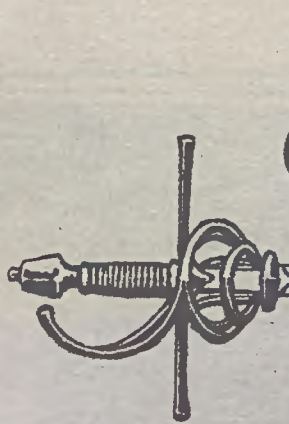




April 8, 2009
Montreat, NC 28757



The Whetstone

Montreat College's Student Voice

Not For Sale

Erin Cross

"I hate men." I joked as I told some of the girls as we sat and prayed over the film *Trade*, but when I spoke those words something resonated deep within the fibers of my soul. Men have hurt so many of the women I love, even myself. It's not only the men though; women must take responsibility for sexual perversion too. We have dehumanized each other into simply becoming objects of pleasure, void of any humanity or feeling. Our society is so saturated with sex that the average age of sexual activity is now age 12 (Not For Sale Chapel). Sex trafficking is a taboo subject that no one ever wants to talk about. We'd rather sweep it under the rug and ignore it because we are "above that;" yet the sex industry is the third highest grossing industry in the world, and yes, even in the United States. As *Trade* said "the only reason we aren't finding prostitutes in the US is

because we aren't looking for them."

Research has shown that over 700,000 people are trafficked across US borders. That's compared to 4 million worldwide annually (Not For Sale Chapel). Melodye Westbrook said "sex is ev-

strongholds of rape, prostitution, and molestation. I see the pain in my mother's eyes and the hurt that still hasn't healed for fifty years of existence and wonder how much more severe it would be for someone whose dignity was sold

uct." The Bible says "it is better to tie a millstone around your neck and be cast into the depths of the ocean than to make a little one stumble." I believe that we need to take a stand and save the leaders of tomorrow before society loses all

sense of humanity. Prayer is beyond necessary — it is critical!

It was great to hear the women of the Hope

House speak about their vision and how (I believe) they are actively living out Christ's plan. The light that radiated from their passionate speech was something only God can provide... you can't bottle that stuff. The most encouraging bit was that these women have no experience in this field and no training, but stepped out in blind faith to be an active part of Christ's work. Jesus didn't hang out with the rich and powerful, he hung out with the broken. We as Christians need to be more like Jesus: get over ourselves, and make a leap of faith. If we have even the faith of a mustard seed we can move mountains; we can end sex trafficking.

I am thankful for the awareness that was raised

by women like Cayla Newsom, Christina Redman, Julie Hetu, and the many others who worked to awaken a sleeping giant. We have the power of Christ behind us; therefore, nothing can stop us, and it's time for us to act. Christina said "Christians are a broken and beaten people too, we just had someone reach out to us...it's now time for us to reach out to others."

LOOSE CHANCE TO
LOOSEN CHAINS

students freeing modern day slaves

everywhere...God created it as something good and worshipful, but it has become something dirty." All of us have been slammed with sex our entire lives. It seems like from day one, we are programmed to view everything through the lens of sexuality. We take the blue pill, and continue to be oblivious to the dangers that lurk beneath, but it kicks us in the tail. Satan wrestles us to the ground with

for pocket change.

I can't believe how deeply sex trafficking is networked. A girl can be shipped from country to country under every government's radar legally. It is now safer to sell girls and boys than to smuggle drugs across borders due to the internet and an innumerable amount of costumers that get quick and easy access to their insatiable thirst. What breaks my heart is that a nine year old can be used

fifteen times a night, seven days a week and be a haggard old woman by the time she reaches puberty. The worst part is that this industry has a ready supply of "new prod-

VERSE MONTH

*"For the Lord Your God is God of gods and Lord of lords,
the great, the mighty, and the awesome God,
who is not partial and takes no bribe.
He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow,
and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing."*

Deuteronomy 10:17-18

