

Fontbannner

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These Fontbonne freshmen took advantage of the recent snow day on Forest Park's Art Hill (Photo by Claire

"Heroes" Celebrated at MLK Ceremony

by Megan Myers,
Copy Editor

At noon on January 16, about 60 students and staff each received a black ribbon as they filed into the University's Doerr Chapel to attend a ceremony honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Inscribed with the famous words "I have a dream," the ribbons were designed to be worn as bracelets, although a fraction of male attendees resisted. Beyond their appeal as fashion statements, however, the bracelets served to reflect a belief held by a number of people in the audience that day: that Dr King's dream was, indeed, coming full circle.

This year's MLK ceremony was "timely," says Leslie Doyle, Director of Multicultural Affairs, because it preceded the inauguration of President Barack Obama by only a few days. Members of the audience were visibly stirred as Director of Transfer Recruitment Dorothy Davis

read a poem describing an imaginary Inaugural Ball for President Obama attended by pioneers of civil rights such as Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, W.E.B DuBois, and Dr. King, himself.

Doyle, who organized the event, says she was deeply moved by the poem. "As she read the names of all of those 'firsts' like Marian Anderson and Jackie Robinson, I had to hold back the tears. I just loved imagining all of these trailblazers being able to witness such a historic event," she says.

Doyle says that her focus in putting this year's ceremony together was to encourage a "good mixture of people from diverse backgrounds and races to come together for the program" while "highlighting those who have worked for change." To achieve this end, she selected a number of individuals in the University community to speak about their own "heroes" during the program, which ranged

See "MLK" on p.2

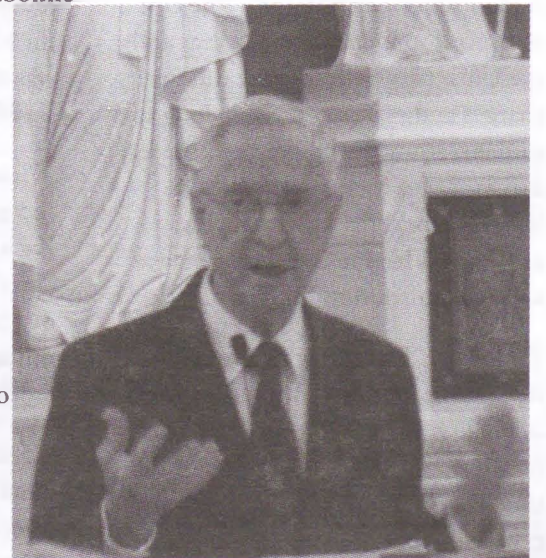
"HISTORICAL?" Bishop Remi De Roo Visits Doerr

by Jessica Thurmond,
Reporter

Bishop Remi De Roo, a Canadian Bishop who took part in the Vatican II Council, spoke to the Fontbonne Community on January 21, in Doerr Chapel. Bishop De Roo has been a member of the Canadian Conference of Catholics for almost 50 years and was invited to come and speak by Professor Jill Raitt, holder of The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Endowed Chair in Catholic Thought.

The Vatican Council was established on October 11, 1962 by Pope John XXIII and ended on December 8, 1962, though it was later brought back together by Pope Paul VI. The Council was a group

of bishops, scholars and theologians as well as laymen who came to talk about the state of the church and instituted many changes. Throughout the lecture



Bishop Remi De Roo speaks in Doerr Chapel

Bishop Remi De Roo talked about his experience meeting Pope John XXIII and how he spent his time in Rome.

In the end the Vatican Council came up with a Constitution on the Church decrees on Ecumenism and *See "Bishop" on p.2*

Student Witnesses Obama's Inauguration Live in D.C.

by Elizabeth Sharpe-
Taylor, Reporter

It's 9:30 in the gloomy morning of Jan 20. As I'm standing on a patch of grass in the middle of an over-stuffed crowd patiently watching a blank jumbo screen, I realize: it is way too cold and crazy for anyone to be outside in these weather conditions. But alas, I suffer through the chill and remain in the mob of people. The aroma of Starbucks' lattes and blueberry muffins tickle my nose. Icy winds roll across my face, and my fingers start to freeze. I'm hungry, but don't want to forfeit my position, so I sit frustrated at the base of the Washington Memorial.

Conversations around me begin to heat up as people discuss their concerns with our national government.

Topics range from healthcare to the war and bailouts to the green movement. Suddenly, crowd chatter breaks as an authoritative voice instructs the masses to be seated. Seated...really? It is way too cold for that! I'd rather stand at the 2009 Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama.

I'd say I had a great time even after waiting two hours at the Metro train stop because two trains broke down from being over capacity, even after losing my sister in a running mob of people who were trying to get into to the National Mall before the gates closed, and even after people booing Former President Bush and military preventing me from getting to my ticketed seating.

Although people sang in the streets and gave each other

high-fives as they rushed to catch a glimpse of the next president, everything was not all "kum ba yah." Many protesters broadcasted their dissatisfaction with the newly elected president with their trusty blow-horns. One particular protester with sign in hand tried to explain how Barack Obama doesn't represent a step towards equality. This protester, who requested his name kept anonymous, had his particular opinions about the new president. "Black America didn't put Barack Obama in the white house...white America did," he said. "You need to ask yourself why did white liberal votes put [Obama] in the office?"

As he yelled his perspective, more protesters came out to express their unhappiness with the new president.

However, the beauty of the inauguration revealed itself when people from all ages, races and various backgrounds came together and chanted "Oh-Ba-MA!" They screamed and clapped while they recited the new president's name. The crowd's reaction to the protesters eventually shut the protesters out. Most protesters packed away their gear in defeat from the overwhelming support of faithful Obama-believers. It was remarkable to see such a battle of anger versus hope.

Has Barack Obama really brought us together? Has he truly shown America how to hope again? Maybe, in this split second of community action, he has. Maybe President Obama is the change we need. He definitely changed most minds of some on this cold January day.

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Percentage breakdown for University spending in 2007-2008:

Instruction and Academic Support ... 60.2 %
Institutional Support ... 18%
Student Services ... 13.7%
Residence Halls ... 7.2%
Other ... 0.9%

*A sidebar to the "You Paid for It" article below

You Paid for It: Reporter Gets Scoop on University Spending

by David Dickerson, Reporter

Fontbonne University is one of the leading master's comprehensive universities in the St. Louis area, and while the tuition rates of recognized competitive institutions in the area range from the lower \$20,000s to the middle to upper \$40,000s, the University only charges their students just over \$19,000. The cost of education increases every year and the University believes they can justify charges and expenses passed along to students from "rising prices for energy and other utilities, salaries, health insurance benefits for employees, etc.," says Vice President for Finance and Administration Dr. Gary Zack.

Zack says, "It is important for an institution to invest in improvements in quality. For the University, that means increasing the numbers of full time faculty, renovating facilities and expanding our academic program with new undergraduate and graduate majors." He also announced during the University's all-campus meeting that, even during the fragile economic crisis, the Board of Trustees improved a 2.5 percent tuition increase for undergraduate students in the 2009-2010 school year, and a 4.5 percent tuition increase for graduate students attending the University. Zack says

that over 80 percent of students receive some form of financial aid, even though, "a full time undergrad student pays only about 70 percent of the true cost of education here," says Zack.

He also says that while the cost of education is rapidly on the rise, similar institutions, including this University, are still taking a percentage loss per student. Zack says, "tuition for a full time undergraduate student was about \$6,000 less than the actual cost of educating a student."

While spending on instruction has increased over the last ten years, Zack justifies this through increased enrollment; saying "the amount of our budget spent on instruction and other educational support has averaged around 70 percent each year."

Concerning the increasing administration costs that it takes to operate the school, Zack says, "On average, our spending for administrative costs is lower than what our peer institutions spend in the area. The benchmark for spending on administration by other similar sized institutions is around 21 percent of their total annual budgets; for Fontbonne, we average 17-18 percent." Overall, the University spends more on instructional costs to hire and pay for teachers than administration costs.

As for how the University controls and monitors excessive unnecessary spending, Zack says, "Fontbonne does not have a large endowment, so we are especially attentive to our costs. We have to control costs in many ways, but I think the key to this is that those who manage budgets here (department heads, academic department chairs, etc.) do a good job of keeping spending within limits."

As a way to get a handle on the yearly rising cost of tuition for all students, Zack was asked what can be done to lock in regular students' tuition like the University's Options program. To this, he says, "This idea comes up occasionally and a small number of other schools have tried this. A serious problem is that fixing tuition for one class of students places a greater burden on those that follow. Like most schools, we apply the tuition rates across all students and then use financial aid to help students and families with the added cost."

Concerning what Zack thinks about students covering a bigger share of their tuition with the price of education on the rise, he says, "Need-based financial aid has always been a three way partnership: The expected family contribution, scholarship and

grant aid from the institution, and federal and state aid. As costs increase over a decade or more, federal and state dollars haven't always kept up, so it has fallen to families and the institutions to make up the difference."

Zack says, "The ability of families and students to pay is always central to the discussion about tuition rate changes and, in my 25 years here, I've observed that Fontbonne has been careful about the size of increases. For comparison, 25 years ago the tuition at St. Louis University was about \$600 more per year than at Fontbonne. Today, tuition at SLU is over \$11,000 more per year than at Fontbonne."

Even in this struggling economy, scholars are electing to spend more on their private education. "Many students at Fontbonne consider their private education to be a bargain; while others think the cost is a bit excessive," says senior Lillian Clark, who elected to attend this institution because of her perceived degrees' prestige and market value after graduation. Clark admits the clinching reasons she selected this institution was because of "its location, low student to instructor ratio and its tuition as compared to other reputable, accredited colleges and universities in the area."

