

letters and continuations

Life as a Civil War Soldier

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sides for North or South during the all-day adventure. Approximately 140 American history students in the fifth, eighth, and eleventh grade from the academy will serve as soldiers in the battle. Teachers and staff members will supervise and assist students. Administrators decided to cancel afternoon classes for the remainder of the school, giving students the opportunity to see their

classmates relive history.

Participants from Dr. Forstchen's weekly Civil War class at Montreat will carry leadership positions varying from Union and Confederate sergeant majors, sergeants, pyrotechnic assistants and callers of the dead.

Sophomore history major Lucas Fisher, a fourth generation descendant of a Confederate soldier, views

the reenactment as an opportunity to relate with his past. "I consider it very interesting to see how my fathers fought and died," Fisher says "and to see that it's not a drama and it's a lot scarier that it seems."

Safety of all participants plays a huge role with reenactment. "We want a fun event," Forstchen says, "but one that is 100% safe." Montreat students will be trained in

drill and gun safety prior the event. Adult supervised simulators will be placed away from the crowd.

The Civil War Day will begin with news announcing North Carolina's succession from the Union. Students will then side with the Union or the Confederate Army. After listening to speeches glorifying the cause of war, students will then choose to sign and swear their allegiance to their army of choice.

ACA students are getting prepared to jump into the life of a soldier by joining a company, receiving wooden firearms, and learning the fundamentals of marching, loading and firing.

Lunches packed with the typical wartime meal of hardtack, dried beef, and tea will prove to be a difficult adjustment for students. During lunch, students will write a letter to their family, telling of their experience and thoughts of the army life.

All soldiers injured during the battle will be instructed to pull out a card, listing if they were killed in action, immobile, or mobile. The callers of the dead will be in charge of dousing simulated blood on injured soldiers.

After fighting, wounded soldiers will head towards the battle hospi-

tal. Dr. Forstchen will play the role of army physician determining which soldier is capable of surviving their wounds.

Students will then write letters to their family, telling about what happened at the battle. Friends of the deceased or mortally wounded are told to write letters to their fallen comrade's family. A brief funeral service will be held for the deceased soldiers, who lay quietly in the cemetery area holding a family photo and a Bible.

The day will end with Dr. Forstchen speaking to the crowd about the events of the day and the how the reenactment gave a picture of the hardships people endured during the four-year period.

Students from both institutions find participating in the event very exciting, and Forstchen is impressed with the ACA student's reaction to the Civil War Day. "Kids are getting fired up about history. I have never in all my career entered the embrace of a history program," says Forstchen, "I am particularly excited that this is a joint effort involving Montreat and ACA, both schools dedicated to Christ centered learning."

Chatting With Dr. Struble

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A: It won't. I am retiring.

Q: What do you and your family enjoy doing on your vacations?

A: We try to do different things at different places each year, but we're drawn repeatedly to the beach. We love the sun, the sand, and the sea, and playing together in the surf.

Q: Do you have any interesting family traditions?

A: Yes. One of our favorites is that every Christmas Eve, we make beef stew for Santa Claus.

Q: What motivated you to pursue your education up through the Ph.D. level?

A: My wife likes to tell people I did it because I was leaving the Navy as she was completing her Ph.D., and that I couldn't bear to go from being addressed as "Lieutenant and Mrs." (Struble) to "Dr. and Mr.!"

Q: What do you say when someone calls the house and asks for Dr. Struble?

A: Which one, Karen or Dan?

Q: What is your favorite part of the Montreat campus?

A: The people. I have been repeatedly impressed by your love for God, the grace you show to each other, and the warmth with which you all have welcomed my family and

me.

Q: What first attracted you to Montreat?

A: A good and trusted friend nominated me for the job. Though I wasn't looking for a new job at the time—and even avoided this one for two months—I felt called to take a closer look. The closer I looked, the more I felt the call. I told Mandie and Ben that when I first heard the call, I responded "My name's not Samuel!", and like Jonah I ran from God." But God drew me closer and closer until I felt like being anywhere else would be empty in comparison to Montreat.

Letters to the Editor

Good evening,

As I sat in a dorm room, anticipation filled my thoughts as I saw a copy of the *Whetstone* lying on my friend's bed. As I thumbed through the pages I was informed of Bob Graham's departure, what The Butterfly Effect is all about, who of my friends graduated, and who got married or got engaged.

As usual when finished reading, I looked at the back of the

paper to "Meet Montreat". I read what Randy, Cyndy, and Lolly all did for Christmas Break.

Then I read Josh Palmer's paragraph. For a NEW student to admit to a NEW student body that he recommitted his faith and faith in learning is amazing.

I congratulate Josh on this life changing decision. Then I read the last sentence: "We'll see if that holds up or not." Why

didn't we have him walk up on the chapel stage and all laugh at him?

This is not the message that I feel that we need to send to transfers and new students. We are called by God to encourage and bear one another's burdens, not to tear down and insult one another.

I believe that a formal apology is in order for Josh and for all of

Montreat. Good journalism is unbiased and unsarcastic reporting.

Thanks for your time.

God Bless,
Jeff Walker

The Whetstone's response on Pg. 8

Dear *Whetstone*,

I find the *Whetstone* intellectually stimulating; so much so that every time I read it my cranium falls subject to indescribable pain.

Chaos frightens me and I would recommend you not review movies dealing with such nebulous theories in the future, as it confuses

and causes much loss of sleep for me.

Needless to say I will not be watching *The Butterfly Effect*.

Thanks for publishing with integrity.

Dan Hesse

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WriteTheEditor@hotmail.com
Please keep 'em short.

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