

# The Sewanee Purple

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

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## Student Panel Tackles Race Issues

by Kathryn Williams

Staff Writer

Last Wednesday night Sewanee students, faculty, and community members gathered in Convocation Hall with an ambitious purpose: to step out of their comfort zones and participate in an open and honest dialogue about cross-cultural relations in Sewanee. The goal of the third Race Matters dialogue was to identify and address issues of cross-cultural interaction and racial prejudice within the University community. The discussion was guided by a diverse panel of students: Jeanney Lee, Ronald Allen, David Thompson, Elizabeth Jones, Rene Ramirez, and Tina Hill responded to specific questions brought up by discussion-leader Esau McCaulley before turning the mic over to audience members.

The first question was general: Do you believe that there is racism in Sewanee? Ronald Allen opened the discussion by observing that the word "racism" today is such a loaded term that it can seem a little extreme. He commented that the environment at Sewanee is not so much one of racism as

racial prejudice. David Thompson suggested that not only is Sewanee's atmosphere conducive to homogeneity but so is human nature. It was pointed out that many students go through four years of Sewanee without making friendships outside of their "race." (To avoid any misconceptions, it is important to point out that "race" is a term with no scientific merit but social significance). The prevalent pattern on the Mountain, and arguably elsewhere, is that people prefer to socialize with those they consider similar to themselves, and tend to define others by the groups in which they interact. As Rene Ramirez said, when someone hangs out with a group, that group becomes part of his or her identity. The question is, what qualifies someone as "similar." Is it skin color, socio-cultural background, economic class, or interests? Audience member Beau Cox offered the opinion that social groups and resulting prejudices are based more on cultural factors than race or color ones. Erik Davila stated that it is easier for upper middle class minority students to adjust because

they have similar socio-economic and educational backgrounds as many of the majority, i.e. white, students.

One thing that kept tripping up the dialogue was the mere language of race. Perhaps our society has become accustomed to using the term "African-American" when referring to black Americans, but the politically correct term "Americans of European descent" was such an irrelevant mouthful that it seemed almost comical. [The panel was proud to point out that it contained 1/3 of the "Americans of Hispanic descent" portion of the student body, i.e. Rene Ramirez.] An hour into the dialogue giggles already ran through the audience at the awkward idiomatic correctness forced into the discussion.

Nevertheless, some very relevant and more specific issues were approached in the two hour discussion. One of these was obvious lack of diversity in the fraternity/sorority tradition at Sewanee. Several people, including Devin Delaughter, a Gamma Sigma Phi founder, offered the comment that the primarily African-American fra-



Jeanney Lee, Ronald Allen, David Thompson, Elizabeth Jones, Rene Ramirez, and Tina Hill stand as the panel for the discussion.

aternity GSP was created because black males on campus felt underrepresented or unwelcome in the pre-existing fraternity system. When Eric Benjamin, director of Minority Student Affairs, rebutted that several Sewanee fraternities, including ATO, Sigma Nu, Lambda Chi, and Delta, had actively tried to recruit black students in the past 15 years and suggested that GSP was created out of its members' desire to separate themselves rather than being forced into a separate fraternity, panelist Ronald Allen replied that he himself had felt a kind of unspoken rule that minority male freshmen were not expected to rush. As the discussion began to disintegrate a little into respective fraternity promotion, panelist Tina Hill tried to keep the dialogue on task by reminding everyone that this was not a fraternity "shout session."

The question was raised,

"Why is it that the Gamma Sigma Phi fraternity has the reputation as a militant black fraternity while the Kappa Alpha fraternity has the reputation as a prejudiced, Southern white fraternity?" What earns institutions these reputations and why can't they shake them? Various incidents were mentioned where KA members from chapters at some deep-South schools like Auburn and the University of Alabama dressed up for Halloween as Ku Klux Klan members or wore black-face, reminiscent of the Civil War-era minstrel stereo-type of black slaves. Nick Nicholls commented that as Beta President here at Sewanee he was shocked and disgusted to hear of similar behavior in Beta chapters at other schools, but he reminded the audience that these chapters were reprimanded by losing their national fraternity charter and that fraternity

chapters vary widely from school to school. Several audience members complained of students at this school displaying Confederate Flags in their fraternities or dorm rooms, in response to which panel member David Thompson cited the difficulties of the Second Amendment.

The topic of free speech went back to a topic discussed earlier—that of theme parties such as Phi's yearly "Gangsta Party" and Sigma Nu's "Old School Rap Party." Concern was expressed whether the stereotypes displayed in the dress, music, and behavior at these parties reflected white Sewanee students' true perception of "blackness" or just a comical stereotype adopted from movies and television. Brian Waite commented that he comes from the inner city, knows no "gangsters" that dress or

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## Sigma Nu Suspended

### Hazing forces fraternity off Domain

by Ryan Cosgrove

Staff Writer

The Sigma Nu fraternity received sanctions from the University last week that include suspension for one semester, termination of pledgeship, and community service requirements. The sanctions are a result of a hazing and drinking incident that sent two of the Sigma Nu pledges to the hospital several weeks ago.

On the night of Thursday, January 31, Sigma Nu set up an activity in which they divided their pledges into small groups and sent them around to five different rooms belonging to actives. According to Eric Hartman, Assistant Dean of Students for Campus Life, in each of the rooms the actives created a "coercive environment encouraging them to drink."

Hartman added that the intent behind the activity was essentially good, in that the actives wanted to create an atmosphere for the pledges to get to know them better. Of course, the use of alcohol in the activity, which resulted in two pledges needing medical attention and one being admitted to the hospital, brought to the attention of the University several violations warranting sanctions.

The violations of University policy that Sigma Nu committed include: 1. "the unlawful use, possession, and distribution of alcoholic beverages" and the furnishing of alcohol for persons under 21; 2. Public intoxication; 3. Common sources in dormitories; 4. Drinking



Owen Reed chases Patrick Wright-Timko prior to the hazing incident.

contests and the encouragement of drinking; and 5. Hazing. All of the policies that Sigma Nu broke can be found in the student handbook.

Following the incident, the University immediately suspended Sigma Nu pending further investigation. The president of Sigma Nu, Wilson Rogers, wrote a letter on behalf of his fraternity explaining the incident and apologizing for the fraternity's actions. Included in the letter were several suggestions for punishment,

which were taken into consideration by administrators, and Hartman noted that Rogers did a very good job representing his fraternity both in the letter and in subsequent talks.

Sigma Nu's suspension will last until September 13, 2002. While the fraternity cannot hold any social functions during the suspension, residents will be allowed to remain in the house. Of course, no one other than the residents themselves are al-

See Sigma Nu page 3

## Abraham's Children: Jews, Christians, Muslims

by Fahd Arshad

Staff Writer

Dr. Gordon Newby, Executive Director of Emory's Institute for Comparative and International Studies and Professor and Director of Middle Eastern Studies, spoke to an audience of Sewanee community, faculty, staff, and students on Monday February 18th. Drawing on his extensive academic experience and knowledge of the Semitic religions, Dr. Newby articulated the historical relationship between the followers of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. This set the stage for a dialogue with the audience who sought to understand the present with an eye on the past.

Dr. Newby informed the audience that when Islam emerged in the 7th Century, the Arabian Peninsula was a battleground for the two superpowers of the time, the Byzantine and the Persian empires. The conflict was ideological as well as military, because the concept of the church-state separation did not exist at the time, and Arabs were caught up between orthodox Christianity and Zoroastrianism. Islam, which shared many Jewish and Christian themes such as the Creation of Adam and Eve and a line of prophets containing all

those mentioned in the Torah and the Bible, including Moses and Jesus Christ, whom Muslim consider one of the most revered of prophets. Muhammad established the precedent of a multi-religious society in the city of Medina, and the Quran held up the Jews and Christians as People of the Book. Hence as Islam spread from India in the East to Spain in the West, first by conquest and then by trade, Jews and Christians thrived in heterogeneous Muslim societies where their faiths were respected and they had many economic opportunities. For four centuries, Jews and Christians were prominent in the economic, scientific, and literary strata of the blooming Muslim civilization.

These cordial relationships became strained when Muslim states found themselves under attack simultaneously by the Mongols and the Crusaders. Muslim societies became militaristic, and Jews and Christians started to be seen with suspicion. Christian communities started identifying with the Crusaders and were further isolated. When Muslims lost Spain, the prosperous Jews moved to the Ottoman Empire and contributed with capital and human resources to the Ottoman expansion. The Industrial revolution also brought

a social revolution, placing more emphasis on the individual. It gave Western European states more economic and military power, which they used for colonial expansion. They used Jewish and Christian communities in Muslim lands as commercial agents, which caused these sections of society to be viewed as tools of Western colonial designs. The isolation between religions worsened, and Christianity was increasingly seen as Western and hostile to Islam, even though it was born in the East. Dr. Newby ended his presentation by noting that there was a growing movement in Western religious circles to re-engage with Islam, and the tragedy of September 11th has only increased the will to do so.

Responding to a question about the reasons behind the hostility between faiths prevalent in the 20th century, Dr. Newby asserted that the nation-state concept promotes uniformity within society, and thus an aversion of anyone who is an outsider, and different. This is true in Western societies just as well; for example, in 19th century Germany, Reform Jews attempted to gain legal recognition by being accepted as Lutherans. About the

See Newby page 2



# POLICE BLOTTER

**"IT IS THROUGH THE BLOTTER THAT WE ALL BECOME WHO WE ARE."**

by Wil Oakes

Asst. News Editor

A great deal has gone down in the last couple of weeks in the world of Sewanee crime. I stopped by the station this afternoon to catch up with the chief and see what he and the rest of Sewanee's finest had been up to. What he had to tell me was at some points humorous, at others shocking. In the end, he told me of a recent occurrence that made me proud to be associated with the Sewanee Police Department, and I'm sure that other Sewanee students will feel the same way. Here are the events for this week's police blotter: Sometime around 2:00 am, Sewanee police received a call from a student reporting a strange man hanging around behind Gorgas. When they arrived on the scene, the man fled but was apprehended quickly by the officers and brought in to the station. As it turns out, the man was a registered offender for exposing himself in public in Winchester. He has now been banned from the Sewanee campus and can now be arrested by the Sewanee police simply for being on our campus.