"MLK" cont'd from p.1

from Mary Wollstonecraft to the Sisters of Selma to President Barack Obama. Alongside these famous figures, more obscure "heroes" were also honored for their endeavors to bring about positive change in the world. Director of Campus Ministry Tony Mravle paid tribute to Eduardo Reyes, a worksite coordinator with Esperanza International, while Assistant Director of Campus Ministry Sarah Schumacher named the University's student body as her inspiration. A slideshow played throughout the program included pictures of the heroes being profiled, as well as quotes from renowned peace activists such as Mahatma Gandhi. Faces in the audience looked wistfully ahead as senior Brittany Childress read a poem by Maya Angelou entitled "Human Family." Erica Jones, a member of the University's Diversity Committee, also read a poem during the program that repeated the phrase "to have hope," and freshman Michael Horn led the crowd in a responsive prayer. Halfway through the program's speeches, local jazz vocalist Brian Owens took the stage. Owens' voice

rang through the chapel with lyrics like, "People get ready, there's a change coming." After the performance, the song "We Shall Not Be Moved," began to play as a slideshow projector presented a tribute to Dr. King with pictures and information about important milestones in his life and work. The slideshow was composed by junior Courtney Harris, who says she wanted to honor Dr. King in a way that would be both an "enjoyable" and "educational" experience for the audience. Shaun Robinson, who accompanied the event's guest performer on guitar, says that he was especially struck by the presentation on the Sisters of Selma, a group of nuns who were active in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. The sisters, deemed "courageous" by Robinson, were responsible for organizing the University's first ceremony to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day on campus. As Robinson packed up his guitar and headed out of the chapel towards the reception in the hallway, he proudly wore his black ribbon with Dr. King's image and words—but on his shirt, not his wrist.

"Bishop" cont'd from p.1

Eastern Rite Churches as well as decrees on bishops' and Christians' education, religious life and priestly training, and a declaration of the relationship of the church with non-Christians. Appointed on Oct. 31, 1962, Bishop Remi De Roo is one of a few bishops who are still alive to tell the story of what happened in those four sessions. Throughout his lecture Bishop Remi De Roo discussed about how he signed documents on specific topics, or interventions, and how he addressed the council on these issues at the time. Since not all students are Catholic, why is having Bishop Remi De Roo come and discuss this at the school important for the Fontbonne community? Assistant Campus Minister Sarah Schumacher says "the Vatican Council has opened the church to other denominations, and helps to include all different faiths. It has benefited the Fontbonne community and the Catholic Church in general." Schumacher says that the Bishop's work has "affected the look of the Catholic Church, and how

we present mass and service." For instance, the Vatican II has helped with the language it is spoken in; the mass was original in Latin but the council said churches could use the language spoken in that area. Professor Jill Raitt says that having the Bishop come to school benefited the University as a whole. "As a Catholic University, it is important for Fontbonne to understand the importance of an event as a church council attended by 2,500 bishops from around the world," she says. "Vatican II changed some aspects of Catholic practice and encouraged greater lay participation in the liturgy and in parish life." Overall, Bishop De Roo's message for Fontbonne emphasized that the council aimed to bring people together rather than focus on separation.

**To find out more about
Campus Ministry,
visit the website or call
314-889-4523**



Students Express Concern, Make Adjustments in Tough Economy

by Andrea Castleberry and John Gibson, Reporters

Unless you have refused to turn on a television, fuel up your car, or read a magazine, newspaper, or online article in the past several months, then you more than likely know that the state of the nation's economy is not the greatest. This hasn't only hit the pocketbooks of corporate America and Wall Street who have had to close businesses, thus effectively eliminating legitimate, hard-working blue-collar jobs, but instead, has hit everyone. The annual jobs lost have reached its worst point since World War II (cutting 1.9 million in the last third of 2008), and, according to CNN.com, as of January 9, the current unemployment rate has hit the astronomical mark of 7.2%. Instead of our mothers and fathers wondering what to do upon retirement, the question has now become "how will I retire?" Instead of pondering the opportunities of where to attend college, the question is now, simply, "can I afford college at all?"

President Obama has said that "change will come to our country," and it's obvious that the country needs it. It is in these desperate times that citizens worry and wonder about how their futures will turn out. Such worries are also on the minds of University students, questions like, "Will I be able to afford to finish school and will it [the University] be there to support my financial strains?" says freshman Brittany Cosey.

Despite the current recession, it appears that the University has a strong standing in. Vice President of Finance and Administration, Gary Zack says, "I have been working in this department for eight years... our enrollment has grown substantially." According to Zack, "the key to Fontbonne's success is tuition." In order for tuition to keep coming in, students must attend. However, even with an

unsound economy, "the enrollment has remained on target," Zack says.

Also, less than 1% of the University's income comes from the endowments, as opposed to larger universities. This means that there is a significantly lower dependency upon non-tuition-based income. When the stock market crashed, and other universities' endowments lost millions of dollars, ours only dropped slightly.

Although enrollment has not yet faltered, the University has plans to keep students in school, including ways to assist each individual student, as well as the whole of the University's community.

First and foremost, if there are increases necessary, they will be kept moderate. Drastic changes can affect many people; slight changes will not hurt as much. Also, financial aid will still be readily available.

"As long as I get my financial aid, I'm happy," says Sophomore Jana Lomax.

Now that there may be more competition for financial aid, "I'm more worried about qualifying," sophomore Katherine Sandroni says.

The University has kept extra money in case of emergencies which can help with the possible increase in financial aid need. "We look carefully at how we can improve packages in Financial Aid," Zack says.

So without question, the current economic status is affecting the lives of university students. Even down to the small financial decisions, students are making adjustments.

"I don't go home in between classes when I can just so I can save money on gas," says junior and Student Government President Andy Dusanowsky. "And I take extra hours at work so I can pay for stuff. Plus, I buy the cheap brands of items."

"It's a lot harder to do leisure activities that cost money," says freshman Lisa Obermark. "Every now and then is okay, but I can't go shopping or out to eat and a movie as often as I used to."

In today's society, the idea of change has never been so prominent, and equally, never has it been so needed – not only as individuals trying to adapt, but the way the country conducts its business. "It's criminal how these oil companies like Exxon can turn a 50 billion dollar quarterly profit while the country is in debt like it is and out of work people are being charged \$4.50 for a gallon of gasoline," says a University parent. "Lowering the prices to what they are now is about the only charitable thing they've done for the working man."

Not only have company closings cost the working American their jobs and steady source of income, but it has also affected the new hunters on the job market. "I was hoping that graduating in December would have given me the advantage of not having as many people looking for jobs" says recently graduated finance major, Jim Pingleton. "But with the current state of the economy, it is very hard to find a job. Unemployment is way up and people are letting employees go – not hiring them."

Not only is it difficult for the recently graduated to find jobs, but also those who have been in the work force for some time. "One trend I've noticed is that a lot of alums are coming back for career counseling" says administrative assistant in Student Affairs, Mary Asaro. It just goes to show that even while taking all the right steps in preparation for a future in the workplace, nothing is guaranteed and nothing should be taken for granted.

So while some struggle with the wavering economy, and many students make adjustments to adapt financially, it is at least a reassurance to know that the University is stable and prepared for difficult fiscal strain.

Tips for Poor College Kids by Krista Brown, Editor-in-Chief

-Grocery shop instead of eating out! (Aldi's or Shop n' Save are the best. However, it's also the creepiest. Especially after 8p.m.)

-Make a LIST and clip coupons! Sure, you may think only Grandma does that...but Grandma also has a buttload of money in the bank that she'll hopefully leave you when she's...er, done clipping coupons.

-WALK places, it saves on gas. There's a ton of stuff within walking distance. Just be sure to either A) Don't wear an iPod while you walk, or B) Don't walk zig-zaggedly around on the sidewalk. The combination of A & B = C) Cause a biker to crash after they unsuccessfully (due to A) tried to warn you they were coming. Please feel free to ask our columnist, Jake King, about such an incident.

-Instead of heading to the Galleria or Esquire to see the latest flick, check the RedBox—or, better yet, the Library—for another goofy romantic comedy. Before you know it, you'll have accumulated quite the small fortune of savings.

-Don't do laundry on campus. If you can, take it home and do it at the folks' house. That's what I do—it saves \$2 (per load!), plus the cost of detergent and dryer sheets. (*Note: If you don't go home at least once every couple of weeks, I would advise you NOT to go without washing your clothes. Please, for the good of all, bite the bullet and spend your quarters.)

Fontbonne OPTIONS Leaves Clayton Location

By Elizabeth Sharpe-Taylor, Reporter

On February 4, the Fontbonne University OPTIONS Program relocated from its former Clayton location and is currently in the midst of its move to the new Brentwood location. The move is set to be completed by the end of the spring semester, and is part of the OPTIONS Program's step to expanding the University's accessibility to more students in the St. Louis area.

Concerns about the new location arise from students as the construction of highway 40 present some road blocks to the new location. Six-hundred students will now change commute as a result of the new location. Associate Vice President for Graduate and Adult Enrollment, Jerry Bladdick says, "Even with highway 40 shut down, students have plenty of ways to access the new building. We have provided maps for our students with alternative routes."

The new building will create other methods of transportation for the OPTIONS program with convenient accessibility to the metro and bus stops in Brentwood. A metro stop is located two blocks west of the new building, and there is a bus stop located off Hanley next to the Houlihan's Restaurant. Food is also plentiful as restaurants are in close walking distance. The new OPTIONS building is located at 1300 Strassner Drive.

Students start the transition to the new building in March, a month before the official April 30th Open House. In addition to its newest, the University currently has several locations in the St. Louis Metropolitan area, including the South County facility at Kennerly Center, North County facility at Paddock Hills Plaza Center in Florissant, The St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf in Chesterfield, Downtown at the Missouri Athletic Club and the St. Louis College of Health Careers in Fenton.

