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Multi-Cultural Committee Proposes Significant Changes...

Difficult Discussions by Faculty and Staff Raise Important Issues

By Joyce Downs

The multi-cultural committee is seeking to make M-AC a more ethnically diverse college by proposing changes which will affect several areas of the college.

This ad hoc committee was commissioned last year by Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Don King. Much time and hard work has gone into discussions on how the college could better expose its students to the contrasting cultures of American society.

Professor of Teacher Education and member of the committee Dr. John Chesky explained that there were three good reasons why the committee felt the need for the change.

The first is to mirror the Kingdom of God that the Bible describes as being made up of diverse tribes, nations, and tongues. Secondly, is to

properly reflect the title of a liberal arts institution; and finally to prepare students when they go out into the world and interact with the ever increasing multi-cultural society.

This year, the committee has managed to write up a document listing the target areas in need of improvement.

First, they want to look at how the school would be able to recruit more women and minorities to be a part of the faculty, staff, and administration. Secondly, it wants to look into how admissions could make the college more appealing to African Americans and other minorities, as well as to women.

The committee also wishes to enhance student life by presenting more cultural programs during Chapels as well as during other special functions.

Furthermore, it wishes to add to

the curriculum more courses which would expose the students to a greater number of varied cultures.

Finally, the committee would like the college to reach out beyond the campus to other communities and cultures.

No action will be taken yet in putting these proposals into effect until the faculty votes in favor of them. Several faculty members feel threatened by opening the doors to these kinds of changes.

"I'm for people being treated fairly. I'm for people's education being as broad as possible, but I'm against the proposals," admitted professor of Biology and Botany Mike Sonnenberg. He argued that he shouldn't be compelled to change his curriculum of teaching in order to encompass a diversity of cultures.

When asked if prejudice might

have played a part in some of the negative feedback, Chesky offered, "We all have hidden biases, and that's what multi-culturalism gets at. I think hidden biases, hidden even to the person him or herself, may influence one's thinking. However, biases are a given, and each of us has them."

Chesky explained further that although there were differences of opinion during the discussion, he expressed that the cautions were honest and sincere on both sides.

So far, no students are currently involved with the committee, however Chesky informed that student participation is invited, and encouraged, and that anyone may join the committee at any time to give input into the issue.

Chesky added that with time, and frequent discussion of the issue, he hopes that faculty members opposed will see into the importance of it all.

Out with the Old Commander-in-Chief, in with the New...

SGA President Reardon Passes Torch to Upcoming President Wright

By Danell Hartness

Student Government Association President Jeff Reardon will be stepping down from his position after a strenuous year of fighting for the rights of students.

Reardon worked hard to strengthen the entity of SGA. "It's reputation", Reardon explained, "went from being a club to becoming the highest outpost for student

life on a student level. It's credibility enabled SGA to be an association apart from the administration."

The additions and improvements this year achieved by the SGA were numerous. They now have an SGA Award that rewards a student who shows outstanding involvement and academic achievement. A 10am legislative timeslot has been added

when no chapel or convocation has been scheduled, so that some meetings can be held during this time.

SGA also changed the smoking policy which allows for smoking in designated areas. SGA initiated the increased lighting on campus and raised concern about the locks on doors of M-A Hall and McGregor domes.

The new plan for the campus telephone installations were begun because of a survey taken by SGA. Plans are in effect to change the open dorm policy. There have also been adjustments made to the Constitution and to the Honor Code. Students now will have better representation when involved in a charge. These proposals have been approved by the Body, but still await the approval of the Cabinet.

Reardon mentioned that there is now

a working budget at the end of this year, prepared for next year. Also, there has been a new purchase of a Macintosh computer, especially designated for use by the SGA President. Now the President will no longer be forced to use the computer designated for student publications, as has been in the past.

Junior and McGregor resident Mark Wright will be replacing Reardon's position, and commented that he appreciated Reardon's accomplishments: "He did the job extremely well. I'll be using him a lot next year."