Two events involving marijuana have taken place recently, one in which some Vanderbilt students were found sitting in a parked car on Hall Street smoking law-

fully long drive from Vanderbilt just to smoke weed, but I hear that in your car on Hall Street is one of the premier weed smoking sites in the area. These students were arrested and removed from campus. Also, a group of high school age kids were found in front of All Saints' Chapel paying their respects by having a nice cold brew. When they were approached by police, one of them threw an object into the grass that proved to be a loaded marijuana pipe on inspection. Consequently, the others were searched and were all found to be carrying similar devices. These kids are truly a testament to the fine public education system here in Franklin County.

A male freshman Sewanee student was found passed out, face down in a toilet in the ladies' room in McClurg, while one of the toilets was clogged and the room was slowly flooding. Chief Parrot told me that this was "obviously a case of alcohol abuse," I would really say about this guy? That's just damn funny.

The biggest story of the last two weeks is truly a shocker and a victory for Sewanee law enforcement officials. Chief Parrot told me that students often ask him why Sewanee cops carry guns, and this week's top story answers that question. On Valentine's Day, a man on Tennessee's ten most wanted list was apprehended by our

very own Sewanee Police Department. He was a man charged with aggravated kidnapping with a gun, as well as several other crimes, and was also classified as "armed and dangerous, to be approached with extreme caution." He came on to the Sewanee campus to visit a relative of his here, was turned in by his relative, and taken into custody by the very men who protect us every day. You can see his record on the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations website, and it clearly states, "apprehended by Sewanee Police Department February 14, 2002." I must say I am extremely proud of our crime fighting force, and I would like to commend our police department for the fine job they do.

With that the chief and I wrapped up our chat, but he wanted me to let twenty one year olds know to be careful next time you think about buying alcohol for someone underage, because he plans to begin cracking down on tracing underage drinking back to the source, in order to address some recent problems. Also, security arrangements are currently underway for the HUGE Charlie Hunter show next week (Thursday, Feb. 28, Guerry Auditorium, 8:00). Until next time, stay safe and be sure to thank our policemen whenever you see them on campus.

# Outreach Program

## New Community Service Options

by Scott Davis

Staff Writer

The Sewanee Outreach program is busy these days with a number of different projects. The main Habitat project currently under way is the fixing up of the Little League baseball field behind the Sewanee Market. The dugouts are about finished up, but there is a number of things to do as far as beautification and touching up. Dixon tells me that the old concession stand will have to be torn down at some point, and I'm sure no one wants to miss that excitement. In addition to that party, the bleachers need to be finished and put into place and the area needs to be cleared for the road which will eventually run behind the field to the area where soccer fields will be built at some point.

Other happenings in the world of the Outreach program include the weekly visits to the local senior citizens home and a new meal-on-wheels type program headed up by Sewanee freshman Jen Thompson in conjunction with the Otey Parish. This program delivers meals to thirty-five homes in the Sewanee area. Contact her or the Outreach

office for more information on this wonderful new program. Also, as usual, the Outreach program will be spearheading four Spring Break outreach trips to New York, Honduras, and Detroit.

Other major news in Outreach is the creation of three

**There are constant opportunities for Sewanee students to give back to the community that serves as their home.**

new Outreach Fellowship positions for Sewanee students. These fellowships will provide tuition and transportation to one of three areas - Honduras, the Philippines, and South Africa - in return for the performance of 150 hours of service in these areas over two semesters. The idea behind the new program is to provide Sewanee students with a service opportunity that reaches beyond the confines of their local

area and ideology. Or, to draw from Pauly Shore's character from the multi-award winning film *Biodome*, a chance for students to "act globally as well as locally." Dixon is, of course, a self-professed Pauly Shore-head.

Such opportunities have only been available over school breaks during the academic year in the past, but now, thanks to the generosity of the Lilly Foundation, the Outreach office is offering funding for these summer outreach programs. Also, those selected for the fellowships will serve as part of the staff of the Outreach office during the school year.

As you can see, there is much going on in the restless world of Sewanee Outreach. There are constant opportunities for Sewanee students to give back to the community that serves as their home. So even though Service Week has come to a close, the Big Man upstairs is still keeping his own service chart complete with pink hearts and hammers. Well, I can't really back that up, but I can say that participating in the Outreach programs is lots of fun and very rewarding, so don't hesitate to get involved.

# The OG Back on Track

by Kathryn Williams

Staff Writer

The first meeting of the Order of Gownsmen for Easter Semester 2002 addressed one of the major issues facing the Order today, namely that it has drifted away from its original purpose as not just an academic honor society but also, as stated in the Student Handbook, "a force for channeling student opinion to promote positive change." Not too many students realize that the tradition has a purpose beyond recognizing academic excellence; it is actually an arm of the Student Government.

Perhaps the unwieldy size of the Order has made it a bit clumsy as a student government organization. OG meetings can be crowded and noisy, making it difficult to hear anything the speaker is saying. The Executive Committee seems to be addressing the issue of the OG's inefficiency as a legislative body in two ways. Firstly, they recommended the election in the spring of a Parliamentarian for 2002-2003. This officer would oversee voting, help keep order, and

ensure "proper" Parliamentary procedure in OG meetings. However, the fact that not enough members voted to constitute a quorum might be more evidence that members were more eager to get out of there than to "investigate" the problems and concerns of the University Community."

The second attempt to address the effectiveness of the Order was made by Britton Buckner, reporting for the G.P.A. Requirement Subcommittee. It was recommended that the G.P.A. requirement for admission to the Order be raised to 3.4, 3.2, 3.0 from 3.4, 3.0, 2.6 for sophomores, juniors, and seniors respectively. The committee feels that raising the requirements would reinforce the academically decrease its size, and hopefully diminish apathy of members. Those members who just "slipped by" into the Order need not worry; a grandfather clause would protect all existing members from the new G.P.A. requirements. The topic and its particulars will be more thoroughly discussed and voted on

in the next meeting.

In addition to these matters, Grady Leach expressed the Advising System Subcommittee's concern with the disruption in the student-advisor relationship during the sophomore year, when many students must switch to an advisor in their major department. They also feel that the Administration and Career Services has not effectively orchestrated advising for graduate school admissions. The subcommittee plans to discuss these matters with both the Administration and Career Services and to explore other universities' advising systems.

Fahd Arshad announced that a subcommittee is examining the possibility of increasing the number of credit-hours awarded for lab classes. He also expressed the fear that the growing number of afternoon classes may have a negative effect on extracurricular activities like sports, which usually meet in the afternoons. If you have any questions or ideas about these topics, you can contact the Order of Gownsmen at og@sewanee.edu.

# Newby from page 1

dichotomy inherent in presenting Islam as the religion of peace as well as aggression. Dr. Newby stated that this comes about from a narrow, selective reading of the Quran, which most serious Muslim scholars avoid, just as mainstream Christian and Jewish scholars deny the fringe fundamentalist interpretations within their own communities. Addressing the status of women, Dr. Newby echoed the views of the panelists of "Women and Islam" earlier in Sewanee: the primary impetus of Islam is towards protection and freedom for women, but the sources have been interpreted by a patriarchal society to fit its own norms, and again this hap-

pened in the West for centuries as well.

In answering other questions, Dr. Newby said that conflicts such as Israel-Palestine are only fronts for much deeper and universal issues that plague the world today, such as poverty, disease, and lack of education. Contrary to a view held by many, Muslim states are not incompatible with Western universal ideals such as democracy, human rights, freedom of expression, etc. He singled out Iran and Malaysia as Muslim states that were experimenting with democratic Islamic social systems, and called them bridge states for future rapprochement between the West and Islam. He stressed the im-

portance of correcting the Muslim world's impression that the West is all about materialism and capitalism, fostered by the rhetoric coming from Washington in the wake of September 11th. The West also continues to hold a "hostile and disdainful" view of the Islamic world. However, Dr. Newby concluded by declaring himself an optimist, because as we learn more about each other, it becomes harder to be absolutely triumphalist about any position. He thinks there are enough paths and facets of truth that we can all come to appreciate each other's beliefs. This is the power of education.



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# Sewanee Women's Conference

## Jean Kilbourne speaks on the perception of women through advertising

by Debbie McVitty

Staff Writer

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February the Woman's Conference got off to a good start when their keynote speaker, Dr. Jean Kilbourne spoke on "The Naked Truth: Advertising's Image of Women". Dr. Kilbourne spoke to a packed (and not wholly female) auditorium on the damage done by popular culture, as represented in advertising, to the typical perception of women and beauty. Throughout her talk, Dr. Kilbourne made use of a screen onto which she projected a series of advertisements, to which she paid close attention in analysis to illustrate her argument.

The advertising industry has grown phenomenally in recent years, and as such has a worldwide influence. Many of us are not aware of the extent to which we are influenced by advertising. In fact, Dr. Kilbourne mentioned that it those people

who say that advertising has no effect on them that are usually to be seen sporting designer clothes. The beauty ideal that is portrayed in all aspects of modern culture has been proven to be physically impossible, yet the fashion industry spends a lot of time and money trying to convince normal, imperfect women that if they just tried hard enough they would be able to achieve perfection.

Airbrushing and body doubles are their main tools. We all know that picture of Julia Roberts on the cover of the Pretty Woman movie. Well, that isn't her. She wasn't deemed skinny enough.

The effects of this objectification of women are twofold, according to Dr. Kilbourne. Women place their sense of value and self-worth only in what they look like. Men are encouraged to treat women as things, which promotes violence against women, because when a human can



Dr. Jean Kilbourne kicked off the Women's Conference speaking about advertising.

be seen as an object, it becomes easier to attack it. Dr. Kilbourne made it clear that the issue is not simply one of women who feel a bit

bad about themselves. Advertising's portrayal of the female body actively promotes the silencing of women. Men are also given

a role to play in advertising: that of the mucho, anti-feminine tough guy. Advertising normalises a skewed view of humanity, denying people the chance to live their lives as fully-realised individuals.

The USA as a nation is largely at fault in this situation. Domestically, there is a strong pop culture of casual sexuality, with little or no focus on monogamous relationships. To sell a product, you need to make it sexy. Yet the USA has the lowest level of sex education in schools and the highest rate of teen pregnancy in the world. On the international scene, Dr. Kilbourne finds it telling that within three years of the introduction of the television in Fiji, a sharp rise in eating disorders was noted among the young, female population. Dr. Kilbourne blames American culture for this trend. She also believes that the devaluing of those qualities we consider feminine such as mercy, empa-

thy and compassion has affected our political agenda, our treatment of oppressed minorities and our attitude to the environment.