Mary Beth Gallagher: Living the Mission

by Cathy Burns, Reporter

"Fontbonne University seeks to educate students to think critically, to act ethically and to assume responsibility as citizens and leaders." – taken from Fontbonne University's Mission Statement.

"Are we considering how our work is a service to the world?" asks Dr. Mary Beth Gallagher. As Assistant to the President for Mission Integration, Gallagher's job is to see that the Fontbonne community is living the values inspired by the Sisters of St. Joseph who founded the University.

By way of further explanation, Gallagher offers this hypothetical: "Suppose a student goes through the cafeteria line four days a week for four years at Fontbonne and never learns the person's name that fixes lunch for him or her. That would be living contrary to the mission statement," says Gallagher. She would prefer to have us all embrace an "attitude of gratitude for the contributions of everyone else."

Gallagher explains that, along with the mission statement, the supporting documents on Commitment, Vision, Values and Statement of Catholic Identity all "reiterate the

same thing from different standards."

"Is the mission statement just a long-winded document that gets framed in the president's office? We hope not," says Gallagher.

So what would mission integration look like to the average Fontbonne student? Gallagher would like to see students "initiating justice activities" and participating in the ones that already exist.

Gallagher was quite impressed by the number of mission-related activities already existing when she arrived at Fontbonne in

January, such as some of the dedicated-semester events and environmental efforts, saying that "the Bosnian exhibit is amazing."

Before joining the University community, Gallagher taught sociology at the University of Wisconsin, St. Louis University, the University of Missouri–St. Louis, and Washington University. Gallagher, who prefers to be called Mary Beth, loves to bake and admits to a passion for cooking shows. A native of Chicago, Gallagher has two children: a son, 26, who lives in Minneapolis and writes for the website "Politics in Minnesota," and a daughter,

23, who lives in Chicago and works as a buyer for Whole Foods Market.

Gallagher is impressed by the students she has met, and she invites students with new ideas to knock on her door, which is located in the East building, in room 321.

Fontbonne University's Mission Statement, Commitment, Vision, Values and Statement of Catholic Identity can be found at <http://www.fontbonne.edu/about/mission>.

Biloxi or Bust! Student Organization Heads South to Help Out

by Abena Ampofo, Reporter

This winter break, University students took active steps to participate in our mission of thinking critically, acting ethically and assuming responsibility as citizens and leaders. FISH, or Fontbonne In Service and Humility, a service-oriented student organization, took part in their third trip to Biloxi, Mississippi, a city along the Gulf of Mexico.

Two days after hurricane Katrina, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour told MSNBC that over 90 percent of buildings along the coast were destroyed. And almost four years later, two-thirds of all households are still desolated. When director of campus ministry, Tony Mravle, began setting up measures to serve those impacted by the storm, New Orleans was the city to help.

Due to extensive media

on their dire situation, it was only natural to think of New Orleans as the disaster area most in need of service. However, sometimes plans change for the best.

"At our second meeting preparing for the trip, we learned that we could no longer go to New Orleans because so many people had gone down to help, there was no room for any more volunteers," says junior and FISH President, Mary Gould. So the group shifted their sites to Biloxi, "where there was just as much need for help, if not more," says Gould.

The first year, Mravle and a group of thirty-three students went down to Biloxi, many obstacles arose. A year and a half had passed since the hurricane, but there still weren't any street signs. When the caravan of seven

minivans eventually found the church they'd be boarding in, which was part of The Catholic Disaster Relief Services, a subset of the Archdiocese of Biloxi, they quickly became familiar with



Sophomore Rachel Hanson pulling nails out of some wood

strained amenities. "The first year was definitely a challenge for some; the place we stayed was overflowing with people, some students even slept on the

kitchen floor," says Gould. They set up cots and air-mattresses in separate male-female rooms, while becoming acquainted with other volunteers from the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, and other local groups.

This first experience did not dissuade volunteers because everyone involved in rebuilding efforts had one goal in mind: Getting things back to "normal." Normal, though, is estimated to take anywhere from ten to twenty years.

By their third voyage to Biloxi, the group has become accustomed to the city. "People aren't territorial;

wherever help is needed, we go," says Mravle. The group has helped The Salvation Army tear down a disaster response center while they rebuild a \$14 million community center for youth or anyone in need. Some students worked on salvaging lumber for the construction of new buildings; others painted, and a few students helped build a fence.

"One group of students, the home crew, would stayed behind to clean up after everyone, cook dinner, and prepare for theme night. Every night there was a different theme and they'd set everything up accordingly," says Assistant Director of Campus Ministry, Sarah Schumacher.

Progress has been made in Biloxi since the group's first excursion. "It's been a blessing to see the progress. The work for me is meaningful," says Schumacher. "There are one of just a few volunteer organizations left in Biloxi; they are definitely still in need of assistance, and as long as there is need, we'll still go," says Gould.

The social aspect of service has also given students an opportunity to learn about different cultures, while learning about themselves, their weaknesses, or biases. "Students get to be exposed to



the Freshmen Maggie Pohl and Libby Brauss

justice issues which arise from tragedies. Just connecting with the human kind in adult conversation makes it all worth-while," says Mravle.

Campus Ministry and FISH encourage students to travel and explore the spirituality of different cultures around the world. "The experiences I've had through FISH have helped me to grow and learn so much about the community we have at Fontbonne, and the needs of the world we live in," says Gould.

There is a variety of upcoming service trips for anyone interested. There are local service opportunities and monthly "Tent Events"—the first is on February 18 at 8:30 in the AMC, and will be a Mardi-Gras themed shindig. In the summer, FISH will travel to Belize to continue the University's sustaining impact on the country, by working towards building a church and libraries, tutoring children, and doing manual labor projects.



FISH & other participants in the service trip coverage Photo courtesy of Erica Jones

A Look at Lee:

Coach McKinney Celebrates 20 Years At University

by Sam Waites, Sports Editor

Legendary Fontbonne University Head Basketball Coach and Athletic Director Lee McKinney refuses to pay attention to the contract stipulations of his peers (other college coaches). He's also not looking to move up (although he's had his chances) and coach at an athletically prestigious Division I school like Florida or Michigan; schools whose athletic budgets are astronomical. These and other powerhouse state universities annually hand out far more athletic scholarships than they offer in academic financial aid making it a whole lot easier for the coaches of the so called "BCS Schools" to do their job.

The overwhelming amount of attention and pampering that Division I coaches get has little to no effect, however on the conscience of Coach McKinney, an icon not only in the realms of Missouri basketball, as 1992 inductee to the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame but in the entire college basketball community.

McKinney the only man to ever coach the Griffins men's basketball team, dating back to its conceptual season in 1989, is a sometimes soft spoken figure who combs his remaining strands of grey hair towards his brow. Remarkably, he hasn't entirely become a victim of the natural balding process that occurs pre-maturely for most full time head coaches due to the induced strain that is an eventuality of the highs and lows of such a demanding occupation.

Coach McKinney is complacent, both as a family man and as the stubborn, forty-seven year veteran of high school and college sports in Missouri. Coach, as he affectionately is known around campus, epitomizes the authenticity of the saying that old school is good school. "I've beaten cancer twice and had two surgeries on my shoulder," he says. "And I wouldn't have been able to do it without these kids and this great game."

McKinney has no hesitation when asked how he has been able to go his lengthy career without missing a single game, 1,300 and counting). "Not even Calhoun can claim that one," He chuckles and gives a grin when I make this reference to the University of Connecticut's long time head coach, who has missed some time in the past while recovering from cancer.

Outside McKinney's offices, there are framed photos of three friends and peers in Men's NCAA Basketball, Tom Izzo (Michigan State), Denny Crum (formerly of Louisville), and aforementioned Jim Calhoun. Those well respected, championship winning coaches deserve much acclaim for their many accomplishments, but those gentlemen are solely in charge of only basketball operations for their respective programs. McKinney runs the entire Athletic Department for Fontbonne.

McKinney, who has his doctorate in Physical Education, says, "I tell all my coaches that have other jobs besides coaching: come to work and keep coaching out of your mind except for those three hours a day when you're at practice or in a game." Simplistically stated for a man who comes from modest means and a humble background and yet he has tried to pass along the work ethic that defines his generation to all of the kids he interacts with.

"I came from an uneducated lower class family who wanted to give their kids a chance to succeed in this country," he says. "I was the first person in my family to earn a college degree, so I've never taken anything for granted."

A native Saint Louisan, McKinney graduated from Southwest Missouri State University (now known as Missouri State) in Springfield, Missouri. He coached his first high school game in 1962 and he hasn't looked back since. He left high school coaching for Missouri Baptist College and quickly

built a consistently winning team during his tenure there, holding the dual positions of head basketball coach and athletic director.

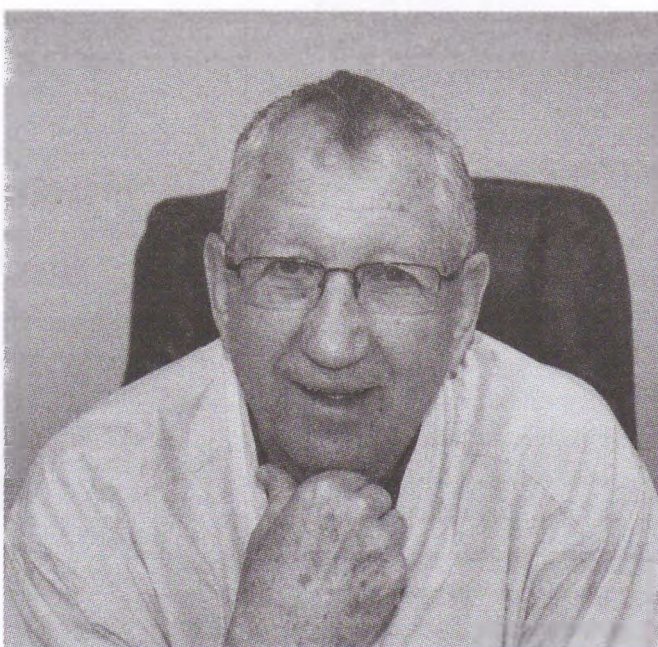
For McKinney, an unrelenting optimist, the change from high school to college basketball was smooth sailing, except for one minor change in the rule book. "We didn't have a shot clock in high school ball," he says. "In fact, most high school games still don't have one. But I always had an up-tempo style as a coach, I wasn't the type of coach who'd tell the kids to hold on to the ball and run the clock out."

