

Letter from the Editor

I guess by now you've noticed that this isn't a typical semester for *The Whetstone*. We are trying something a little different. It has been brought to our attention in multiple fashions that Montreat's "bubble effect" is just as far-reaching as ever. By "bubble effect" I mean: Montreatians

tend to get so caught-up in the life here, they forget that there is a world beyond the gate.

Eventually all Montreat students will be in the midst of that world and culture before they know it; without the cushion of a Montreat safe-haven. We hope a portion of the mission statement/

foundation of Montreat College will help you understand our reasoning. "We [Montreat College]... seek to graduate students who are committed to Christian servant-leadership in the world, promoting personal and social righteousness by God's grace and to His glory."

Therefore, we as students and as your student voice are doing our part to diminish the misfortune of the "bubble effect". This semester we are printing three 12-page issues of *The Whetstone* and hope to include many world news stories and world views perspectives within each issue.

We have taken it upon ourselves to direct your attention towards a greater global awareness... no more excuses past and present IS202 class!

Lindsey Migliori
& The Whetstone Team

Iraqi Blast

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tice. "We demand an investigation so that the criminals who did this will be punished," one of the protesters, 28-year-old Mahmoud al-Samarie, told the Associated Press news agency. "If the government fails to do so, then we will take up arms and chase the people behind this attack."

Protests and violence broke out across Iraq:

- In Baghdad, a Sunni mosque in Baladiya district is raked with gunfire, while black-clad militiamen of the Shia Mehdi Army demonstrate in Sadr City; six Sunnis die in violence

- In Basra, gunmen attack Sunni mosques and exchange fire with guards at an office of the Sunni Iraqi Islamic Party

- Businesses shut down in Najaf and about 1,000 march through the streets, waving flags and shouting slogans

- Markets, shops and stalls close in Diwaniya, AP says. A Mehdi Army militiaman is killed in clashes after gunmen from the faction attack Sunni houses, Reuters news agency reports

- About 3,000 people demon-

strate in the Shia city of Kut, chanting anti-American and anti-Israeli slogans and burning US and Israeli flags, AP says.

National mourning

The al-Askari shrine is one of two shrines in Samarra for revered Shia imams, which attract pilgrims from around the world. The golden dome of the shrine - part of the Imam Ali al-Hadi mausoleum - was reduced to a shell of brown masonry and twisted metal.

Despite soaring anger, Ayatol-

lah Sistani, widely regarded as a moderate, urged Shias not to attack Sunni Muslims or their holy places and called a week of national mourning. Iraq's Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari, a Shia, appeared live on television to declare three days of mourning. Firebrand Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr cut short a visit to Lebanon on hearing news of the attack. British Prime Minister Tony Blair condemned the attack and urged Iraqis not to retaliate. "The perpetrators of this act

had one motive and one alone. They want to cause strife and violence between Sunni and Shia to derail democracy," he said. US President George W Bush said: "This senseless crime is an affront to people of faith throughout the world." Washington's ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad, and the top US commander in the country, Gen George Casey, said the US would contribute to the shrine's reconstruction.

Letter from a Student

by James Michael Sanders



I decided to come to Montreat after I had spent one year at a much larger college in my hometown of Hammond, Louisiana. My time there made an extreme difference towards my appreciation of the Montreat College atmosphere.

The professors at my previous college seemed to not care at all about the well being of their students. I see the complete opposite with the professors at Montreat. I recall during my week of orientation how I was walking around campus with my schedule trying to find out where my classes were. I remember going to the science building and meeting Dr. Lassiter and Mr. Cunningham. The way in which they talked to me that day assured me that I had made the right decision in coming to Montreat. They seemed happy to meet me and as if they really like getting up early in the morning and doing their jobs. I remember thinking to myself after that conversation that I would have never had a conversation like that with the professors at the large university I came from. Since that time I have gotten to know the rest of the science professors and enjoy spending time with them inside and outside of their classrooms.

The same can be said about the OE professors. I had the privilege of accompanying Dr. Bobilya and Dr. Shuman as well as some really awesome fellow Montreat students over the fall break. I think everyone needs a little encouragement from time to time and I just thought I would return some of the encouragement that the students and I have received from our professors in every department here at Montreat. Thanks for all that you do!

The Montreat College Student Voice
W H E T S T O N E

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Unemployed by Matt Steen 9/26/03