

Montreat Students Build Futures through Habitat for Humanity

By Jennifer Mobley

With the Christmas season fast approaching, many Montreat students are thinking about semester break and going home for the holidays. And because of Montreat's involvement with Habitat for Humanity, there is at least one family in the Asheville area that will also be able to be home for the holidays – and for months after that.

Last weekend, students from the campus Habitat for Humanity ministry spent time helping a needy family build their new home in the Biltmore area. Montreat has been involved with area chapters of Habitat for Humanity for four years now, working most often with the Asheville chapter. This year, Montreat students are in the process of forming a chapter on campus. As a full-fledged chapter for Habitat, it will be their job to work

with families from the area who demonstrate a need for affordable housing. They will also be responsible to raise funds for the ministry and to educate people in this area about the issues of housing and how Habitat steps in to provide for families that could not otherwise afford to own a home.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, international organization that operates with the help of volunteers. Since they began, they have built over 45,000 houses worldwide.

"Montreat's ministry forms one piece of a much larger puzzle," commented Ed Bonner. Habitat homes are built on surplus land, often donated by the government, and using donated building materials from area suppliers. The homes are sold to low income families at an interest free, flat cost price, and the partnering families each donate 500 hours of sweat equity labor

helping to construct first their own homes and then homes for other families in similar situations. The income from the mortgages on the homes that are sold is recycled by Habitat to assist in financing the construction of more homes.

Every time Habitat makes it possible for one family to rise above the financial restraints that would have prevented them from buying and owning their own home, they also open the door for several more families to experience the same opportunity. As one Habitat representative put it, "this ministry acts as a solution to poverty, and in the process it creates long term contributing members of the community."

If you are interested in helping needy families in this area, please contact Steve Woodworth at extension 6304.

Editor's Mailbox

Dear Editor,

After reading and considering the movie review written by Eric Satter entitled "Pulp Fiction Meets Shakespeare: Romeo & Juliet in Review", we strongly feel that a more objective rejoinder to be obligatory.

While Satter briefly touched on the wonderful spectrum of color used, his comparison of the film with Pulp Fiction is unsupported like a room void of walls; only airy nothingness remains. It would be more supported with reasoning. Some have compared the fast paced action seen in the beginning of Romeo and Juliet with the video for "Sabotage" by the Beastie Boys. The video makes good use of color and the music hits on the harsh side, tonewise. Editing techniques also take on a similar flare

between the two. Furthermore, the film takes place during Contemporary times, not Modern times as was also stated in the original review.

Likewise defining the battle between Montagues and Capulets as a civil war is a malapropism; civil war pertains to a battle among one or more governments. Both families were living in accordance under the same government and feuding with each other.

The boldest element in Satter's article that we question is his quote, "Harold Perrineau played an awesome Mercutio, even if Shakespeare didn't envision the character as an African American." How does Satter know Shakespeare's intent concerning the lineage of actors in his plays? It is not specified in the list of charac-

ters found in Romeo and Juliet that they must be performed by Caucasians.

The beauty and timelessness of Shakespeare is that it isn't limited; there is a pure universality found within its capabilities and capacity to transcend decades and cultural differences enabling a presentation of connectedness among humanity to the Shakespearean audience.

Our simple reason for responding and request that closes our fury in ink: please do not try to force Shakespeare, or art in general, inside a preconceived, idealistic mold. The finished product is man-made and sans spirit, for art's arena is large.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Snelson and Denise Oblander