As a means of combating this situation, Dr. Kilbourne believes that it is important to educate children to become critically aware viewers of the media. She also suggests counter-advertising as a means of revealing the underlying values in regular ads to the public. She ended her talk with a call to action, using the Faulkner quote: "Never be afraid to raise your voice...". This is a message of encouragement for women and a measure of how seriously she takes this issue, which demands more than a simple awareness. As a starting point, she suggests that we take those annoying cards that fall out of magazines and write "feed your models" on them, then send them back to the company. We don't pay a thing, and the company pays 75c postage to receive them. It's a start.

## Race Matters from page 1

act like students at these parties, and that the depictions were so pervasive that it almost made him "sick." He related a particularly disturbing story of asking a young man at one such party to wash the words "Nigger for Life" off his arm because he found it offensive. He was even more offended when he saw the same young man walking around later, still branded with the words.

The point was raised more than once that these parties are all in fun. The stereotypes are meant to be comical. Rap or "gangster"

music is listened to because it is enjoyed. In fact more minority students attend these parties than any other ones at the same fraternities. If these parties are so offensive to minority student, then why do they support them by attending? Tina Hill said she doesn't dress like that, "with my pants hanging down to my knees," so it doesn't offend her. The particular incident of the "Nigger for Life" tattoo and the broader topic of such theme parties seem to be an issue of insensitivity. Where is the line drawn between humorous, exagger-

ated stereotype and offensive prejudice or racial slur? Perhaps when an individual makes it directly and unmistakably known that he is offended.

A key word throughout the entire discussion was "assimilation," mostly in reference to the question: How easy or difficult is it for minority students at Sewanee to assimilate into the majority? Are there exclusionary pressures? Fahd Arshad asked if there were pressures from within the minority on minority students who had successfully assimilated or created multi-cultural relationships?

Are there pressures to keep majority students from assimilating into minority groups just as there may be pressures to exclude minority students from the minority? Why, in discussions of assimilation, is there an underlying sense of invasion or intrusion into or betrayal of a group?

This raised the issue of neutral ground in race matters. Is there such a thing? Some would say that the Multi-cultural Center is such a place, but others expressed that the atmosphere of the Center wasn't necessarily conducive to what its name suggests. Lizzie Reynolds told a story of visiting the MCC one weekend for a party and feeling very unwelcome. For this Dermont Padmore adamantly apologized, and

Emily Ochenschlager replied that she had always felt more welcome at MCC parties than at some fraternities. Apparently feelings of exclusion can go both ways. In fact, it was quoted by Eric Benjamin that the retention rate for African-American students at Sewanee is 90% compared to 85% for white students. It is a job mutual to minority and majority students at Sewanee to create an open atmosphere for the founding of cross-cultural relationships and to make all feel welcome, despite race.

One member of the panel offered the "token black guy" theory: if a school's brochure is a little too perfectly sprinkled with pictures of minority students, then chances are it is trying to appear more diverse than

it really is. Most of the time image is not reality. You may be able to draw many conclusions about a school from its brochure, but you would probably want to visit before making any final judgments. The same goes for people. The cliché sticks because it's true; you can't judge a book by its cover. Talking about race matters because race doesn't. Or, as the consensus last Wednesday seemed to be, it shouldn't. Sewanee is just scraping the tip of the iceberg on what Mr. Benjamin has described as "a sensitive subject in the American psyche." Hopefully, future forums will allow the Sewanee community to continue participating in meaningful dialogue about racial and cultural issues.

## Sigma Nu from page 1

lowed in the house, including guests of the residents. In addition, Sigma Nu will be allowed one work weekend this semester, during which the house will be open for members of the fraternity to do any needed work on it.

Other sanctions that

Sigma Nu received include five hours of community service to be completed by each member. Also, pledgeship is ended, and the pledges will be activated next semester immediately following the reinstatement of the fraternity.

Hartman explained that

in suspending Sigma Nu for one semester, the University followed a well-established precedent. In Spring 1998, TKP was suspended for one semester because of an incident in which the actives created a "coercive drinking environment for their pledges." Similarly, PKE was suspended for the same length of time following hazing and alcohol violations in Spring 2000.

Phi Delta Theta was suspended for hazing from Spring 1997 until the end of Fall 1999. Of course, Hartman explained that their suspension was also based on "an accumulation of violations through the '90's that made it apparent that they needed to make drastic changes."

Hartman added that in all of these recent cases in which greek organizations have been suspended, they have returned better organizations than they were before. Hopefully, Sigma Nu will also make a successful return to campus next semester following its one-semester suspension.

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CHINA TAICHI CAMP

# Opinion

Friday, February 22, 2001

The Sewanee Purple

## Discovering Islam: Hajj—The Journey of Faith to Mecca

by Mavash Nazir

Staff Writer

For most people, as it did for me, college epitomizes Erikson's fifth stage of psychosocial development – identity versus role confusion. (If you are uncertain of what that means, I am sure any comped psychology major would be thrilled to provide an explanation!) The transition to college life was an uphill journey for me as a freshman. I was an international student, and represented a third of the Muslim student population at Sewanee! Overnight I was transported in to a culture literally

a day; no reminders of the religion I was raised in and for the next two years, the two major celebrations in the Islamic calendar, Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha, (the Islamic equivalents of Christmas) rolled by without my batting an eyelid! Traditionally, there are a host of cultural rituals and festivities associated with these major Islamic holidays; girls and women decorating their hands with beautiful henna patterns, visiting friends and family, glass bangles and exquisite dresses, sweet desserts and Mom's delicious cooking! Without them, I decided, why bother celebrating? Imagine Christmas

of birth alone! I needed to discard previous indoctrination and begin anew. But there were more important questions that required my immediate attention: major decisions, summer internships to plan, courses to choose, papers to write. I went into religious hibernation...till recent world events shook me out of my slumber and finally forced me to begin an active exploration into the religion of my "fore fathers". Now I had to justify my beliefs, but only after I discovered what they were! A few weeks ago, the Women's Center hosted a panel discussion on Women in Islamic Countries and

I was asked to present my views on the topic. The encouragement and further interest of the audience and other individuals after the panel prompted me to consider writing a series of articles about Islam, to share my findings with the Sewanee community as I continue my (informal)

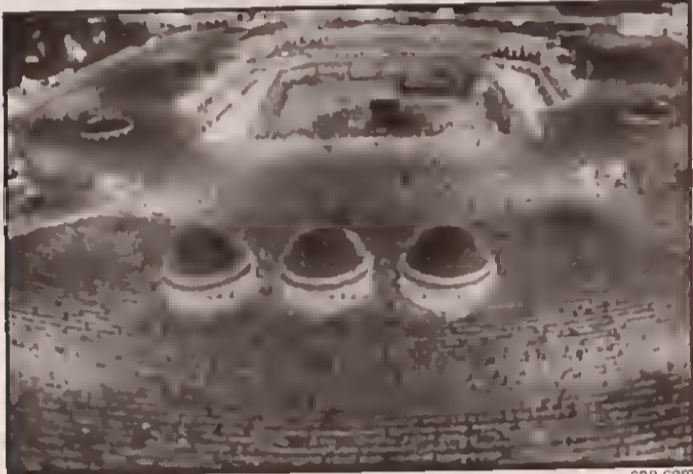
study of the Islamic faith.

This weekend, over 6 million American Muslims, and 1.6 billion Muslims the world over will be celebrating Eid-ul-Adha—the second of the two great annual Islamic festivals. Islamic practice is centered around five main tenets of faith: belief in one God, praying to God five times a day, charity, fasting during the

month of Ramadan, and Hajj/pilgrimage to Ka'ba in Mecca—the holy site of Muslims. The twelfth month of the Islamic lunar calendar is the month of Hajj or Pilgrimage. The first ten days of the month of Hajj are considered to be special holy days when Muslims observe additional prayers, Quranic recitations, and fasting, regardless of whether or not they are on pilgrimage. Every adult Muslim who is economically and physically able to do so is obligated to make this journey once in his or her lifetime. For the last 1400 years, Muslims from all over the world have visited Mecca every year, to perform the Hajj and visit the ancient site of the Ka'ba. In recent

the baby cried of thirst and Hagar ran between the hills several times in search for water. Her prayers were answered by God and as the thirsty little Ishmael struck his heels on the earth out gushed the foun-

tain offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you" (Genesis 22:2). In the Quran Abraham describes the same divine injunction received in a dream: "My Lord! Vouchsafe me



Pilgrims arching the Kaba

cnn.com



Egalitarianism Exemplified by this Simple Garb Eliminates Class Distinctions

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oceans apart from my own. It was a paradigm shift that demanded instantaneous adjustments in my primary language, dress, food, climate, and social structure. Removed from my native social support structure, it became difficult for me to practice the religion of my own volition. There were no mosques; no public calls to prayer five times

without Santa, Christmas trees, or Turkey! So, dressed in jeans and my baseball cap, I went about campus like any other day; there was work to be done. Soon I realized that religion is in many respects a socially constructed phenomenon. I decided that I could no longer continue to passively believe in a hand-me-down version of faith; I had no

study of the Islamic faith. This weekend, over 6 million American Muslims, and 1.6 billion Muslims the world over will be celebrating Eid-ul-Adha—the second of the two great annual Islamic festivals. Islamic practice is centered around five main tenets of faith: belief in one God, praying to God five times a day, charity, fasting during the

tain of Zam Zam. The re-enactment of this tradition during pilgrimage reminds Muslims of that incident of motherly devotion in particular and of their own mothers' love and sacrifices for them. On the ninth day of the Hajj Muslims gather at the mount of Arafat where they believe that Adam and Eve were reunited some two hundred years after expulsion from the Garden of Eden. The pilgrims stand together on the wide plains of Arafat and join in prayer for God's forgiveness, in what is often thought as a preview of the Day of Judgment.