By the time 1989 rolled around, McKinney was looking for a positive change in his professional career and got just what he was looking for when former Fontbonne President Meneve Dunham asked for his services in building up the school's athletic department. "She called me, saying, 'right now all we have is a volleyball team. I want to have a fundraiser and try to build an entire athletic complex.'" A lofty proposal when Fontbonne College, as it was then known, had virtually no campus environment and was almost entirely a school for commuters.

Dunham also promised McKinney he'd retain both the positions he had grown accustomed to while at Missouri Baptist College, and that she'd build him a brand new basketball court.

"I needed something to recharge my profession," McKinney says in a somewhat serious tone, and then he glances up at a sweaty, heavy breathing visitor to his

office. "How'd you manage?" he asks a blonde female athlete wearing sweats, who I learn from being present during the brief chat, has just completed the athletic endeavor of running fifteen laps around the Dunham Activity Center's indoor track. During his last remark, McKinney's demeanor has quickly returned to the



Coach Lee McKinney
Photo courtesy of the Athletic Dept

amicable self that he is most comfortable with and that we at Fontbonne have come to cherish. "Good. Next time go for twenty." McKinney says in his all-too-familiar encouraging tone, as the girl casually exists the office as if she had just been conversing with one of her peers. McKinney has had this reassuring effect on many students who've had the opportunity to make his acquaintance throughout his tenure at Fontbonne.

Another temporary halt to our interview occurs right after I ask the man (who has won over 700 games lifetime and is known as "The Cal Ripken of College Basketball") how long he plans on coaching. This time the delay is the phone in his office ringing. He picks it up, saying, "This might be for me." I think McKinney needs time to ponder the question that I have just directed towards him.

After Coach McKinney hangs up the phone I inquire about the call's meaning out of curiosity. "We just set up a Thanksgiving weekend game next season against California Tech for both the

men's and women's teams," he says. McKinney's Griffins beat Cal Tech in a trip west last season, a team McKinney says "was made up of some of the smartest kids in the country. Heck, their whole starting lineup scored at least a thirty on the ACT." Then, McKinney, the inherently fierce competitor with an air of paternal grandeur about him, stands up from his office chair and asks me if I'd like to see a letter written to him upon his reaching 700 career victories, from former UCLA head coach Gene Bartow. The letter meant so much to McKinney that he had it laminated and hung up, among other accolades in the room adjoining his private office.

McKinney proudly talks about this and other individual awards, like the night the University community threw him a surprise party and named the Dunham Center basketball court in his honor. "It was overwhelming," Coach McKinney says as he visually recreates one of the most memorable events of his professional career.

Especially memorable was the fact that his son, a Fontbonne alumnus and former player on his first team here during the (89-90) season, was able to partake in the monumental celebration.

"When I do leave this job," McKinney says, shifting his attention back to the question I previously asked, concerning his retirement. "I'd like all the kids I've taught to remember me by the fact that I didn't just teach them about winning and losing; I taught them about life."

And so he has. McKinney has taught the multitude of impressionable student athletes over the many years he's been here. He has taught them how to overcome against all odds. He has done so by example and with leadership. The mark left by this legend of sport has been achieved through travail; a triumph that is illimitable in scope and infinite in extent.

Women's Lacrosse Looks Forward to Longer, More Challenging Season

by David Cartier, Reporter

Women's lacrosse is set to begin another season this year with high hopes of improving on their 7-5 record last season. The team is returning 10 starters, including leading scorer Katie Radeacker, who was sixth in the nation last season. The women have two more games this year than last year, including a long trip to Colorado that the team is looking forward to.

"I think the girls are more excited about the skiing trip we will be going on, but Colorado will be a chance for us to really play our best against teams we have not yet faced as a program," says Coach Monica Potter.

Key match-ups for the women this year will be Adrian College and Wittenberg College. Like the men's team, Adrian College has become a rival for the women as well.

"We have Katie Radeacker, who once played at Adrian, and they (Adrian College) have Chelsea Sickman who used to play for us. So there is a familiarity between us and them that helps fuel the rivalry," Potter says.

The girls have been practicing at Gay Field and in the University's gym in preparation for their first game against Adrian College on February 27 at Gay Field. The team has even been going to the Sky Zone to work on Sky Aerobics. When practicing, the girls are working on their conditioning, stick work, and fundamentals.

"We have a lot of transfers and freshman, so chemistry needs to be a key factor in our success this season. We are just trying to get in shape and work with what we have. Everyone is really looking forward to our Colorado trip. We would love to win

all of our games but more importantly we would like to play our best," says Mary Alice Pierce, a freshman on the team and center midfielder.

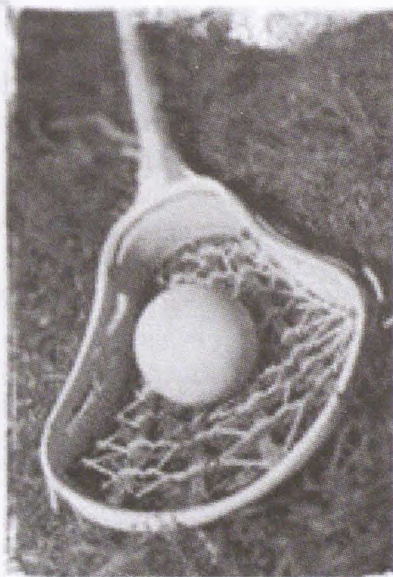
Along with having two extra games this season, the team is facing a tougher schedule than last season. But more games seem to make for a better season, Potter says.

"More games mean less boredom. This year there won't be the long lay-offs like there were last year which make for better practices and better focus," she says. "I'm excited about the new transfers and freshman we have this year and I expect a lot. I look at how the girls play during games and practice. I want them to work hard. If we lose by a goal, but play hard and to the best of our ability, that's a win in my book."

This year the team is looking to make the games as competitive as possible.

"It is important that we win when we aren't supposed to," Potter says.

So come support the University's women's lacrosse team during their home games, which are all played at Gay Field in Clayton, Mo.



Women's Basketball Stays Persistent

by Abena Ampofo, Reporter

With the ref's first whistle, the ball was tossed into the air. Immediately, No. 55, Mallory Ludwig, commanded possession of the ball and, with one quick pass to teammate Kendra Schilli, who was at the three point mark, the game was on. Schilli shot the ball into the net within nine seconds into the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC) game, and the Lady Griffins were off to a commendable start.

By the first time-out and only two minutes and fifteen seconds into the game against Eureka College, the score was 7-0. This was the women's second match against the Red Devils, which unfolded very differently compared to their first encounter. When the Griffins played the Red Devils during the start of the season, they were in the midst of a rocky week. While in Eureka, Ill., the Griffins shot 18 percent from the field and concluded the game with a disappointing loss.

However, on the eve of Super Bowl XLIII, the Griffins shot 33 percent from the floor in the first half and 50 percent in the second half. The Red Devils struggled to keep up with Griffins' defense, succumbing to a total of 27 turnovers. The Griffins maintained their lead throughout the game with blocked shots, speedy rebounds, and an immense amount of fouls. Offensively, quick

passes and lightning bolt drives kept the Red Devils frazzled. It was particularly a physical game, but the Griffins had something to prove, winning the game with a score of 77-57.

Before Christmas, the Griffins had played 11 games with an

pleased with their win against Westminster, which was ranked ahead of the University prior to the win.

With the addition of 11 new recruits, including nine freshmen, the team is much different from last year's team, which finished 13-3 in conference.

"The two freshman starters have really stepped up," says senior center Mary Valli.

The Griffins were on a winning streak during the weeks of Jan. 14 to Jan. 31, which boosted their record in the SLIAC tournament.

Sophomore guard, Calli Collier, was named the SLIAC Women's Basketball Player of the Week for the week of Jan. 26-Feb. 1. During that week she averaged 21.5 points and shot 54.2 percent from the field. That's better than most NBA stars such as Shaquille O'Neil, who currently averages 17.5 points per game.

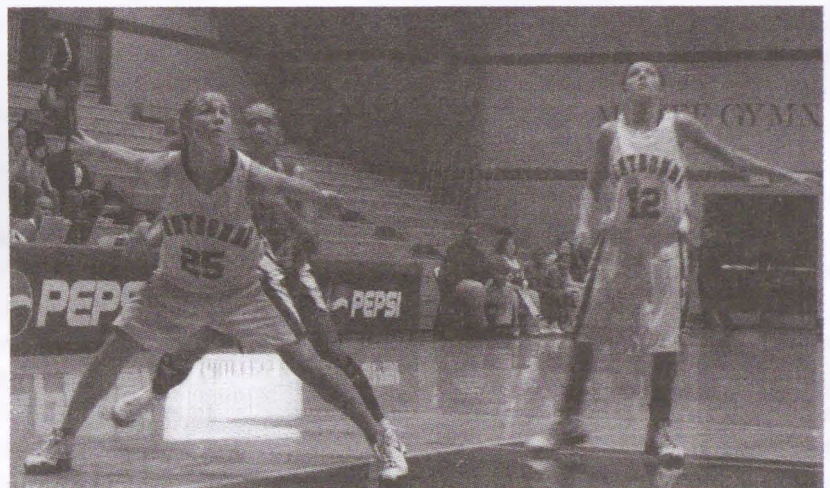
The team's overall SLIAC record is 7-4 and they hope

to land in the second seed. "It'd be nice to see them at the top of the list because you can see how hard they've worked throughout the season," says the University's sports announcer, junior Stephen Werkmeister.

