

The Montreat College Student Voice WHEATSTONE

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Trustees Vote on Tuition Increase

by Don King
President

The Montreat College Board of Trustees met on the Montreat Campus last week for the annual fall meeting. Many of you may have had an opportunity to meet some of these men and women who love this college and are committed to it and to

you, the students. As you can imagine, a Board of Trustees must deal with a multitude of issues concerning the growth and welfare of a college.

One of the items decided during last week's meeting was the need for an increase in tuition, room, and board for the 2004-05 academic year. After extensive discussion, the Board

of Trustees approved an increase of 8.1% in the full charge for tuition, room, and board; this will be an increase of \$1,502.

Among the many factors influencing this decision were two primary ones. First, in order for the college to strengthen its academic program and best meet the needs of its stu-

dents, three faculty positions need to be filled for next year: Computer Information Systems, English: Creative Writing/Rhetoric, and History. Second, for three consecutive years the faculty and staff have not received increases in their compensation; as a result, you may know that we have already lost valuable members of the

faculty and staff. Accordingly, portions of the tuition, room, and board increase are intended to go toward providing fair and adequate wages for the faculty and staff.

While we understand an increase in tuition, room, and board is difficult for students and their families, we are studying ways to help soften the impact of this increase. Please know that we will make additional information about this available in the coming weeks.

Visitor's Center

by April Heyward

For the one million travelers visiting the area annually, the Black Mountain Visitor Center educates tourists about places to eat, sleep, shop, and stroll around town.

Many tourists visit the center in the summer months, between June and August. The middle of October tends to be the busiest time for the center. Executive director of the center, Bob McMurray, says, "Most people

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SparkNotes Upgrade Boosts Appeal of Shortcut

by Kortney Blythe

According to Collegiate Presswire, web users can now download audio SparkNotes, delivered by famous actors for \$4.95.

The company's wide collection of easily digested summaries of classic literature is breaking into the audio field. This makes their material more

accessible for students with reading difficulties.

Started by two Harvard graduates, SparkNotes is now owned by Barnes and Noble.

For the initial launch, only select titles have been converted to the audio format - *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Hamlet*, *The Odyssey*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *The*

Scarlet Letter.

Notable actors such as Phil Morris ("Seinfeld"), Yvonne Craig (TV's original batgirl), and Jason Robards III narrate the full-length study guides, which are available in MP3, Windows Media, and QuickTime.

Students can download the entire audio file or just the sections they need. According to Tammy Hepps, Director of Technology for SparkNotes, "students can search the audio files for specific words or phrases."

Montreat College-English adjunct, Betty Sue James, does not see much value in the new audio format. She guesses "students will fall asleep" listening to them.

SparkNotes attracts millions of student users, but many professors frown upon this shortcut.

College President and Shakespeare professor Don King reveals, "Ponies"

like these have been around for a long time; they are the inevitable result of people looking for a 'quick fix' when it comes to learning."

"Why would someone want to shortchange a writer like Shakespeare who created thousands of words and is a bard in the English language?" asks James.

King adds, "SparkNotes are fine if someone just wants to get the 'gist' of a work. They will not, however, help someone who has not read the original work really learn the material."

However, the fact remains that over 24 million students hit the site weekly for a shortened overview of their assigned novel or play.

Many Montreat students refrained from comment on their use of SparkNotes, not wishing to mar their reputation with professors.

Junior Dustin Etheridge admits,

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VERSE of the WEEK

"But you are shield around me, O LORD; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head. To the LORD I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill." Selah

- Psalms 3:3-4