The tenth day of the Hajj marks the beginning of the three-day long Eid-ul-Adha holiday and celebration when Muslims commemorate the deep, wondrous love of Abraham for God in being willing to sacrifice his son in obedience to God's will. Both the Quran and the Old Testament mention this account, but the Quran holds the son to be Ishmael rather than Isaac as in the Old Testament: "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a

of the righteous. So We gave him tidings of a gentle son. And when his son was old enough to walk with him, Abraham said: O' my dear son, I have seen in a dream that I must sacrifice thee". (Quran: 37:100-102). According to the Quran, Abraham was about to sacrifice his son when an angel of God replaced Ishmael with a ram instead. The Eid feast re-enacts Abraham's obedience by sacrificing a cow or ram, two-thirds of which is to be distributed among the needy and neighbors. The Eid starts with a special holiday prayer, performed in congregation. It is a time of celebration, of visiting family and friends, of exchanging gifts, and of thanking God for all the blessings bestowed upon us, and fasting is prohibited during these days. Together Eid-ul-Adha and Eid-ul-Fitr, a festive day celebrating the end of Ramadan, are the two major holidays of the Islamic calendar.

(For more information see CNN's coverage of the 2001 Hajj online: <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/hajj/>)

Several symbolic rituals of Abrahamic origin mark the pilgrimage event. Among them is walking seven times between the hills of Safa and Marwa, two hills close to the Ka'ba, in commemoration of Hagar's sacrifice for her son, Ishmael. According to Islamic tradition, Hagar and her baby were left in the valley of Mecca by God's orders as pioneers to start a new civilization, while Abraham was called away by God to fulfill other responsibilities. In the hot desert,

of the righteous. So We gave him tidings of a gentle son. And when his son was old enough to walk with him, Abraham said: O' my dear son, I have seen in a dream that I must sacrifice thee". (Quran: 37:100-102). According to the Quran, Abraham was about to sacrifice his son when an angel of God replaced Ishmael with a ram instead. The Eid feast re-enacts Abraham's obedience by sacrificing a cow or ram, two-thirds of which is to be distributed among the needy and neighbors. The Eid starts with a special holiday prayer, performed in congregation. It is a time of celebration, of visiting family and friends, of exchanging gifts, and of thanking God for all the blessings bestowed upon us, and fasting is prohibited during these days. Together Eid-ul-Adha and Eid-ul-Fitr, a festive day celebrating the end of Ramadan, are the two major holidays of the Islamic calendar.

(For more information see CNN's coverage of the 2001 Hajj online: <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2001/hajj/>)

## Letter to the Editor

What's the purpose of the McClurg Report Card?

By Ryan Nelson Boykin C'02

One of the most recent additions to the *Sewanee Purple* has this senior very perplexed as to its purpose. Up until this past academic year, there has been no real, general opinion on the dining services here at the University of the South. However, that has changed as of late last semester, or so it appears. The addition of the "McClurg Report Card" has given an insider's look at the true feelings about the food and comestible resources the students on campus have at every meal in every day of the week, in whole or in part. Although this may be one opinion it does not, as the disclaimer says on the top of the report card, reflect the opinion of anybody but the *Purple* staff. Not only that, but the opinions given, except for those on deserts and breakfasts, are consistently negative and degrading to the hard-working McClurg staff.

That having been said, the question that remains to be either addressed or answered is what is the purpose of the report card? It has been this senior's impression that the *Sewanee Purple* is supposed to be the instrument that serves as the mouthpiece of the students of this hallowed institution of higher academic learning. Why then, is the McClurg report card only reflective of what the *Purple* staff thinks about the dining service and not reflective of at least a basic majority of 51% of the student body? How does a very narrow, closed opinion, one that does not reflect the ideals of an institutional mouthpiece, purport to help improve or change the dining atmosphere at

Sewanee.

Furthermore, what comparison is there that proves that the food service given here is less than average and actually needs improvement? From what this senior can tell, none. What follows are some examples of what students and chefs at other universities have said about the McClurg dining services. First, Betty Payne, a manager on staff at McClurg relayed to me that the chef from Kentucky that participated in the Cook Off recently held here said that he wishes the students here could see what he has to work with at his university (apparently the facility is half the size of McClurg and not nearly as clean or nice). Secondly, there was a big SCAC swim meet here recently as well and many of the visiting teams dined at McClurg. Southwestern University, based in Georgetown, Texas, and which I have seen in the past, was one of those teams and they left a striking report, in the form of a thank you card, of their experience at McClurg. Some of what was said was "\*\*\*\*\* for service, \*\*\*\*\* for food, \*\*\*\*\* for Nutrition" and "I have never had cafeteria food so good." Not only that, but one student there even asked us to come visit them and bring our food with us. This was weekend dining on top of that, which is purportedly awful and deserves no greater than an F-

Again the senior is inquisitive and wishes to know why the purported mouthpiece of the institution rates the dining experience on their own and, while claiming that it is not the opinion of the whole school, tries to pass it off as such by stating that the staff hope the negative criticism will help change things. What if other students don't want

things changed? This senior was never asked his opinion about weekend dining, which by the way he finds more than adequate.

The point is, is the *Sewanee Purple* going to be the mouthpiece of this hallowed institution, it should give opinions that are not all negative and that reflect at least a majority of the student opinion. How can anything be achieved if the only feedback that is given on the performance of the dining staff is consistently negative, never praising of the positive aspects of the service, exceptions being breakfast and desert, and not even the opinion of the student body. There is a more effective organ, in this senior's mind, in achieving these ends: the Dining Service Committee. This group meets every month to discuss, through student representatives, that which has been heard through the grapevine from other students about not only the dislikes of the dining service, but the likes of it as well. It was through the agreement of this group that many of the activities this year have been presented, i.e. pumpkin carving and the cook-off, and even though they had already been set up, agreed upon as great ideas. Many of the foods that the students like have been continually served more often because of the relaying of opinions done in these meetings.

One last question: If negative criticism serves a purpose, what purpose does it serve but the degradation and constant frustration of the subject being criticized? It is much easier to focus on improving the negative when one knows they are also doing something positive.

## The Sewanee Purple

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# Sewanee Marches to Take Back the Night

by Emily Oehenschlager

Staff Writer

Last year I attended the Anita Goodstein lecture, where Dr. Beverly Guy-Sheftal, an African-American feminist activist, spoke. When questioned about what our generation could do to become better activists, she said that we could take an issue that really interests us and stand up for it. Write letters, protest, march, and educate others, to actually physically do something about an issue that was our passion. Anyone who knows me well, understands that there are many issues that I hold strong opinions on. So, it is difficult for me to choose just one issue, but combating sexual violence and as-

Take Back the Night is a nationwide event, designed to recognize and support victims of sexual assault. I was pleased that Sewanee would be taking back the night, though I was a bit skeptical that many would show up for the march. The organizers of the weekend, Amy Myers and Courtney Cameron, confided in me that they had contacted fraternities and sororities in hopes that they might send pledges along to the march. It became clear when I arrived at the Sewanee Inn February 9<sup>th</sup> that many of the people who were there were not forced to go because of a phone call, or encouragement from administration.

The Inn's dining room was full of professors, com-

duly noted that such assault occurs at a lower frequency of women. The march began with a song, sung by the popular folk singer Fran McKendree, which recalled I summed up the theme of Take Back the Night quite nicely. The chorus of "Yes means yes and no means no however we dress, whenever we go" became a chant for participants as they marched down University Avenue. The march ended in Guerry Garth where participants were invited to light a candle and observe a moment of silence for victims of sexual violence. The march portion concluded with a song written and sung by freshman Taylor Cornell. Participants were then invited to Convocation for food and to read stories submitted anonymously by sexual assault victims at Sewanee.



Sewanee students and faculty stand at Guerry Garth amid candlelight



Making a Difference, Sewanee takes back the night

Amy Myers

sault is certainly one of the issues most important to me. So, when Sewanee had its first Take Back the Night March on February 9<sup>th</sup>, I was glad to join those participating.

community members, students from all classes, and to the surprise of some men. (Believe it or not, Take Back the Night is for men too. They can also be victims of sexual violence, though it is

lence. The march portion concluded with a song written and sung by freshman Taylor Cornell. Participants were then invited to Convocation for food and to read stories submitted anonymously by sexual assault

ously by sexual assault victims at Sewanee.

I must admit that I came to the Sewanee Inn that night knowing personally people who had been victims of sexual assault. To me though, it was not merely about supporting friends of mine, it was about empowerment and standing up for something that I believe strongly in. It was probably one of the most empowering marches or demonstrations I had ever been a part of. Participants linked arms, and shouted at the top of their lungs. It was a great march. Courtney Cameron and Amy Myers stood out as feminist leaders who rallied students and community members alike for a cause that affects more students than we will ever know.

However I would not be honest if I did not admit that there were a few things that disturbed me about the march. I should say before I get into my complaints,

that these issues have nothing to do with the organization or organizers, but they

more than the organizers or I anticipated, there were few men from the college among

those marching. Contrary to the beliefs of some, you need not know anyone who was personally affected by sexual assault; nor do you need to feel threatened yourself. The Take Back the Night march was not merely for a group of feminists to gather together in the name of man hating. It was simply an acknowledgement that sexual assault happens and that our generation wants to change that.

In a time when political apathy defines a nation, and particularly our generation, we owe it to society (and ourselves) to take these opportunities to change the status quo. At next year's Take Back the Night I hope to see even more students, and especially more male stu-



Taylor Cornell plays in support.

Amy Myers

have to do with my fellow students. While the attention of the march was

## McClurg Report Card

The McClurg Report Card is not designed to criticize or devalue the food or the service offered at McClurg, but it does reflect the critical opinion of the Sewanee Purple Staff as a whole. It is the hope of the staff that by presenting an evaluation of McClurg, we may facilitate improvement in areas that fall short of expectations and continued excellence in areas we find exemplary.

Grade	Service	Explanation of Grade
A-	Breakfast	Still doing fine we believe.
B-	Lunch	Consistently good Mexican food; the frequency, however, could increase. What's the deal with veggie day last Wednesday?
B	Dinner	Pasta station is still great. The deli could use better rolls. Why are the chicken fingers at McClurg markedly inferior to those at the pub?
C	Weekend Dining	Weekend dining received a shot in the arm with chicken Caesar wraps last Saturday, and steaks and grilled chicken on Sunday (all that was previously unheard of). But remember: getting a good grade is easier than keeping it.
A-	Desserts	Waffle cones keep disappearing. But the cakes are excellent.
A	Staff Service	Great. Need we say more?
B+	Intangibles	Mints are back. We're happy.

