

From the Editor's Desk

Chelsea R. Bober

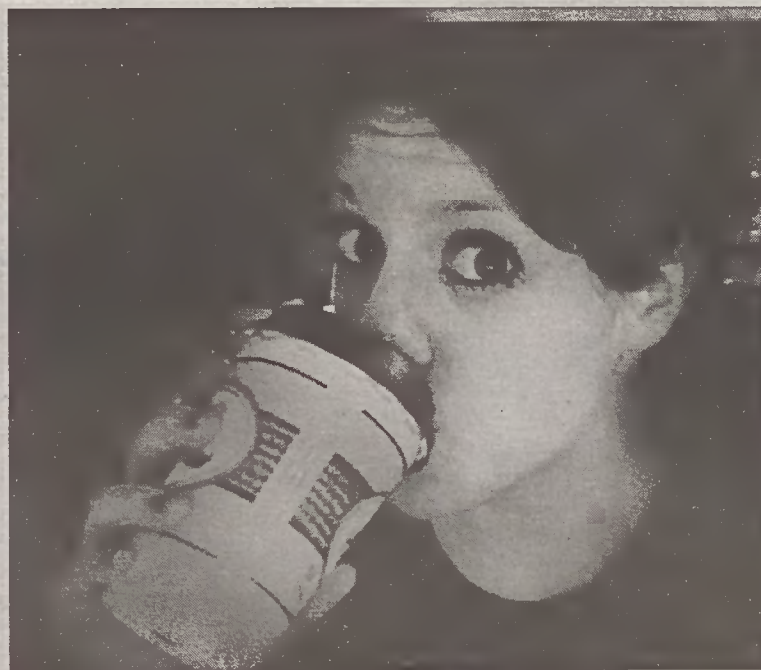
I would love to take full credit for the success of this semester's issues of *The Whetstone*, but to do so would be unfair. Before I tell you more about this newspaper, let me tell you a little of its recent history, and you will perhaps understand why I am so humbled and honored to be a part of it. After several years of high productivity in the early 2000s, regular production slowed, due to staffing issues and constant technological problems. Once upon a time, *The Whetstone* staff included over a dozen people; in the time of the Great Depression (as I like to call it), two people struggled to keep the newspaper alive.

But in Fall 2007, a new staff took over: Caitlin Foreman, Laura Cook, Shay Wilson, and me. Though I must on the grounds of truth (not false humility!) dismiss much of my own contributions, the new regime of these

excellent women brought about a renaissance for *The Whetstone*. With Caitlin's force of personality, communication with students, faculty and staff was changed and perfected, and it was her curious and biting nature that dug up many of our best articles. Laura, whose name still resounds in the English Department as near-legend, brought a critical eye and a journalistic (and thankfully, a moral) standard that continues today. Shay Wilson proved herself a treasure, working in the background to keep the newspaper's finances in order—and it wasn't until after she left that we realized how much she had contributed.

After Caitlin's graduation in December 2008, I assumed the mantle of leadership. It hasn't been easy, but being Editor in Chief hasn't been nearly as challenging for me as for Caitlin—not because

I'm better than her, but because she, in all her strength, fought through every obstacle and cleared a path for me. My staff and I have been reaping the benefits sown by Caitlin and her staff, and I am inexpressibly grateful for it. With every issue we produce, we have new writers and new contributors and new feedback. Students come up to me and say "I loved this!" or, just as welcome, "I hated this!"—the point is, people are reading the newspaper that is their student voice. Once, *The Whetstone* had to hunt for volunteers; now, often, they come to us with ideas for an article. A headline in February prompted a response in March, and still the debates continue in this issue (see *Response to Gun Free Zone* by Jed Edwards on page 4). Once, we had to hunt for exciting stories; now, students are writing articles about ugly subjects, or editorials expressing worldviews different from the usual Montreat milieu (see Erin Cross's front page story



on sex trafficking, *Not for Sale*, and Nathan Adams' *Why I am an Agnostic* on page 4). Even the everyday classroom discussions are finding their way into the paper, because you, the students, care enough to share your thoughts (see three student insights into the question of profanity in life and in art by Gessi Boyd, Jada Parker, and Stephen Long on page 8).

So, we are all blessed—because you are helping me build up this newspaper. Continue to read and react, and don't ever hesitate to speak up. If you loved an article, tell me. If you hated an article, tell me. If you disagreed with something we printed—

write to me and tell me why. If you saw a great movie, write a review. If you want to praise an awesome professor or roommate, write a funny (or sincere) tribute. If you took pictures at a baseball game or an event at the Manorhouse, let us publish them. If you helped with a project for the ES Department, share your experiences. If you are a student on this beautiful campus, and you want to see your college bettered and your classmates and professors enriched, support *The Whetstone* with your unique contributions.



Montreat College Box 839
Montreat, NC 28757
(828) 669-8012, ext. 3675
mcwhetstone@gmail.com

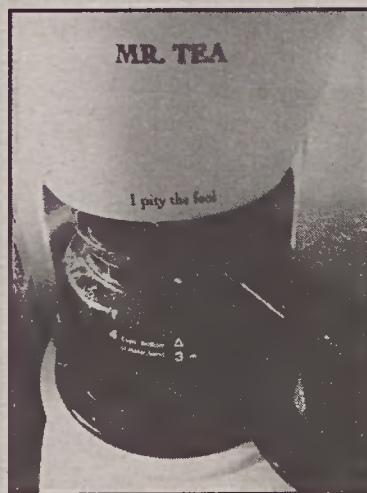
Writers

Caleb Hofheins
Carlie Howard
Chelsea Bober
Erin Cross
Gary VanBrocklin
Gessi Boyd
Jada Parker
Jed Edwards
Jim Dahlin
Keri Boer
Nathan Adams
Nick Zuerlein
Stephen Long

Photographers

Athletic PR
Annie Carlson
Cami Routh
Joanna King
Rachel Bentley

The Whetstone is published monthly while school is in session. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of Montreat College or its staff. All submissions become the property of *The Whetstone*. Funding for this paper is provided by our advertisers and the Student Activities budget. Please direct any questions or comments to the editor in chief at mcwhetstone@gmail.com.



Letter to the Editor

I want to express my appreciation for Caleb Hofheins' article, "The Music of Mess—Thoughts on The Shack." Caleb offers us a powerful insight when he says, "The healing of God is a mystery, but it is becoming evident that He knows our persons so well that He will restore us in ways which are best for us." The rub lies in having the moral courage to allow what is best for us to remain a mystery in the

midst of our bitter disappointments and frightening pains.

As we enter Holy Week we have a new opportunity to understand our lives in the context of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that promises us "for our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." II Cor. 5: 21.

I look forward to another article by Caleb!

-Dr. Gary Van Brocklin