The players, and especially the five seniors on the team, are vying for that spot because after playing for the University for four years, it would be nice to leave on top.



(Left to right) Senior Kasey Thompson and sophomore Mallory Ludwig (Photo by Claire Kallio)



(Left to right) Freshman Kendra Schilli and senior Kasey Thompson (Photo by Claire Kallio)

for upcoming conference games. The preparation seems to be paying off because they're currently 8-12.

"Coach definitely keeps us in shape with conditioning," says sophomore forward Mallory Ludwig. "We're pumped up for the upcoming games, especially against Westminster and Webster."

They've already played against conference teams, Webster and Westminster, and were



Men's Lacrosse Hopes to Find Success in 3rd Season

by David Cartier, Reporter

The University's Men's Lacrosse team is gearing up to take on their third season this spring. The men have been improving on their record each year and look to continue this trend. While they have yet to finish with a winning record, falling short by a game last year, 6-7, the team is excited about returning all their starting defenders. One of their main hopes lies in returning leading scorer, junior attacker Brooks McGee. With a solid defense and a strong attack, the men are set to do away with last year's record.

"I do not feel there should be any reason why we shouldn't have a winning season this year. We need to keep beating the teams that we have beaten in the past and it will be important for us to beat the new teams on our schedule," says senior defender Blair Turley.

The men have been practicing since the start of the new year. Their practices started at six in the morning, but now that their season has officially begun, the practice times have been moved up to seven. They also have work-out plans that keep them in the weight room two or three times a week.

"It is important that we stay healthy and in shape. We don't have as many guys on the team this year so injuries may play a negative role, should we sustain them," Turley says.

Although the program is only in its third season, there are already rivalries developing between certain teams on the schedule, including Carthage College, Adrian College, and Mt. St. Joseph College.

"It is important that we improve game to game. Our goal is to achieve a better record than last season and build toward next season," says Coach Nick Silva.

Silva has applied to the NCAA for the team to enter the Midwest Lacrosse Conference, which would be a huge step for the program, allowing them to have a conference tournament to look forward to, give all-conference awards, and possibly compete in the National Tournament.

Silva also commented on the program's growth over the past three years and how it has helped Fontbonne grow as well.

"I really like the direction the program is headed," he says. "It has progressed from a team of mostly freshman to a team of strong seniors with

good leadership qualities. In regards to how it has affected this University, we have an increased number of out of area applications and the program is helping Fontbonne get its name out there even more than before. It also helps that we are the only college in Missouri with an NCAA lacrosse team."

The team begins their season away at Ohio Wesleyan University on February 22 with their first home game on March 7 at 6:00 p.m. against rival Carthage College. All of the team's home games will be played at Gay Field in Clayton, Mo.

Men's Basketball: 1,000 Brings a Boost

by Jason Nikolaisen, Reporter

The Fontbonne Griffins Men's Basketball team started their season off with perfection, but it has slowly turned into quite the rollercoaster ride.

Starting off the season with a perfect record of 6-0, the Griffins had hope for the perfect season—when a six game skid brought the Griffins to a 6-6 record. The losing streak placed a mediocre tag on the play of our Men's Basketball team as they slid from perfection to an average .500 team. However, the team's six game skid came to a close against Maryville in a 97-81 victory on January 10th.

Junior point guard Josh Branch (22) received an award for recording his one thousandth career point on Jan. 14; the award gave the Griffins a morale lift, sparking a fire for the team. Branch recorded his one thousandth point on January 5 against Grinnel College. He also recorded 30 points in a losing effort. In this game, the Griffins helped break the NCAA record for most combined points in a basketball game. The final result of the game was a 163-145 loss for the Griffins,

and a combined total of 308 points for the game.

Of the Grinnel team, Branch says, "To me, their style of basketball was a little unreal. There was no defense in their game style and the reason the teams scored so many points was because there was never really a set defense."

The loss kept the Griffins in the losing streak, but while Branch is happy about his one thousandth point milestone and being only the thirteenth player to do so, he says, "It is really cool to be in that group of thirteen, but overall, the best part of it all is being on a winning team all three years."

Rumors have been going around the crowds after Branch's milestone; long-time fan and University senior Dan Horn says, "People are saying his recent achievement has put a spark into the Griffins' game."

Branch says, "I think that our team has so many weapons on the team that we wouldn't miss a beat if we took away one of those weapons." Whether it is multiple weapons or a morale lift from a milestone, the Griffins' game has found new

positive energy, and overall game play has improved.

Following the Grinnel loss, the Griffins lost another game to conference rival Webster on Jan. 7 in a real barn burner in double overtime. The final score was 87-83 in favor of Webster. However, only three days later, the Griffins snapped their six game losing streak to another conference rival, Maryville. Fontbonne beat Maryville 97-81 in what was the start of a five game winning streak.

Throughout the streak the Griffins have called to their bench several times, and in the mist of things sophomore Frank Sheets has prevailed. Students refer to Sheets as the "Fan Fav" because he has been known to come off the bench and make huge plays for the Griffins.

Coach Lee McKinney shows much faith in Sheets off of the bench. Sheets says, "I listen to what my upper classmen teammates have to say and try to take what they say and do it out on the court." The experience of upper classmen is rubbing off on the younger players on the team, in the end creating great team chemistry and balance.

During the win streak, the Griffins have taken down conference teams such as Maryville (97-81), Mac Murray (115-88), Principia (100-62), Westminster (81-69), and Blackburn (77-72). "The win streak is awesome because we need every win right now," Sheets says. "And I feel that everybody on our team has contributed to the streak in some way, which is what makes us better."

In the recent game against Westminster, the Griffins gave the Blue Jays their first conference loss. Branch says of the win, "I feel that we are the top dogs in the conference and it was just like beating any of the other teams. We are by far the best but we just have to play like it every game."

A recent heartbreaker brought an end to the Griffins' winning streak against Eureka at home. The Griffins held a 23 point lead with 12 minutes and 45 seconds left in the second half. However, the effort was not enough to hold off Eureka; they took the win in the final seconds of the game with a steal and last second lay-up. The final score was a disappointing 97-96.

After the loss, the Griffins turned right back to their usual style of winning by putting up a triumph over Principia. Fontbonne outscored their opponents 76-50, due to a big help from their big men down low. Seniors Justin Storandt and Brian Fogerty combined for a total of 28 rebounds. Storandt had 17 while Fogerty brought down 11.

Confidence seems to be working for the Griffins now; the team is currently tied for first with Westminster with an 8-3 record in conference. Despite the losing streak, the Griffins still own an above .500 record of 12-7 overall.

The Conference Tournament is just around the corner and the dates will be announced shortly. The Griffins plan on being there and plan on winning it just like the last two years. Branch and Sheets both agree when they say, "I think we can do very good things because of our depth. The conference tournament is ours to win and the only way we can lose is if we beat ourselves."



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Sports

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Experience is Key for Baseball Team This Spring

by Eric Tinker, Reporter

The 2009 Griffin Baseball team is looking to bounce back after a tough 2008 season, so the team looks to its veteran leadership in the field to spark a young pitching staff which lost three seniors last season.

The team is led by its senior captains, outfielders Andrew Almany and Justin Juergensmeyer, and catcher Dan Horn. Third-year Head Coach Ryan Good is getting the squad ready for the 2009 season, and helping will be new Assistant Coach Adam York, who had a short stint with the team in the fall of 2007 and is now here to help Coach Good lead the Griffins to victory in 2009.

The team started practice Sunday, Jan. 18, in the gym.

They have been working mostly on strength and conditioning since the weather outside has not been baseball friendly, but they have been getting outside every warm day that they get. The team will be taking the field with seven of its eight position players returning this year. One of those players is starting catcher and Captain Dan Horn, who is in his senior year with the Griffins and is looking forward to getting the season under way. "I'm ready to play, we've worked hard as a team to prepare ourselves and we have put in many hours together to get ready for this season."

The season officially begins on March 1 with a doubleheader right across Wydown Boulevard at Washington University against Washington

University and Coe College in the afternoon. Then the boys will head to Orlando on spring break to play 11 games in six days. "This first month, and especially this trip will be good for our young pitchers to get feel for the mound and mature quicker," Coach Good says. "I want my young talent on the mound to get as many innings in as possible before conference play begins, to get the nerves out of the way."

The Griffins will play 18 games before conference play begins against Blackburn College March 25, which will give the Griffins an opportunity to shake off the cobwebs before starting conference play.

Horn says, "The fact that we have so many games before conference is huge. It will give us a good feel

for how the season will go, and it will help the young guys get more comfortable with playing at this level."

Tom Hunt, a utility player last season and aspiring outfielder for the team this season says he feels that this team has great potential and could even win conference. "I think Webster is going to be our toughest opponent," he says, "the rest of the conference looks strong, but we should be able to put up a good fight against all of them."

Coach Good says, "There are seven of the nine teams in the SLIAC that will compete for the conference championship, and there are only four teams that advance to the conference championship—we hope to be one of those four. I expect a lot out of my senior leaders, we have a good

core in the field but we will only go as far as our starting pitching. I am anxious, nervous and excited about this team and this season I expect us to be over .500, and I am hoping for at least 22 or 23 wins out of them."

The team looks forward to starting the season and hopes that everyone in the University Community will come out and support the team as it looks to bounce back and become a Conference Champion. All home games are at Shaw Park in Clayton, so to come out and support the team it starts its season at Washington University on March 1st at 12:30. The complete schedule and roster can be found on the University website, located in Athletics under Men's Baseball.