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# Sports

Friday, February 22, 2001

The Sewanee Purple

## Sports Update

### Swimming

Sewanee Men place 3rd at SCAC Championships, Women place 2nd

Elizabeth Land, Swimmer of the Year

### Tennis

Men: Sewanee 3 Lipsomb 4

Next

### Track and Field

Next event:

Feb. 23 Sewanee Indoor Invitational @ Sewanee

### Basketball

Men: Sewanee 80 Oglethorpe 56

Sewanee 59 Millsaps 58

Sewanee 63 Trinity 73

#### Next 2 Games:

Feb. 22 v. Rose-Hulman

Feb. 23 v. DePauw

#### Women:

Sewanee 74 Oglethorpe 39

Sewanee 72 Millsaps 58

Sewanee 57 Trinity 77

#### Next 2 Games:

Feb. 22 v. Rose-Hulman

Feb. 23 v. DePauw



Lyn Hutchinson

Jane Harrison Chapman starts her race.

## Sewanee Swimmers Finish Strong Season

by Betsy Warfel

Staff Writer

After three days of competition in the Sewanee Natatorium, the tigers ended their season with the women's team finishing second to Trinity and the men in third behind Trinity and DePauw.

In the women's competition, Sewanee challenged old standards as they rivaled their competition. Ending the first day tied (255 points) with the defending Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Swimming & Diving Champion, Trinity; the tigers began the meet undefeated in the first two events. The 200 freestyle relay (Hester Wagner, Sara Atchison, Hadley Dempsey, JH Chapman) won the first race and set a new pool record with a time of 1:39.62. Freshman Lizzi Land

(Memphis, TN) quickly followed suit, gaining the first place finish and SCAC meet record with a time of 5:12.62 in the 500 freestyle.

Day two brought Trinity women into the lead (635 points) followed by Sewanee (547 points) and in third DePauw. The Trinity lead was established through the first place finishes of Christine Jayne in the 400 individual medley and Jessica Isenherg in the 100 butterfly. Sewanee's top finishes for the day included Lizzi Land's victory in the 200 freestyle, the success of the 800 freestyle relay (Lizzi Land, Barnet McConnell, Katy Davis, JH Chapman) for the third time in four years, and Jane Harrison Chapman's first place finish over defending 100 breastroker, Julie Culberison (DePauw). This was Chapman's record 10th win of an SCAC individual

event.

The final session Saturday night crowned two-time defending champion Trinity as the 2002 SCAC winners. With a final score of 951 points, Trinity placed above Sewanee (786.5 points), and DePauw (738) in the eight team race. Sewanee ended the last day of competition with first place finishes by Lizzi Land (1650 freestyle/17:59.20), All-American JH Chapman (100 freestyle/53.63), and the women's 400 freestyle relay (Land, Atchison, Wagner, Chapman). Land shared the SCAC Female Swimmer of the Year award with DePauw's Amy Allen for her perfect record in individual events.

On the men's side, day one left Sewanee (182.5 points) third of eight teams behind Trinity (294 points) and DePauw (249.5 points). The third place pu-

sition was established through a second place finish by senior Jesse Emerson in the 500 freestyle (4:52.82) and the pool record setting victory of Sewanee's 400 Medley Relay of Ned Booker, Marc Ricker, Matt Martelli and Wil Oakes (3:30.31).

This same tour some found victory again (and another pool record) on day two in the 200 Medley Relay with a time of 1:35.59. Matt Martelli won the only other top finish of the night for Sewanee in the 100 butterfly (51.21). These finishes affirmed Sewanee's third place position as Trinity men took first in three individual events and the 800 freestyle relay.

The Sewanee men were not finished as they headed into the final session. Jesse Emerson started the night with a third place finish in the 1650 freestyle

(17:15.09). Consistently, Sewanee had a top eight finisher in every event for the evening; however, that was not enough to overcome the 200 point lead held by three-time defending champion, Trinity who walked away with the title. The men's team ended the meet third with a 445 point total behind DePauw (558 points) and Trinity (645 points).

Overall, the tiger teams were pleased with their results and acknowledge the numerous personal achievements. Performing for a packed house in their home pool also added to the excitement of the meet and the energy that carried the team through the weekend. Senior Captain Ryan Cosgrove said, "There were some outstanding swims and I think conference championships at our home pool was a great way to end the season, and for some their career."

## Track and Field Starts On the Right Foot

by Margaret Chadborn

Sports Co-editor

Hosting nine collegiate track teams to compete at the Tiger Indoor Invitational on Saturday, February 9th, the Sewanee men's and women's track teams performed admirably against their opponents. The men's team dominated the competition, winning the meet with 110 points, followed by runners-up Fisk (76.5), Mississippi College (73) and Mars Hill College (58) among the pack of southern schools. The women did not perform as favorably as the men's side, and placed 8th with 12 points. Tennessee Tech held onto first with 168 points while Mars Hill College placed second (61) and Fisk University third (36) in a 10-team field.

The Sewanee women were lead by the phenomenal freshman of Richmond, Virginia, Liz Lee, who placed third in the 1,500 meters (5:10.86) and the 3,000 meters (11:06.97). Racing at a faster pace than her previous times in both events from the Sewanee-Emory Dual Meet on January 25th, Lee has consistently performed as the number one

runner for the Lady Tigers all season long.

Unmatched by his competition in any of his races through out the day, senior Troy Reine of Robbinsdale, Minnesota, won the 800, 1500 and 3000 meters to pace the men's track and field team to first place. Reine's winning times in the 800-meter (2:05.25), 1500 meters (4:14.42) and the 3000 meters (9:25.26) were faster than his winning times in the same events in the Sewanee-Emory Dual Meet on January 25th as well. Sewanee freshman Mitch Perry of St. Louis, Missouri, also performed notably well, placing first in the high jump, clearing a mark of exactly six feet. Freshman Nate Murphy of Sylacauga, Alabama, placed second in the high jump (5'-8") and second in the 55-meter dash (6.75 sec).

This is the first career win for head track coach Jeff Heitzenrater in his four years at the helm of the Tigers. In his time as head men's coach, Sewanee athletes have established 21 school records in track and field. Under his guidance, six athletes in track & field have earned All-SCAC honors, while in cross country,



Troy Reine leads the pack.

Lyn Hutchinson

one runner has been named to the All-SCAC team, two on the All-Region squad, with one national qualifier.

Now in his 11th year with the university, Heitzenrater came to Sewanee in 1991 to work in the Office of Ad-

mission where he served as the liaison between the athletic department and admissions. He is admired by his athletes, and as Perry commented, "I've enjoyed running for Coach Heitzenrater since the start of my freshman year. I like the way he works and leads the team."

Traveling to Greencastle, Indiana, on February 16th, the men's team finished 5th while the women placed 11th among 14 Division I though III schools in the DePauw Invitational. Lee was the only woman to score for the Tigers and placed fourth in the 3000 meter run (10:53.21) and 7th in the 1500 meter run with a time of 5:02. The highlight of the men's competition was Clay Perry's win in the pole vault with a 3.95-meter jump. In addition, sophomore Zach Philips came in second in the 600-meter race (1:29.30) and Reine placed 8th in the 1000-meter run with a time of 2:39.81. The next competition for the Sewanee Tigers men's and women's track team will be at home, February 23rd.

# Sewanee Basketball Teams Near an End

by Rob Guthrie  
Sports Co-Editor

The Sewanee men's and women's basketball teams recently returned from a trip to San Antonio, Texas, where they embarked early last weekend in search of a pair of victories over two talented Trinity squads. Despite several noteworthy accomplishments, however, both teams were forced to return to the mountain empty-handed.

Both contests took place on the Sunday, the seventeenth of February. The women, who arrived in San Antonio with an overall record of 10-12, suffered a ten-point defeat as Trinity capitalized on its home-court advantage. For a brief moment in the first half, the Lady Tigers held a three-point lead at 7-4, but Trinity hounced back with three quick points, and Sewanee was forced to spend the remainder of the game trying to catch up.

Junior center Rachel Short scored a team-high fifteen points, while freshman Kelleigh Miller led the Tigers with seven rebounds.

The grand finale of the women's season will luckily take place at home during the upcoming weekend, when the Lady Tigers square off against visiting squads from Rose-Hulman and Depauw, both of which represent conference games. Currently, 7-9 in the SCAC, Sewanee hopes to even their conference record with a pair of victories on Friday and Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Both games

**Fordham only needs two more points to bring his career total to an astounding 900 points.**

Sewanee men's team, on the other hand, suffered almost exactly the same fate as the women after battling with Trinity. Like the girl's squad, the men held a brief lead early in the first half when they climbed to a 10-5 lead, but could not muster enough strength to maintain this po-



Mike Eddy shoots a three.

Lyn Hutchinson

take place at six o'clock, and the Depauw contest, which takes place Saturday night, will be prefaced by the annual senior ceremonies, in which departing seniors are recognized before their final competition. This year's seniors include Mindy Bassett, Michelle Chambers, Kayla Goodwin, and Tonya Willett.

The women's team, on the other hand, suffered almost exactly the same fate as the women after battling with Trinity. Like the girl's squad, the men held a brief lead early in the first half when they climbed to a 10-5 lead, but could not muster enough strength to maintain this po-

sition, and thus spent the rest of regulation trying to regain a lead. Ultimately, the men suffered a 73-63 loss, exactly the same final as the girls were forced to accept.

Junior center Jonathan Jarrett recorded thirteen points and a career-high sixteen rebounds, his third double-double of the season, while senior guard Rusty Fordham added a team-high fifteen points. Fordham only needs two more points to bring his career total to an astounding 900 points.

Sewanee enters this weekend with an overall record of 11-12, and a conference record of 6-10. The Tigers will host the exact same opponents as the women, only the men's contests are scheduled for 8 p.m. Pre-game ceremonies are also scheduled for departing seniors Mike Eddy, Will Mishler, and Rusty Fordham.

