

# The Montreal College Student Voice WHETSTONE

Volume IV, Number VIII    Montreal, NC 28757    February 27, 2004

## Scholarship Fundraiser Stalled by Laws and Love

by Batchimeg Sambalaibat

Phonathon, the biggest annual student fundraising event, is cancelled this year due to the National Do Not Call Registry.

Montreat has approximately 8,000 alumni, out of which over 3,000 are on the National Do Not Call Registry. According to the September 2003 legislation limiting telemarketing, non-profit organizations can still raise money over the phone, but must transmit their caller ID information.

The college is a legitimate caller because of its non-profit status. However, their phone system does not currently provide caller ID information for long distance calls. According to Interim Alumni Director, Anita Sayles, the Advancement Office decided to compare the alumni database with the National Do Not Call Registry, even though "the law technically does not affect us,...because of love for alumni."

The Advancement Office decided not to proceed with Phonathon 2004 out of respect for alumni who wish not to be called.

Phonathon has been bringing in alumni dollars since the 1980s, and depends on student callers, particularly the Wilson Scholars, who are required to participate. Students call alumni and ask them to support Montreat by donating to the Annual Keystone Fund. "It has been successful because the former students are talking to the present students. And It's a wonderful connection between the two," says Sayles.

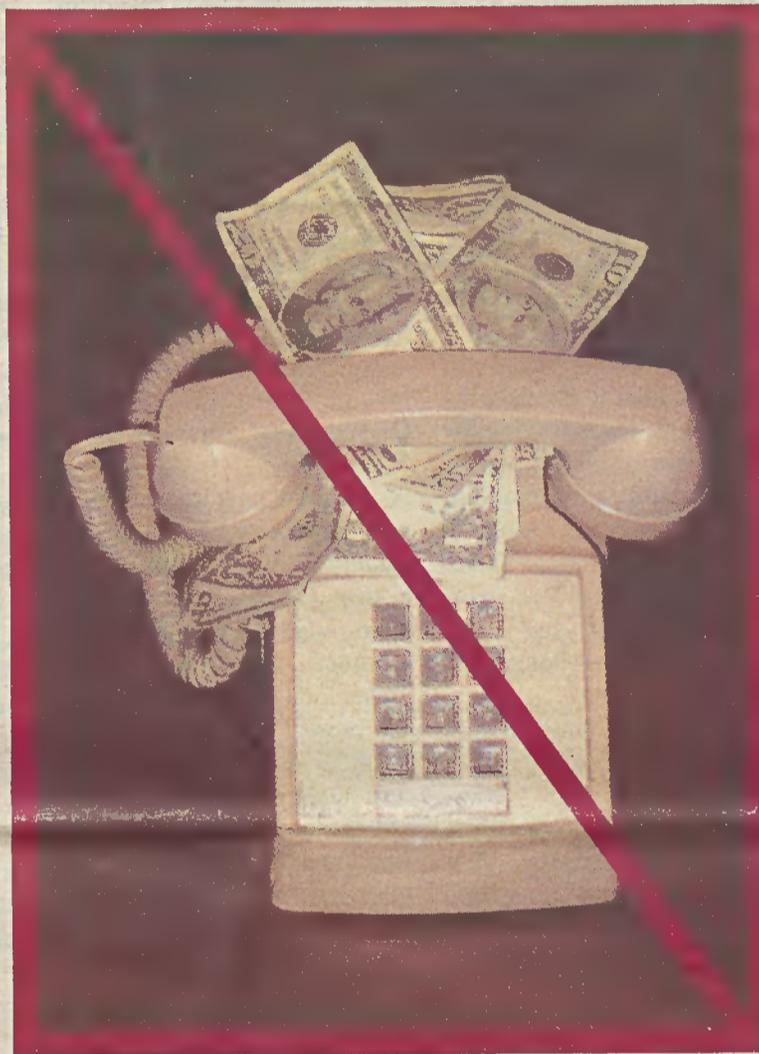
"It's a great way to assure our alumni that the college is still alive and kicking," adds Dirk Wilmoth, Vice President for Advancement and Finance. Last year the students raised \$14,000 and \$17,000 the year before. The money raised during Phonathon goes to the Annual Keystone Fund and is used for unrestricted scholarships for students.

Phonathon usually takes place for three to four weeks in February. Students get together weekday evenings in the Alumni Office for dinner, then get to work making calls. "It's real fun, almost like a party atmosphere," says Sayles, who has helped organize the event for the last several years.

"It is kind of strange not having it [Phonathon] this year," comments Kortney Blythe, top-caller for 2002 and 2003. "I loved it because I got to meet all the alumni and hear their stories, and I liked the interaction between the students who were helping."

In the meantime, Sayles is working on an alternative fundraising effort, called Zonathon, involving a special mailing to the alumni. The mailing will include personal notes from the Wilson Scholars. "It's an opportunity for us to do something creative," says Wilmoth. "We acknowledge the people who don't want to be called but we still want them to know how important their support is."

According to Wilmoth, Phonathon will be back in 2005.



## Students to Simulate Life as a Civil War Soldier

by April Heyward

History students from Montreat and Asheville Christian Academy (ACA) anticipate dramatizing the hardships of war through battle reenactment at the academy's Civil War Day, tentatively planned for March 2.

The event's lead planner and Civil War professor, Dr. Bill Forstchen, began organizing the event in the fall with teachers from ACA to, "give students a better sense of the life of a young recruit during the Civil War and to learn about the hardships and sacrifice that all soldiers face, then and now."

The professional reenactment team Hardtack & Wool will play a huge role participating in the event.

Students from both schools look forward to suiting up and taking

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## Struble Chats With SGA President

by Lyndsay Mayer

*SGA president Lyndsay Mayer sits down with Montreat College president Dr. Dan Struble to talk about family vacations, beef stéw, and Dr. Struble's passion for his calling.*

Q: You have been spotted working out in the college gym, even asking students for a spotter on the bench press. What is your motivation for keeping fit?

A: The body is the temple of the living God ("for we are the temple of the living God" 2 Cor. 6:16). This is true individually, for the Holy Spirit indwells each of us, and of the body of the Church, which is the bride of Christ. As a sign of respect for the Lord, we must take care of our physical bodies, and as members of Christ's body we are called to care for one another. The better we care for our bodies, the better we will be able to care for others.

Q: What was the most exciting or memorable revelation of God's hand working in your life?

A: I have never felt more called by God to His purpose than now, in His call for me to come to Montreat. Sometime, though, I'd also like to tell you how God used me during the war in Afghanistan.

Q: Is Montreat the first institution at which you've filled a completely civilian capacity throughout your career?

A: I have been active duty or reserve Navy since 1979, so in that sense I have been in the military all my adult life. But since leaving active duty in 1990, I have been a civilian at work and a Naval Officer when called to duty.

Q: How will your reserve status affect your position at school and at home?

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**VERSE**  
of the **WEEK**

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- John 13:35 NIV

by **4**  
**What's Inside**  
Call for volunteers to Thailand