Griffins Softball: 16 Players, One Heart

by Jill Rice, Reporter

Only a few weeks into their pre-season practices, the softball team is excited and ready to take on the upcoming season. The team is led by Coach Bill Rosner along with Assistant Tech Coach Mike Akers, Assistant Pitching Coach Randi Null, and Assistant Coach Taylor Rosner. Mel Richardson and Mel Pinkley are special volunteer coaches.

Coach Rosner said that the girls were still competing for the spots in the starting lineup. Though disappointed by last season, with only eight games won out of more than twenty, Rosner and the team look ahead with positivity. Rosner has put into practice a team GPA goal of 3.2, which they have previously achieved. The girls are "a hardworking group on and off the field," says Rosner.

Two memorable team members, Allison Wagner and Liz Seely, will not be returning this season. The team did gain several new players: freshmen Alyssa Akers, Amanda Beaver, Stephanie Dunn, Anastasia Hibbeler and

Samantha Rosner, sophomore Amy Simon, junior Emily Stoverink, and sophomore transfer Lara Vonnahmen.

"The team has voluntarily worked out at least four days a week," says sophomore infield player Cassandra Bremer. Bremer is most excited to play against Maryville University and Webster University in the upcoming season. "They are two teams in conference which we lost to last year that were disappointing losses," says Bremer. The team will also be traveling to Florida for 10 games early in the season. "The 10 games in Florida should be exciting, because we will be facing teams from all over. We'll get to see how much the off season and the preseason work out really paid off," Bremer says.

Coach Rosner's hope for the upcoming season is to win conference. He says the team is progressing at a rapid pace, stressing the team's eagerness and will to do whatever it takes. They are "16 players with one heart," says Rosner. The team's first game is scheduled for March 5th against Harris-Stowe.

UPCOMING ATHLETIC EVENTS:

MEN'S BASKETBALL

2/14 GREENVILLE @ 3PM (AWAY)

2/18 - MACMURRAY COLLEGE @ 8PM (AWAY)

2/24 - WESTMINSTER COLLEGE @ 8PM (HOME)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2/14 - GREENVILLE @ 1PM (AWAY)

2/18 - MACMURRAY COLLEGE @ 6PM (AWAY)

MEN'S LACROSSE

3/7 - CARTHAGE COLLEGE @ 6PM (HOME)

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

2/27 - ADRIAN COLLEGE @ 7PM (HOME)

BASEBALL

3/1 - WASH-U @ 12:30PM (AWAY)

SOFTBALL

3/5 - HARRIS-STOWE @ 2 & 4PM (AWAY)

Campus Rules & Regulations *Up in Smoke?*



Recently, there has been a debate surrounding the issue of smoking on campus. The *Fontbanner* has allowed two of our reporters--a smoker and a non-smoker--duke it out on the pages of our publication. If you would like to chime in, feel free to contact us at fontbanner@aol.com.

To Smoke...

by Jill Rice, Reporter

Walking around campus, you will find several non-smoking areas; all of these areas are covered and provide shelter. As a recent transfer student to the University, I found myself unsure as to whether or not I could even smoke on campus. As my first day of classes progressed, I eventually saw a ray of hope; a group of two or three students huddled in the cold inhaling their much needed nicotine.

Upon seeing them, I realized that I did not have to go in my car and smoke and I decided to explore more and

find my own place to smoke. The only areas that did not seem to have any signage were uncovered areas out in the open. Half expecting to be told I could not even smoke there, I lit my first cigarette and finished it with ease.

Some students believe that there should be a designated smoking area on campus; I am here to point out that smoking on campus is not an issue in the slightest. Previous colleges I have attended have had a much larger community of smokers. I was able to walk around campus with my cigarette and see many others doing the same.

I understand the non-smoker's need to hold onto their own health, but there are many other things that could kill you before second hand smoke does. Although second hand smoke may feel like a threat, with such a small percentage smoking on campus, non-smokers probably inhale about one second of polluted air. Perhaps if you have classes every day, for more than four years, the smokers may present a problem... eventually.

I would also like to point out that not all smokers are proud of their addiction, especially

myself. As cigarette taxes rise higher and higher each year, smokers should not be punished for something that non-smoking tax payers benefit from. They should also not be made to feel guilty because they are killing themselves, for they are very aware of what it is doing to their bodies; it is just not that easy to stop.

The only way I could support a designated spot would be if the area was covered and not out of the way. Smoking in public places has long been replaced with smoking outside; now outside, we are being told

where to specifically smoke. Why should we continue to be pushed around?

Non smokers should rejoice in the fact that they are treating their bodies better and leave the smokers to their own vices. Bearing the weighted cross of nicotine addiction is a rough road filled with persecution and unwanted advice. The choice to smoke or not to smoke is yours; leave the few smokers alone, their tiny bit of smoke is not going to kill you.

Or Not to Smoke?

by Cathy Burns, Reporter

Is smoking a problem at Fontbonne? Not if you don't mind being engulfed in toxic death-clouds each time you try to exit a building. I propose that the "arcades," as they are called, be renamed the "gauntlets," and a designated breathing area established.

Let's say I've just gotten out of a class in the Science building, and I need to pop over to the East building. Heaven help me if there's a logjam in the entrance or an electric door malfunction and I'm trapped amid the cell-phone talking hot-boxers, clinging to the last molecules of fresh air I gulped in before venturing into the arcade.

Would it really be asking too much for Fontbonne to institute a no-smoking zone around entry ways? Webster University's smoking policy prohibits smoking within 30 feet of building entrances, and I see no reason the Fontbonne community should not enjoy such respiratory freedom. What message are we sending to Fontbonne's visitors? Do our guests enjoy the poisonous

clouds wafting toward them on campus tours?

In fact, smoking is prohibited in both the arcades, but the problem is enforcement. The brief but concise statement in Fontbonne's policy manual reads, "Smoking is prohibited in all Fontbonne University Buildings and Arcades." The ineffectual signs have probably turned a nice plaque-y yellow thanks to their positions in the unofficial Fontbonne smoking lounges. When I choose to park somewhere on campus I'm not supposed to, I'm usually stuck with a \$25 fine. Though the lack of enforcement is largely beyond the scope of this article, I will speculate that if the University "security team" enforced the smoking policy with one ounce of the fervor they reserve for parking conformity, we'd have ample funds to give the Science building the snappy little makeover it longs for. But then, I guess they'd have to ticket themselves, too.

It's no coincidence that there is an Us and Them mentality between smokers and nons. Tobacco companies have profited significantly by

appealing to our civil liberties. I hear a lot about choice when this issue is discussed, but what about my right not to inhale secondhand smoke?

I used to smoke. It was my choice. When I'd had enough, I quit. Again, my choice. But when I step into the arcade and I'm hit by a death-cloud of secondhand smoke, my only choice is whether to hold my breath or get a lungful of someone else's toxins. I'm pretty sure breathing is a

human right that supersedes smokers' prerogative to puff away wherever they want. A designated smoking area on campus might be one tolerable solution, though many smokers find this concept unjust due to its "inconvenience."

My argument is not against smokers themselves -- though the tobacco companies would disagree -- but with the effect their smoking has on my breathing experience.

Several of my friends and co-workers smoke, and we're able to coexist just fine with the understanding that I won't lecture them and they won't subject me to their habit. I don't begrudge consenting adults their right to destroy their own vital organs or incur any number of other health penalties, but if they are quarantined while they smoke, it's because their carcinogen sticks present a health hazard to the entire community.

Fontbanner Staff

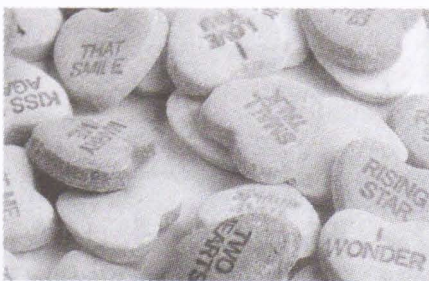
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In honor of the holiday of love, we at the Fontbanner are pleased to present you with a special Valentine's Day section of romance. So, we hope you enjoy Dominic & Jane's tips for blind dating, Jessica's Fontbonne Romance update, and... Dan's anti-Valentine article, for those of you who aren't feeling very sappy. Happy Valentine's Day!



Features

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A Gentleman's Guide to Blind Dating

by Dominic Dimanche,
Reporter

With Valentine's Day and its armada of loincloth clad cherubs approaching, many people are diving headfirst into the social game of Russian roulette known as blind dating. The premise is simple: go out on a date with a stranger, strike up some chemistry, and enjoy the ensuing fireworks. But as those who have been on a blind date already know, that dream scenario is often replaced with the reality of a tortuous gauntlet of awkward silences, the averting of each other's gaze, and subsequent heavy drinking to try and wipe the night from your memory forever. However, with the New Year comes a new chance at taking Cupid's arrow square in the chest with these 100% foolproof tips to guide you to an excellent blind date. If you follow these simple steps, you just might be able to sweep your date off her feet and into your arms.

Tip #1: Preparation is key

Prepare your clothes about a month in advance, and keep them hermetically sealed until the big day to avoid any risks of them getting wrinkled or stained. And be sure to bathe, brush your teeth, and coif your delicate mane so that you look and smell like some immaculate Greek god. Once you are dressed, move as little as possible so as not to overexert yourself and get all sweaty – otherwise, you will have to start the coifing all over again.

Tip #2: Make a memorable first impression

A good first impression will immediately score you some points in your date's eyes. Since this is your first meeting, make as grand an entrance as possible to shock and awe them into submission. Some examples include but are not limited to: arriving dressed as a pirate or astronaut, jumping

over a group of sharks on a pair of jet skis, picking them up via helicopter or blimp, or if you really want to be flashy, arriving in a tiger-drawn chariot.

Tip #3: Be Unique

Don't just strive to do what her last dates did – make any and all other dates she has been or will be a fleeting memory in comparison. Thinking about going to a bar? BORING. How about making your own beer or wine from scratch! Take a walk through a park? FORGET THAT. Hop on a space ship, and take her for a walk on the moon! The sky's the limit, buddy; dream big.

