The result is, well, an excellent retread of all the musical qualities that made the Floyd famous in the early seventies.

The opening instrumental, "Cluster One" sounds almost exactly like the classic "Shine on You Crazy Diamond," with Wright's thickly layered keyboards and organs sliding in over mysterious sound effects and Gilmour's iridescent, fluid guitar floating over the top. The next track, "What Do You Want From Me?" begins with a blues wah-wah keyboard riff that sounds like it was lifted straight off the *Dark Side* release. And so on.

Gilmour dusts off nearly every guitar and production device the Floyd has ever used and weaves them neatly into each track. He brings out his talk box, his slide, his acoustic guitars, and even his pedal steel. As on the older albums, there are several instrumental tracks that have a "new-age-with-an-edge" feel to them. For those who inhaled while listening to Floyd, it's a feast of familiarity.

But the group misses Waters sorely, especially in the lyrics department. Gilmour's lyrics are bombastic and forced, and he loves multi-syllabled words that end in a "y" like "constantly," "boundary," and the everpresent "reality." Though his airy voice carries them over in a surprisingly convincing manner, I found myself wishing for just an

occasional burst of cleverness—but no lines like "And it's too late to lose the weight you used to need to throw around" (from *Animals*) surfaced. "I was caught in a cauldron of hate," he groans during the acoustic "Lost for Words." *He's trying too hard*, I thought, and the stretch marks were showing.

The band has been around long enough to become nostalgic about itself, and this tendency also appears in a few places on the album. "Poles Apart" contains a chaotic section that seems to be a sort of tribute to the sonic experimentation of Barrett's day. "Lost For Words," the lyrics to which are printed beside a picture of some boxing gloves, contains thinly veiled accusatory statements towards Waters.

Waters himself, incidentally, has been producing albums since 1982. The latest, last year's *Amused to Death*, was an overlooked but criti-

cally acclaimed statement about the modern TV-driven culture. It featured amazing production techniques and Jeff Beck on guitar. Those who are interested in Waters' growth as an artist would be well advised to obtain that album, as he continues to push in new directions.

But, honestly, what did the fans love the Floyd for? They loved them for their slow, ethereal melodies and harmonies. They loved Gilmour's sensual guitar. They loved the spectacle and the dreaminess. Waters is, simply put, depressing, and the legions of stoned fans singing along to "Comfortably Numb" loved the *feel* rather than the meaning of the song. That feeling has remained with Gilmour and oozes from the present album.

So what if it's nothing new? So what if they're a nostalgia band? The Floyd are back, man. Sit back, relax, and float.