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# Sewanee Equestrian Team Leading the Region

by Margaret Chadbourn  
Sports Co-Editor

Sewanee athletes are always known campus-wide for their hard work through long hours of practice and grueling games, their abilities and strengths as competitors, and most of all their dedication and will for success. However, many Sewanee students and community members have yet to realize some of the strongest athletes this school benefits from complete their own hours of practice and dedicate themselves to training a little ways past the Fowler Center. Currently leading the Region, the Sewanee Equestrian team is sometimes overlooked, but their accomplishments should be commended. As assistant coach and alumnae Kate Elliot reveals, "This is one of the strongest teams we have seen across the board in years. In all divisions there are great riders who have the desire to win and better themselves each time they go in the ring."

Traveling to Moorhead State University on February 1st, and Midway College on February 2nd and 3rd, Sewanee riders are at their peak of the season, with only one meet left until the Regional competition on March 16th. Participating in both Hunt Seat Riding and Western Riding Shows, Sewanee competed against five other Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Teams (University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Maryville College, Midway College, and Morehead State.) Western riders performed for the judges in the morning shows, and Hunt Seat riders rode in the afternoon. As a team, Sewanee captured the Reserve High Point Team

award in the Morehead State Show on Friday September 1st, coming in second to the High Point Team scorers of University of Tennessee. The highlight of the weekend was on Sunday when Sewanee came in as the High Point Champions and hettered themselves from the previous day, where there were few ribbons won and a small number of points scored. Overall, including all shows this season, Sewanee has accumulated the most points

in the season, with 164, and leads Midway College (163), and then University of Kentucky (161). As junior Sarah Lodge noted, "We have worked hard all season, yet are only ahead in the region by a slight margin and realized that we had to really pull it together in Sunday's show after the disappointments of Saturday."

Showing in five divisions (Open, Intermediate, Novice, Walk-Trot) Sewanee's Equestrian Team, composed of 32 riders, collected eight blue ribbons, six second places, and 13 third place ribbons respectively. First place winners included Jenny Sinclair, McKenzie Carter, Kate Elliott, Ann Ramsey, Molly Waffle, Stephanie Mattes, Julia Black, and Katherine Wilkinson. Red ribbon riders consisted of Katie Daniel, Alice Martin, Katherine Wilkinson, Sarah Lodge, Marisa Schulman, and Kate Kilgore. Third place finishers were Marisa Schulman, Margaret Grimball, Katie Bauer, Kate Whetstone, Katherine Wilkinson, Hally Yandon, Becca Tolbert, Meagan

Binkley, and Marion Wright. With the end goal of Regionals and hopefully an appearance at Zones, seven riders have already qualified for the Regional Meet by combining their individual scores from their showing division throughout the entire year: Katherine Wilkinson, Amy Johnson, Margaret Grimble, Anne Ramsey, Julia Black, Katie Daniels and Katie Bauer. With an excellent coaching

**"This is one of the strongest teams we have seen across the board in years."  
- Kate Elliot**

staff of Assistant Elliot, and head coach Megan Stubblefield, and a core of seventeen returning letter winners and fifteen newcomers, Sewanee will definitely continue the tradition of equestrian athletic excellence through the remainder of the year.

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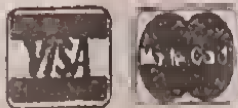
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# Arts and Living

Friday, February, 2001

The Sewanee Purple

## Second City Wows Sewanee

by Debbie McVitty

Asst. Arts Editor

'T was a cold February night when I ventured out of my bed of sickness with the aim of discovering whether laughter truly is the best medicine. The Second City, a comedy troupe from Chicago performed in Guerry auditorium last Friday night, and, judging by the gales of laughter surrounding me, they went down a storm. The act commenced with a series of short sketches to break in the audience. As the evening progressed the six characters took on roles spanning political figures to religious icons. An irreverent take on the Nativity, based on the premise that giving birth to the Son of God is bound to take its toll on the best of marriages provided a particularly

memorable moment. Similarly, the sketch of a governor trying to deny his blatant indiscretions at a press conference, where the press was represented by a set of mannequin heads (a message here perhaps?), gave the evening a satirical rather than a slapstick tone, especially since the governor in question freely admitted a number of other more 'minor' offences, including embezzling funds.

The battle of the sexes came under the microscope, as a restaurant waiter prompted a hapless man to sort out his love life in a game of charades. Whether this sketch was directed against typical men or typical women probably depended very much on the perspective of the viewer. A surreal spy-spoof in which an individual claimed responsibility for a variety of unsolved mysteries, including the stringent



www.secondcity.com

Sewanee bookstore parking regulations, brought home the true value of comedy in social commentary to a loudly supportive audience. As an aside, the Kennedy assassination was also solved in a highly memorable second look at the infamous video reel, in which the driver was revealed to be a drug addict and hula-hoop artist, Kennedy was revealed to have been having a special relationship with everyone in the car, and Jackie was revealed to

have been plain insane. However, The Second City are primarily an improvisational group, and the real comic genius of the show could be found in their "Whose line is it anyway?" game-oriented sketches. A member of the cast would explain the game and take suggestions from the audience, which was becoming ever more raucous as the evening wore on. The audience was asked to suggest film styles, situations, and ask questions to a 'panel of

experts', all of which tested the ingenuity of the actors to their limits. However, they rose to the challenge admirably and were not above talking back to the cheekier audience members, reminding us that at the end of the day, we may think we are funny, but they do it for a living. My personal favourite on this score was a reply made to an individual who had suggested porn as an appropriate film style for the characters to act out. The actor in question replied instantly, "Porn...suggested by the man sitting over there surrounded by other men". A strong soundtrack accompanied the show, between sketches and between acts. A piano was brought on stage, which was used to provide incidental music throughout the show, which greatly added to the comic effect, and often required as

much improvisation on the part of the musician as the sketches themselves. The characters sang in addition to playing roles, most memorably under the influence of helium, which can apparently be used to cheer up a sad clown. The show lasted over two hours, supposedly with two acts, but at the end of the show we were allowed some extra time and the actors added a brief improvised third act, no small feat considering that there were only six of them not including the piano player. All in all, despite having to time my hacking cough to coincide with the thunderous applause, I had a superb evening, thanks to The Second City. Congratulations and thanks must go out to the geniuses at the programming board for booking such quality, almost-clean entertainment.

## A Night of Wigs and Stilettoes



www.acewigs.com

by Becca Stokes

Staff Writer

The weekend of the wigs began innocently began innocently enough. The girls on my hall had decided decided to go to Birmingham for the weekend to see Bob Dylan. They were all really excited at the prospect of seeing him live. I didn't want to crush their dreams by pointing out that Bob Dylan at this point resembled an old leather shoe. I didn't want to think about what he sounded like now. Bob's like a relic, really cool in theory and safely tucked away in your CD player, but something that's just kinda gross face to face.

Anyway, this meant that I would be left totally to my own devices for a period of two days and one night, a prospect that no one relishes after my "freaky fall break" which involved me, a bottle of wine, and lots of crying. I was standing firm in my belief that this wouldn't happen again.

I kept myself busy innocently enough at first. My presence was required to do some cleaning, and then I figured I'd better go to work since I hadn't graced them with my presence in sometime. That

was the plan. What happened was quite a bit different.

I blame the wigs.

That's right, everyone has their own wonderful little vice, with some people it's shoes, with other people it's fly fishing or stamps.... and then with some (namely me) the vice of the moment: Wigs.

After cleaning out the attic in the B.C. I was assigned to take, brush, clean, and style ten wigs in various stages of decay. I wrangled my nose like any normal person would, and took the ripped baggy hilt of them by my pinkie. I walked to work, hanging them against my leg, hoping no one would see the bag and think I'd killed some small dog.

The costume shop is dangerous for two reasons.

1.) When you're there by yourself, it's really easy to turn on the radio loudly and dance with the dress forms, quickly losing all sense of reality.

2.) The place is built like a fishbowl, so just when the dress form starts professing its undying love for you, it's suddenly before an audience of shocked onlookers.

I managed to stay away from both the dress forms and the radio, but I had been sewing for no more than five minutes

when the wigs began to call to me. I arranged the wig heads in front of me, depositing a wig on each one, and as I styled, they each got a name and developed their own distinct personality. When the eleven of "us" began to have a full out screaming match about who would get to wear the pink bow, I knew it would probably be best if I went home.

I swore to myself that I wasn't going to stay in my room watching movies, eating popcorn, and generally being bored. I had made myself a little party map and promised that come nine o'clock I would be out the door and not back there for the rest of the evening. I turned on my music, and let the bag of wigs drop to the floor. A spray of black curls fell at my feet - I knew there was no going back.

I meandered into Stirling's as Magda, an uptight 30 something, a burnt out computer whiz kid who'd seen better days. My hair was a tight, angular black bob which just brushed my chin. I ordered myself a double and sneered at a friend behind the counter. "What are YOU looking at?" My northeast accent was on overdrive, my poor confused friend arched her eyebrows, "I-I-I'm sorry, it's just, well, you reminded me of someone." I straightened my suit jacket and scoffed. She extended her hand full of my change, Magda was feeling gracious.

"Keep it." With that, Magda tossed her hair and left like she had somewhere very important to be.

Bathsheba Jones was my favorite. Her hair was a light brown, and styled just like

Elvis's, sidebuns and everything. I squeezed myself into one of my grandmother's pearly colored jumpsuits, thickened my eyebrows, got rid of the glasses and doubled the size of my lips. Put shortly, I was a total hottie. I strutted into the pub like I knew I was a truly stunning creature. No one looked me in the eye, no one said hello. But this one guy did let me have one of his chicken strips. Pity food, always a plus.

Bathsheba and Magda hit a couple of parties, but Magda would've rather been power-napping and Bathsheba wanted to get order some cheese fries, so I ignored them both and fell into bed.

The next morning I had work to get done, so I did it. Or should I say Rhonda did. Rhonda was a me, only a platinum blond who had a really

hard time understanding big words. She hit her lip a lot, and cried easily. She also wanted to wear a cute little dress, so she put one on and was frolicking around the room reading latin in stilettos.

This was when my roommate entered.

We stood there in an awkward silence, I climbed down from the chair I had been dancing on, pulled off my wig, and shut the music off. Behind my roommate stood the rest of the girls, back three hours early. I had meant to hide the evidence from my two days alone before they returned and tell them about the parties I'd hit, what I'd worn, who I'd seen, how cool and detached I was. But there I stood, teetering on my shoes, circled by a sea of artificial hair. I said the one thing that made sense: "Wanna play?"