Reardon expressed with a smile the way SGA became so much a part of his life, "It was one of the best and most tiring experiences of my life. I did my best, I hope I did things right by the students; that was my goal."

Blown Off Meetings Bring Financial Loss

By Chad Smith

A mandatory financial aid meeting was scheduled by Lisa Lankford on Wednesday, April 13, at 3pm in Gaither Chapel. The meeting was for all students who have received loans at M-AC.

Posters were placed all over campus informing students of the time and place of the meeting, and also stated that the meeting was mandatory. The posters further read that attendance would be taken.

Only 22 students out of 187 actually attended the meeting. Lankford sent out notices to all those students who failed to show up for the meeting, informing them that they had just lost their financial aid. This notice was written to capture the attention of those financial aid recipients to show them how important these scheduled meetings are. No one actually lost their financial aid, this time.

However, in the future, in order to keep up with federal regulations, whenever there are notices announcing a mandatory financial aid meeting, students who are required to attend but choose not to, will lose their financial aid award. No grace periods will be given.

Thesians Inducted into Alpha Psi Omega

By Joyce Downs

Last Tuesday night at the Drama Banquet, a charter of the Alpha Psi Omega was officially established with the induction of its first thirteen members.

Juliana Lassiter, in conjunction with English, Speech, and Drama professor Brian Fuller, conceived the idea of establishing a chapter of the honorary drama fraternity at M-AC.

Fuller explained that this represents one of the first steps in making the drama program at M-AC into something more respectable.

Members of the fraternity will consist of students involved in some type of

dramatic production. The constitution of Alpha Psi Omega has set up a point system by which a student earns points for participating in certain dramatic activities. Once a student has earned a certain amount of points, he will be eligible to join the fraternity.

Senior Naj Alicea passionately offered, "The point system is good because it rewards those who have put in the time and the effort that it takes to put together a produc-

tion." Aside from promoting the art of Drama, the fraternity will seek to perform service projects. Fuller explained, "Alpha Psi Omega's intent is to combine artistry on the

Alpha Psi Omega Members

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| Naj Alicea | Larry Furry |
| Kat Ballou | Jennifer Hardman |
| Mark Bolick | M. Janie King |
| Emilia Cabrera | Denise Oblander |
| Karen Campbell | Jeff Reardon |
| Miriam Chapen | Rod Steward |
| Brian Fuller, M.F.A. | Mark Wright |

Finals Week Instills Fear Throughout Community

By Danell Hartness

Exam time will arrive Thursday of next week, and students will spend many a lonely night with their books to prepare for their final exams.

Sophomore Jodie Carriker will be cramming with classmates in the Belk Campus Center, while freshman James Jessup prefers studying in the library over spending time with his friends.

However, M-A Hall resident Kat Ballou enjoys studying with her friends. Ballou stated, "When you need to study late and your hungry, Huddle House is the place to go."

Some students are not concerned about their exams, nor do they feel the immense pressure of exam time.

Basketball player Jason Baker expressed that his grades were good and that his exams were not something he was extremely concerned about.

The hectic exam week begins with Reading Day on Thursday, May 4. The actual testing begins on Friday, May 5, at 8am, and will end on Tuesday, May 9, at 3:30pm.

stage with a sense of service to the community."

Prestige and recognition will come to the members of the fraternity as well as to the college itself.

According to Fuller, still photographs of dramatic productions at M-AC will appear in Alpha Psi Omega's annual National Magazine.

Off-campus resident Miriam Chapen stated bluntly, "Maybe now the school will

give us money for a real theater now that we will be getting outside recognition for our hard work."

Just the fact that M-AC's productions will be seen and recognized by other colleges will "tie us into a network of conventions and competition", proudly expressed Fuller.

SGA President Jeff Reardon who's been very involved with M-AC theater commented, "It means that the whole dramatic movement at M-AC is growing."