Tip #4: Make with the funny

If things are not going well, a good joke can immediately lighten the mood. Some good icebreakers that are guaranteed to tickle her funny bone are jokes about rabbis, priests, and nuns – especially if they're together in a bar

of some sort. Also, Knock-knock jokes are always good for a laugh and you can never go wrong with a good old-fashioned dirty limerick. If all these don't seem to elicit even a giggle, you can always resort to tickling. And if that fails then it may be safe to assume that your date is a soulless robot.

Tip#5: Lie

Since she does not know you, feel free to make up as much stuff about yourself as possible. This is the first time you've met each other, how can she know you're not a professional bullfighter who doubles as a CIA agent and world class break dancer?

Tip#6: Throw money around like a P. Diddy

Money makes the world go round, and it can also help get the date moving along as well. The key is to woo her with your vast riches (be they real or perceived). Walk around with a monocle and top hat

to show your social status, pay for everything in gold bars, or, if you want to be a bit more modest, gold coins with your face imprinted on them – that is what we call classy.

Tip #7: Learn to say anything in French

French is by far one of the most romantic languages ever made, so why don't you employ its powers to charm your lady? It doesn't particularly matter what you say – for it will transform into pure grade-A charm. Take this gem for example, "pardon-moi, tu ne devrais pas gaspiller l'huile." I just said, "Excuse me, you shouldn't waste gasoline." But to her ears, you just said the hottest thing ever. Bonus points if you are wearing a scarf and/or beret.

If you take these tips to heart, you will never go stag on Valentine's Day ever again – now get out there and make Cupid proud!

by Jane Armbruster,
Features Editor

Though all the Miss Lonely Hearts of the world rue February 14th as a Hallmark holiday – a loveless excuse for flowers, candies, and gifts – us man-eaters know differently. Valentine's Day celebrates pampering and female fulfillment. And although most people believe the duty solely lies on the guys, women have equal responsibilities. So, here goes!

Tip # 1: Preparation

We all know that women are not born attractive, that natural beauty is a figment of societal imagination. So there are many cosmetic tools required for the date transformation. A heavily caked layer of this liquid slop will keep that flawless complexion glowing all night long. Topical bronzer – this warming trend is a favorite, especially for dates. Apply generously, and your radiant all-overness will keep him staring. Add lip liner sans lipstick for that

perfect pout. And nothing makes eyes pop like shadowless lids enveloped in thick black liner. Don't forget the nine coats of mascara. If confused, just always follow the rule of thumb for cosmetics: more is more.

Hair care is just as important. There are endless style options, but let's just stick with the tried-and-true classics: the ones that drive the boys wild. Always remember, a hair straightener is a girl's best friend, so USE IT. Part your long hair down the middle and flat iron to your heart's content. Remember, if your hair isn't fried, it's not working. Just get all that body out; it will only distract from your newly painted face.

Tip # 2: Make a memorable first impression

First impressions are key, and with your beautiful makeup and hairstyle, you're more than halfway there. If he doesn't seem to take notice, make sure you clarify by asking questions and making intentionally negative

statements (a great way to fish for compliments). For example, "Oh my gosh, I spent all day on my hair and makeup, and I couldn't even get it to look right!" An eye roll and a downward glance will make it all the more convincing. And not only will he deliver a compliment, but you will come across as a down-to-earth and modest.

Tip # 3: Stupid equals interesting

There is nothing a guy hates more than a female intellectual. So spare him your so-called "ideas," or he'll never marry you! But you can't be completely silent, so here is a great and simple way to put the conversational focus all on him all night long: Ask about his interests and accomplishments, ask about sports and nod in agreement. Act like you like what he likes; just don't make any original comments.

Tip # 4: Make with the slutty

Be a skin-bearing goddess when it comes time for the

big reveal. If a guy hates anything worse than a female intellectual, it's one that looks the part. So ditch the schoolmarm look, and dress like an adult film star, because if a guy is looking you in the eyes, you're doing something wrong.

Tip # 5: Laugh

Even if what he says is less funny than the Holocaust, giggle like an intoxicated wood nymph. The key here is to humor him, and once again tend to his needs; in this case, it's making him feel like he's Dane-the-funniest-and-most-underrated-comedian-ever-Cook (he's almost never referred to by his full name).

Tip # 6: Let him pay

If there's nothing a guy hates worse than a dowdy smarty-pants, it's a financially secure one, so let him grab the check. Men cannot stand to have their manhood denied, especially in public. And if he seems to be one of those reformist Dutch supporters, you shouldn't date him in the first place. Oh well, too

late for that, but there are lines you can use to just make sure he pays that check: "Oh no, I seem to have forgotten my billfold," or "My bank account is slow because I bought so many shoes!" If all goes to plan, he will not only catch the tab but will feel like he is fulfilling his manly duty by supporting his maiden.

Tip # 7: Finally, stroke his...ego

Men are complex, intelligent, and emotionally fragile. So it is imperative that you do all you can to build his ego, especially at the end of the night. This way he will not only feel generally uplifted but he will also know the date has been a success and will forever realize the catch that he truly is.

Blind date sequence complete. And if in two weeks you're diamondless – you probably just didn't put enough eyeliner on.

College Couples to Tie the Knot

by Jessica Thurmond,
Reporter

As the church bells begin to ring, the bride and groom are coming down the aisle, eco-friendly bubbles are floating in the air, and then the happy couple is whisked away in a limo with "Just Married" on the back of the car.

We have all seen it in the movies like "Father of the Bride" or "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." Well, the bells will begin to ring for a couple of our own brides and grooms. Soon, these Fontbonne couples will be dealing with in-laws, crazy wedding coordinators and the almighty Bridezillas. Over the winter break a group of new young ladies received a ring and are ready to claim a new semester, a new life, and a new beginning with the simple words of "I do"

Take, for instance, sophomore Sarah Wohlschlaeger, who recently got engaged to her boyfriend Jeffrey Kuehle on a cruise. The couple dated for three years before getting engaged. Wohlschlaeger says that they won't be "married

until both finish school and they have the right finances."

Many would ask why she wants to be married at such a young age. Wohlschlaeger says she wants to get married because she is "in love and he is my best friend." Even though being engaged can be a new experience, Wohlschlaeger does not deny that "marriage will be difficult."

But University students aren't the only ones getting engaged. University alumni have even made the commitment. Monica Pruneau and Jesse Walter, both alumni, got engaged in the Doerr Chapel on Sunday evening, Jan. 25.

Walter says he met Pruneau on campus in St. Joseph's Residence Hall. "I was friends with her roommate, and came up to their room to visit one day. I had an instant crush," he says.

They dated for two-and-a-half years. "I had never before felt the sensation that I get when she says my name," Walter says. "She is the only person that has ever had the ability to

cheer me up no matter what is going on in my life, at my job, etc. She is an incredibly beautiful girl, and so many people love her. I supposed I just realized how incredibly blessed I am to have had her in my life for the past two and half years and I wanted to make sure I will feel that way for the rest of my life."

Even though engagement is a new time in a couple's life, and sometimes daunting, Walter says, "I am very excited. Next to the feeling that I got when I proposed to her, I believe that the greatest moment of my life will be when I see her walking down the aisle."

Walter came up with the idea to propose to Pruneau after mass one Sunday evening. He says, "Sometimes, when she is opening her *sheet music*, *paper clips* will fall down onto the piano strings, causing a horrible

vibrating sound. When I knew that I wanted to propose, I contacted Tony Mravle and asked him to set a pencil on the strings before she got to the chapel for warm-up to foreshadow what was to come."

Walter would often bring his guitar up to the chapel so that Monica and he could sit around after Mass and play a few songs, so he asked Monica if she wanted to stick around after mass to "jam."

He says, "After mass was over, Tony made sure the area was secured and that nobody would ruin the moment."



When Monica wasn't looking, he slid the ring box onto the piano strings. They sat down and began to play, and she heard that "ting" sound.

"Frustrated, she got up to see what the problem was. Instead of finding a pencil, she found a little box pushed towards the back. She took it out and looked at it, kind of confused and not exactly sure if it really was a ring box.

"I then slid in on a knee and asked her to marry me. She was so surprised and speechless that I'm still not positive she said yes! Seeing her that happy was the best feeling that I have ever had in my life," Walter says.

Although they haven't decided when the wedding will take place, Walter did say that "October is our favorite month, but this October seems so soon, and next October seems so far away."

Either way, it seems that love is definitely in the air around campus. The Fontbanner would like to congratulate these happy couples...good luck, and happy Valentine's Day!

The Anti-Valentine's Day Article

by Daniel O'Keefe, Reporter

Valentine's Day is here again and, like most holidays, it makes me feel like Charlie Brown: depressed and bald. I have never been angry at the loneliness that Valentine's Day imposes on people who are not in a relationship because I have always loved myself too much to care. The consumerism of Valentine's Day doesn't really irritate me, either, because I love

candy hearts. The reason why Valentine's Day is profoundly annoying is because it is another inane cultural obligation that most people don't like but take part in anyway because ignoring it could hurt somebody's feelings. Even if you are conscious of the stupidity of the situation, the obligation is almost impossible to avoid. This becomes especially annoying when Valentine's Day falls on a weekday. My

girlfriend will probably have to hustle her boss into giving her a day off and I will have to miss playing Mario Golf so we can leave our warm homes, go out into the dreary and cold St. Louis February, and wait in line for 45 minutes to get into a restaurant that we would get into immediately any other day of the year.