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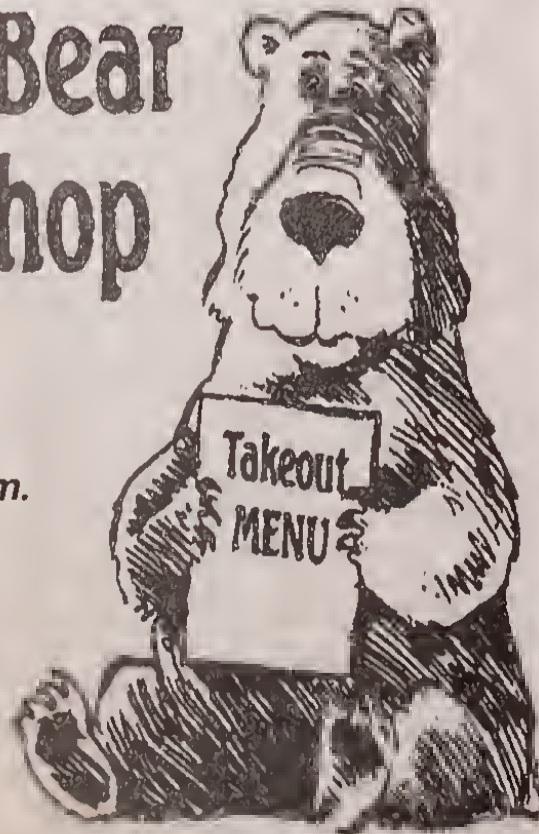
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# Cotner's Top Ten Picks of the Year

## Arts Editor Lauren Cotner Selects the Year's Best

by Lauren Cotner

Arts Editor

Though I really have no qualifications over any other moviegoers, I have decided to rank my picks for the top ten movies of 2001. These ten films are simply my favorites of the year, in no particular order.

1. *Amélie*: This French film by Jean-Pierre Jeunet tells the story of Amélie, a lonely Parisian who grows up as a waitress in a Montmartre. After a serendipitous chain of events, Amélie stumbles across a rusty box of a little boy's long-lost treasures. With her discovery, Amélie is determined to return to the goodies to their original owner. As she sets out on her mission, she becomes wrapped up in an elaborate plot to bring happiness to a vast collection of people—her father, a fellow waitress, a mystery man named Nino, and a mistreated grocery worker. *Amélie* captures the audience's imagination with beautiful cinematography and magnificent colors. In general, the film is a cinematic delight that will produce an almost euphoric reaction in its viewers.

2. *Memento*: *Memento* was never a big money-making success, but its ingenuity and brilliant acting made it a winner among more artsy audiences. The film is a murder mystery of sorts, but it is by no means ordinary. As the protagonist attempts to discover his wife's murderer, the audience learns that he has no short term memory. As a result, the film is told in reverse chronological order, rendering it slightly choppy and confusing at times. The film is certainly worth seeing at least two times because the first viewing will only confuse the viewer, while the second will allow for a true appreciation of this brilliant work.

3. *Shrek*: Though *Shrek* was ini-



The movie *Memento* features a lead character that suffers from extreme short-term memory loss. Hence the pad.

tially targeted to the twelve and under age group, its complex allusions and delightful comedy proved that animated movies could be just as fun for adults. *Shrek* showed the most crisp and colorful animation of recent years making it a joy to watch. Shrek, Princess Fiona, and Donkey interact with a great deal of chemistry, given that they are only cartoons. In the end, *Shrek* reminds the audience of the very important and often forgotten moral that beauty truly lies on the inside.

4. *A Beautiful Mind*: If *Gladiator* had not convinced you that Russell Crowe can act, then *A Beautiful Mind* proves his abilities as an actor beyond a doubt. Crowe plays John Nash, a Nobel prize winning mathematician; however, the film does not focus on Nash's rise to fame. Rather, the film amazingly depicts Nash's struggles with mental illness. As Nash's wife, Jennifer Connelly successfully combines poignancy with frustration in her daily life with a *schizophrenic man*. *A Beautiful Mind* is certainly one of the most engaging depictions of mental illness to hit the big screen, and it deserves two hours of your time.

5. *Lord of the Rings*: With three hours of violence, magic, and fantastic storytelling, *Lord of the Rings* has all of the makings of

an epic. J.R.R. Tolkien's magical books have been around for decades now, but the decision to make them into films only spawned recently under the guidance of director Peter Jackson. The first in the trilogy, *Lord of the Rings* tells the tale of Frodo Baggins (Elijah Wood), a tiny, hairy-footed, hobbit, and his quest to return to Ring of Power to the place where it was forged and thereby put evil to rest. Along the way, Frodo encounters wizards, elves, dwarves, and ladies of the woods in scenes that combine magic, terror, and beauty all at once. *Lord of the Rings* will without a doubt be around for years to come.

6. *Black Hawk Down*: Despite the state of turmoil in the U.S. after 9-11, *Black Hawk Down* proved to be a success among Americans. The film shows war in an honest and brutal way. There is no room for romanticizing in this account of U.S. forces in Somalia. Josh Hartnett, Sam Shepard, Ewan McGregor, Tom Sizemore, and William Fichtner all star as soldiers, and each man shows the desperate nature of the fighting in Mogadishu in an extremely touching way. *Black Hawk* rivals *Saving Private Ryan* for a spot as the most moving war film of our time.

7. *Harry Potter*: After the immense success of the *Harry Pot-*

ter books by J.K. Rowling, the movie's director, Chris Columbus had a somewhat daunting task in creating the film. However, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* turned out to be a cinematic delight in every way. Despite the almost three hour running time that makes the little ones fidget at times, the movie's story proves to be engaging, the cast interacts with much believability, and the cinematography is simply magical. *Harry Potter* will entertain every viewer and might just turn out to be a classic.

8. *Vanilla Sky*: The film is utterly bizarre at times and often confusing, but overall Cameron Crowe's *Vanilla Sky* is certainly the most unique movie of the year. Tom Cruise masterfully portrays a wealthy, New York, magazine editor. He is frequently in and out of love with characters like Cameron Diaz. And then... he meets Sofia (Penelope Cruz), and his world is turned upside down. The film seems to go along like any romantic comedy for the first hour, but then come the added elements of a psychotom ex-lover, a fatal car accident, and a murder sentence. I appreciate *Vanilla Sky* most for its sheer originality, fantastic acting by Cruise, Diaz, and Cruz, and absolutely unequalled plot.

9. *Moulin Rouge*: With frantic music, garish colors, and spasmodic acting, *Moulin Rouge* seems as though the director was on a drug trip during production. Nonetheless, Nicole Kidman shines in the lead role as a dancer and prostitute at the famous Parisian nightclub, the Moulin Rouge. The plot is revealed in musical theater style with most narration and dialogue told in song. This aspect of *Moulin Rouge* will probably annoy the majority of watchers, but I found the singing to be captivating and extremely different from today's standard films.

10. *Bridget Jones's Diary*: Renée Zellweger stars as Bridget Jones in the story of a British woman who starts a diary to chronicle her troubles with her weight, her men, and her career. The film is fun and outrageous while at times upsetting and frustrating. Zellweger, as the heroine, shows the audience the ups and downs of being a single, thirty-something woman on the hunt for a suitable man, and she does so in a charming and witty way. *Bridget Jones's Diary*, though classified as a romantic comedy, is far more than a chick flick. Bridget shares her laughter, embarrassment, tears, and joy with each audience member making her ordinariness seem quite extraordinary.

## Award Show Critique

by Julie Blair

Staff Writer

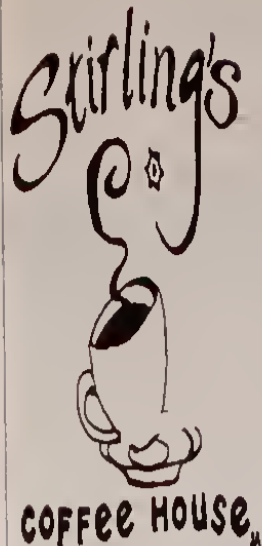
This week the Academy of Motion Pictures of Arts and Sciences announced nominations for the coveted Academy Award. There was a time when I would have thrown an Oscar party and analyzed who wore what by whom and with whom. This year, I did not even click on the link on the AOL ticker. I once heard Jerry Seinfeld joke about what the entertainment industry really needs is another award show because the people who should be on television accepting awards are the beautiful rich people that are already on television. We should celebrate the people that are unnaturally thin that can afford chemical peels and throw away spouses like the paper at the bottom of a birdcage. They should be everywhere for children to emulate.

Even if we were to agree that a mindless award ceremony with over the top cominess is sometimes a healthy deviation from our hectic lives, the production concepts behind the show are silly. The camera zeros in on the winner, who must bestow the requisite kiss on the person nearest. The person pretends that the award is completely unexpected, although that person knew this was a possibility when hearing the nominations weeks ago and upon preparing and attending the ceremony. In the nature of human voyeurism we watch the person thank people we do not know and will not meet. They complain about how little time there is to thank these people. Then, a disproportional woman dressed in a sparkling gown then leads him or her off the stage; the winner then explains what it was like to receive the award and thanks more people in front of the press. In the spirit of appreciation, I have decided to thank some local members of the Sewanee community that I feel truly deserve an award.

If I were to disseminate Sewanee angel awards, I would give one to Retta and Judy, the beautiful and cheery cardswipers. Surely they must

have bad days, as everyone does, but they are always smiling and inquiring into our day. Of course the fire department would get one for protecting our residences and academic buildings. The police might get two, one for protecting the students, and another for giving me rides on cold nights when I am wondering around campus. The EMTs should get one as well. Waste Not is under appreciated. They are literally saving the Earth every week by collecting recyclables. The Honor Council would also receive one of the coveted angel awards. It is because of them that I can leave everything I own all over campus and find it later. The best Sewanee angel award would go to Professor Shubuta, my advisor. He listens to all my problems and patiently deals with my schedule changes. Another individual angel award worthy is Billy, who plays the guitar at the BC. He always smiles and chats with students as they sojourn to the SPO. He posts signs that wish everyone a safe and happy holiday or break. Another angel that any academic should care about is Heidi, the research librarian who can find an answer in no time. This Sewanee angel award thing is not an exclusive comment. Any person or group you feel is under appreciated can receive your gratitude; just say "thank you".