Some people (including me, sometimes) think that Valentine's day is a massive

corporate conspiracy perpetrated by Hallmark, Nestle, and the makers of the world's most extreme date movie, "My Bloody Valentine 3D," but after hearing non-stop coverage of the Wall Street bailouts, I am

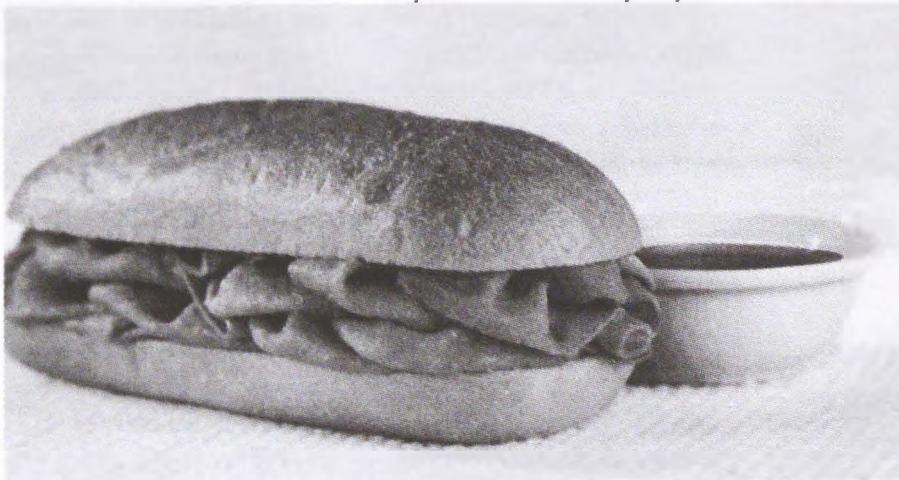
convinced that corporations aren't smart enough to pull off this nefarious plot. I think that Valentine's Day is formed like any other cultural obligation: people started doing something that they enjoy (in the case of Valentine's Day, sending love notes to each other), and enough people started doing it that you became either a weirdo or a jackass if you didn't want to participate.

The worst thing about Valentine's Day obligations is that they are just boring. If you are in a relationship, you already spend a large portion of your time with whoever you are in a relationship with, and on Valentine's Day, the routine basically remains unchanged. If I were in charge of Valentine's Day, the obligations would at least be interesting. I would have everybody dress up in

panda suits. Also, I would have everybody compete in American Gladiator competitions, like running around in those huge hamster balls or beating each other with those foam sticks. Instead of candy hearts and chocolates being the candy of choice I would have everybody buy gummy Lifesavers, because they are delicious (and you can never find them in the stores). Also, instead of giving people flowers, you could give people roast beef sandwiches with au jus. That would be good.

But, really, all of my distaste for Valentine's Day won't help anybody including me because everybody will still be forced to participate in the same boring rituals and the stupidity of it all will remain unchanged.

Happy Valentine's Day, jerks.





Introducing this semester's Fontbanner columnists, Jake King & Andrea Castleberry. Even with Jake's hairdo, we hope you can tell which is which. Enjoy!



Opinion

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Fashion Student, Like, Stands Up for Her Major

by Andrea Castleberry, Reporter

The typical weekday morning of a Fontbonne student begins as such: wake up, roll out of bed, pull on the first pair of semi-clean sweats from the floor, and stumble out of the dorm into the light of the day. Between yawning and rubbing his or her eyes, this student may notice the clad of well-dressed students wearing Marc Jacobs heels and carrying Coach bags along with their books. Slowly, this student's rolling eyes recognize the group as the ditzy fashion merchandising majors.

Yes, they may be stylish and pruned to the utmost each morning; however, that does not make them stupid or ditzy (...is that how you spell it?), like, contrary to popular belief. It is totally my goal to reveal the dish on the fashion merchandising major: the kinds of classes that are

required (*so hard!*), the types of discussions being led (uh...), and of course, how qualified the teachers are (and better dressed than yours).

"There is a harsh stigma placed upon the fashion girls and guys and it's about time that negative stigma is broken," Human Environmental Sciences (HES) Professor Erin O'Neill says.

"Elle Woods (Legally Blonde) illustrates many of the mixed up perceptions," says HES Professor Dr. Joyce Johnson.

A camera crew for News Channel 11 entered an Essentials of Fashion class on Tuesday, January 20, the day of the Inauguration. As they walked in, the class was conversing about the personal values that Michelle Obama was demonstrating through her (*totally* hot) choice of dress on that special day.

However deep or intelligent the conversation was, the news had not failed to ask the class "why Jimmy Choo shoes with J.Crew gloves?" Needless to say, only that take was aired (lame).

Some courses required for these girls and guys (and *definitely* not limited to) are Personal Professional and Cultural Dress, Essentials of Fashion, Apparel Product Development, Textiles, Fashion Behavior and Forecasting, Visual Merchandising and Store Design, and Promotion in the Merchandising Environment (huh? Yeah, that's exactly what I'm saying). These classes range from deep conversations (which make my head hurt too much) to technical talk (um... what did she just say?). Whereas other students may think classes are something along the lines of "Purse and Shoe Matching 101" (I *so* wish!).

"My whole family is full of engineers... my grandpa took one look at my class schedule and said, 'so do you go shopping for credits?'" says freshman Sierra Steinbrook.

Such classes take a lot of talking about. "Ranging from new retail formats to trend forecasting to apparel production methods used by manufacturers, we discuss theories and apply them to solve today's issues," says Fashion Merchandising Director, Professor Rogene Nelsen.

Like any other class, there are difficult (crazy hard) aspects and others that are on the lighter side (totally fun!). Although it is a unique route to take, fashion is the passion that these students share (Omigod, I just rhymed).

"Its, like, the way I express myself," freshman Karen Hamilton says sarcastically.

This passion, unlike boring ones, is totally fitting for a career in today's world. "More than 30 million people were employed in various sectors of the clothing and textile industry," says Johnson.

With interesting job opportunities comes competition. Internships are a must in this industry, and success only comes to those who make an impression.

"You cannot be good in just one area... our students must use both analytical and creative skills," says Johnson.

Ana-what-ical? So there you have it, Fashion Merchandising majors actually have to use their brains and fashion talent to make it through college, as well as a successful career.

Oh, and by the way, your nail polish color is so last month.

Jake's Take:

My New Year's Resolutions...Maybe Next Year.

by Jake King, Reporter

As I'm sitting here writing this story, I am realizing that we are barely in our second month of the New Year and my resolutions are already distant memories. All I have to say for myself is, "I did my best."

But, really, this is just not true. I just tell myself that to feel a little bit better about the situation at hand. The truth is, I gave up on my resolutions around the fourth day of the New Year. A new record for me and I'm sure it's just as stunning for you. How can I just give up so easily, you ask? Well, in all honesty, I'm still trying to figure it out. If I had to point out a source of my descent, I would blame "The Office" and, as my mom calls it, an "overall lack of motivation" for my sudden downward spiral. However, I would like to point out that I was exhausted after a strenuous first semester filled with tons of studying and involvement

with different clubs and organizations. I think I deserved a little R and R.

As I look back on the eve of the New Year, I remember having every intention of sticking to my resolutions and having a successful year ahead of me. Little did I know it would all crash and burn so suddenly. My resolutions were fairly simple and practical: I was going to start exercising again, running a couple of miles a day, getting more sleep, worrying less, and eating healthier. Nice list, huh? Yeah, I thought so too. On day one of the New Year, I woke up as early as I possibly could, which was around noon. I had a healthy New Year's breakfast consisting of a cheeseburger, fries, and a shake. Delicious and nutritious. I then lounged around my friend's house and watched movies for the rest of the day. Needless to say, day one was not a success. Oh well, there is always tomorrow, which are the words of a true procrastinator—like myself.

I woke up the next day at 7:00 a.m. sharp...hit the snooze button and went right back to sleep. Well done. I woke up again at 9:00 and was ready for my first run and a day of health and wellness. I hurried up and got dressed and walked outside for my run. I was ready for victory. But it turned out to be way too cold, so I went back inside. I felt defeated but not conquered as I ate my bowl of Fruit Loops. I would just go to the YMCA after breakfast and run the track there. My day was back on track and I was up for the challenge. I was back in the game. Guess what? I never made it to the Y that day. Instead, I watched the Dark Knight twice, took about three naps, and ate most of the snack food that my mom buys for my sibling's lunches...which, by the way, Fruit by the Foot is still as good as it was when I was eight. Anyway, did I feel guilty? Of course I did. But it's not like I killed anybody. Cut me

some slack. It seemed as if the exercising and running resolution was out, but I still had a few more...but they were dropping like flies.

Next up, eating healthier—which went over about as well as a Chicago Cubs season—so let's just move on to the next resolution. A major resolution for me was getting more sleep. It is now 12:31 a.m. as I write this and I have to be up in 6 hours, so it seems to be going well, don't you think? Anyone who knows me well knows that I am a major worrier—excuse me, I meant to say hypochondriac. You name the illness and I have it...or at least I think I have it. My hypochondria is something I have been trying to overcome for years, but in the end it just turns in to one big headache, which I then look up on WebMD. It must be a tumor. Oh, well, I'll forget about the tumor tomorrow after I come down with lung cancer from the time I breathed in second-hand smoke coming out of Ryan Hall (but that's a whole

different issue. See the Not To Smoke Article for that one).

It is obvious by now that I didn't stick with any of my New Year's resolutions and I admit that it does make me feel pretty bad about myself. But, at the same time, I think I have figured out why I failed with these resolutions. They are just too simple. Anyone can be successful with these resolutions and I like to be original. However, the fact that they are so simple is what makes me feel like I just didn't try. So here are my resolutions for next year: I will climb Mount Everest, lead the Chicago Cubs to winning the World Series, marry Scarlett Johansson, prove pro-wrestling is, in fact, real, and help Keanu Reeves win an Oscar. I picked these resolutions because they are all nearly impossible. So, when I fail at them, I won't feel that bad about myself because at least I tried. Here's to you, 2010!