Of course I realize that the Oscar goes to films and commends stellar performances in this area. I love film and believe that a culture is measured by its art. Do not ignore the boost an Oscar gives to the career of a winner. I think the Academy Awards bring attention to arts that would otherwise be ignored such as foreign films and animated ones. Yet as important as it is to recognize fine art in our culture has anyone not heard of even one of the best picture nominees? *A Beautiful Mind*, *Gosford Park*, *In the Bedroom*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *Moulin Rouge*. Perhaps you have not heard of *Gosford Park*, but it probably will not win because advertising blitzes in Hollywood often influence the winners.



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# Faculty Responds

## The Purple seeks faculty opinion

by Joshua J. Wilson  
Staff Writer

Under the leadership of new Editor-in-Chief Raghav Virmani, *The Sewanee Purple* has recently approached several faculty members regarding their impressions of *The Purple*. "The interaction between students and faculty and the relationships that develop therein are, personally, the most cherished aspects of a Sewanee education," Virmani said, regarding his motivation for seeking faculty opinion. "One objective of my Editorship is to revive *The Purple* as a forum for student-faculty opinion, discussion, and debate. With these thoughts in mind, I would like to invite faculty contributions to *The Purple* on issues of mutual interest and concern to faculty and students."

While the actual number of issues read by each faculty member varied, a strong majority of the faculty approached questioned the somewhat random placement of *The Purple* in the Student Post Office

(SPO) upon the paper's publication. "I like to read *The Purple*," said Professor Ruth Sanchez-Imizcoz, "but I don't always get one because I don't always see it. It would be nice to get it in the SPO box."

In the past, *The Purple* staff had the newspaper, upon its publication, placed in the post office box of all faculty members. For some reason, this is no longer the case.

"We have located strategic spots such as the library, ATC, Woods Lab, and Walsh-Ellet for placing copies of *The Purple*," Virmani clarified. "The current placement in the SPO will continue for students going to the Pub or checking their mailboxes. Henceforth, however, all faculty members will receive copies in their respective SPO boxes as well."

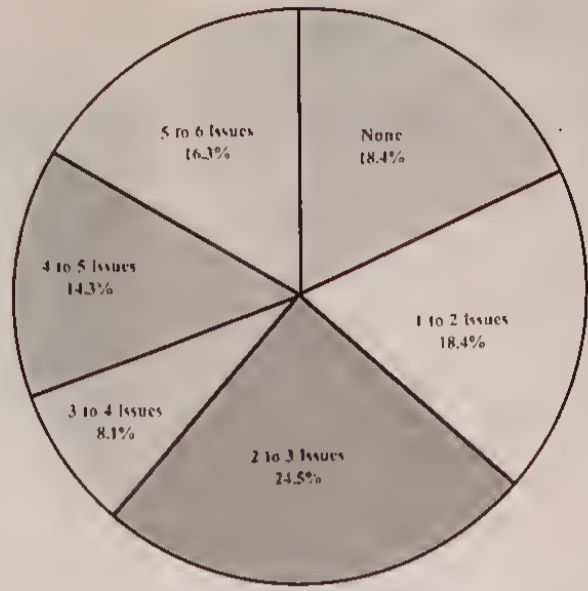
Some of the more popular features in *The Purple*, according to faculty, are the various reviews of films and local restaurants included in nearly every issue of the newspaper. Ryan Doolan's

"High Life" column, published regularly in the fall, was popular among the faculty approached, as was the review of Theatre Sewanee's fall production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. While some faculty members questioned the timeliness of certain film reviews, the overall faculty impression of the various reviews published by *The Purple* was a positive one.

Several faculty members also expressed concern regarding the level of writing and editing sometimes exhibited by *The Purple* staff. While most understood the time constraints suffered by most staff members, the majority of faculty approached felt that the paper could at the very least use a good copy editor and that the editors in general should pay more attention to syntax, grammar, and spelling.

"We have identified a rigorous base of writers and copy editors for each of the sections in the newspaper," said Virmani, concerning steps that *The Purple* is taking to make sure that future issues exhibit a higher and

How many issues of *The Purple* did our faculty read last semester?



Survey conducted by Joshua J. Wilson  
Based on a sample of 49 responses from 100 e-mails sent out to faculty members at Sewanee

more consistent level of writing. "The aim is to reduce pressure on section editors who often face no-shows from their writers and end up writing quite a few of the articles themselves. Sometimes, this pressure may show up in the form of grammatical or

syntactical errors. Ultimately, the editors will do a better job when they stick to their job of editing, that is, when writers are prompt in their submissions. Therefore, we are re-implementing a modest payment system for our writers that will not only create an incentive to write

(and write better), it will also recognize their talent and dependability."

A unanimous sentiment among faculty members surveyed was that Sewanee, as a well-thought-of literary university, should have a well-written and well-edited student-run newspaper

# John Benson Takes Root as SOP Director

by Patrick Wright-Timko  
Staff Writer

The words /College/ SOP in the subject of an e-mail can only mean one thing in Sewanee, TN; the infamous John Benson, (somewhat) new Director of the Sewanee Outing Program, is cooking up another adventure, and you better bring a sense of humor if you're going. I spent time with John on two of the canoeing trips this year—one to the white water of the Hiwassee and Nantahala, and another to the swamps of the Everglades. I can assure you that perhaps it won't be an adventure you'll find, but a misadventure, complete with

unplanned activities, detours, and memorable times. I interviewed John for the behalf of those unfortunate few who have not had an occasion to experience his eccentric personality nor undertake one of his amazing trips.

As the Director of the Sewanee Outing Program, John must tend to an incredible variety of tasks. He is aided by four to five students on Work Study helping him, but he supplies all the knowledge which makes possible the repair of bridges, facilitation of Waste Not, patching of canoes, organization of SOP gear, maintenance of the Bike Shop, and numerous other com-

pletely different activities. Just recently, John finished the repair of the bridge between Morgan Steep and the Cross. Before that, he was dumped the responsibility of informing the Sewanee community of the draining of the dam by the Forestry Cabin; he had assess the influence of the draining on the Perimeter Trail, communicate with various officials, email the community, and write and post signs on the Perimeter Trail.

However, all these praises and descriptions do not truly outline who John is, as a person. I felt that the most memorable times with John were just that; being with him. Whether he is telling a curious and entertaining story, being goofy, or joking around on a trip, without failure he ends up imprinting my mind with a photograph; like, for instance, him pretending he was a monkey, hanging upside down from a chickee in the middle of a lake like a little kid, or sitting around a fire on our own island in the middle of the Everglades, just off the ocean, listening to the stories of him as a kid.

The story from his childhood which strikes me first is when he bought his own moped at the age of eleven. This launched John into the world of motorcycles, to become his hobby and passion later on in life. Currently, he has a BMW K-1100RS (like I know what that means, but the picture certainly does look nice) which he drove this summer practically nonstop from his hometown L.A., California, to Sewanee. He had already been married here on the Mountain to Emily Puckette, a professor of Mathematics, and returned to L.A. for the last bit of packing before he arrived for the beginning of Pre. After a tiring night of hassles with the movers and fitting everything into the vans, John said goodnight to his wife and awaited the wee hours of the morning, when he would set out across the epic deserts of *The Grapes of Wrath* and arrive in Sewanee in 4 days. I looked on Mapquest, and that's



John Benson (Left) with students who participated on the Everglades trip.

over 2000 miles and at least 35 hours of driving, all on a motorcycle. John never rides without his leather jacket, so he leaves in the frigid cold of the desert morning, knowing full well that the noonday sun will bring over 90 degree heat. Much to the chagrin of Emily, John arrived in Gallup, New Mexico before she caught up with him. Afterwards, she experienced an awful fright as two competing truckers shoved John into the shoulder and nearly off the road. John says that a motorcycle trip is "Always eventful, and there is a fine line between enjoying endurance and where the pain comes with the endurance." However, John arrived without consequence (besides a hellish ride in Arkansas, as should be expected, with 110 degree weather and a 115 heat index), and started Pre the next day.

John also spent three weeks in Europe visiting some of his friends. The third week was dedicated solely to a bicycle and motorcycle trip, extending throughout the borders of Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. I would include the entire, laughable, and utterly enjoyable story, but as John admits in an increasingly anxious tone after the half-hour diatribe, "I know my stories ramble. And just think about when I get older...and that was one trying to stay on target!" He

smiles and shakes his head, I just jot down another Bensonism, smile inside, and continue listening. John says the one thing he hates about Europe is the lack of volume in beverages. He orders a four dollar tea and ends up with a petite teacup, complete with cream, but hardly an amount to warm his hands and heart after a long motorcycle ride in the Alps, Black Forest, and all over the mountain passes. He then quizzically remembers when he and his German friend Dominic pass a group of tourists with the exact route mapped out on a placard at the top of the handlebars; he just points in a general direction and says, "There!" The calmer, more retrospective side of his personality reveals itself as he talks fondly of the Villas and famous areas that he and Dominic happened to pass through: "All these tourists were walking around, and I thought to myself that I must be in some famous place in Italy, but I have no idea what it is. Really, in a different environment and with a different mode of transportation, off the beaten track, it is so interesting to find true things which you hadn't planned on seeing when you took off." An instance of this on one of his SOP trips occurred in the Everglades when we couldn't find the chickee as night descended and had to tie up to a mangrove island, sleep-

ing in the boats (we also had to relieve ourselves off the boats and ask any one of the people on the trip to relate just how interesting that was).

Coming up on his schedule, John is planning a spring break hiking and backpacking trip to the Guadalupe and White Sands National Parks in Texas. He is always interested in a student who might wish to lead an SOP trip to go caving, hiking, rock climbing, canoeing, backpacking, or any other activity imaginable. A sky diving trip will be organized some point in this semester, so stay tuned for that. Also, there are spots for two summer jobs as trail crew, and he will begin interviews in March for the 60 spots for Pre, involving Tech Staff, Parents, and Directors. Finally, I leave you with a quote, "The main thing is not for me to lead each trip. The SOP should be for and led by the students. It's the beauty of it, I just help facilitate. And it's not so much the adventure, but the misadventure that intrigues me the most about trips."

John Benson is the Director of the Sewanee Outing Program, Official Storyteller of Campfires, and Jack of All Trades who resides next to Tuckaway Hall and his office is located in the Bishop's Common. The bike shop is located underneath the Women's Center.

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