The Montreal College Student Voice

WHETSTONE

Volume VII, Number VIII

Montreat, NC 28757

April 28, 2006

We Don't Wanna' Grow Up!

by Steve Carter

TWEEEETTTTT!!! As the whistle blew the portable shields advanced, the trebuchet fired its first volley, and both sides erupted with deafening screams. Peter Pan / Pirate Day had officially begun. What had started as a humble idea between two students the previous week had proliferated into an event that boasted participation of a fourth of the Montreat College student body, all by word-of-mouth on campus.

It began as most great events in history do, with an idea. A genius idea. Sophomore Jake Rhinehart (Peter Pan) and Freshman Holly Seddon (Captain Hook) came up with the notion of a Peter Pan themed day at the end of March 2006, envisioning no more than a score of people participating with cardboard swords and a few waterballoons present. As news of the upcoming event spread, their expectations were to be far exceeded. Students all over campus began to take an interest and eagerly joined either the Lost Boys or Pirates.

The week leading up to Peter Pan / Pirate Day was a spectacle to behold indeed. Both sides threw themselves into a frenzied passion of planning, preparation, and recruiting that was nothing short of amazing. An enjoyable animosity between both factions was present over campus, with enthusiastic shouts of "ARRGHHH!" or "BANG-a-RANG!" being heard

the to form, the characters from the world of Peter Pan also began to emerge with roles like Rufio, apted John, Michael, Tinkerbell, and others being reserved by enthusiastic participants. Even a few Indians were represented, including Tigerlily who was dramatically abducted from her morning class the day of the event, and held "hostage" until the climactic battle. Somehow, a Viking got thrown in the mix as mets in well.

The battle lines would begin forming at Welch Field (affectionately called "the Dust Bowl" by Montreat Students) at around 3:30 on Friday the 7th of March. The Lost Boys and Indians had § formed an alliance against the pirates, and their armaments included portable shields, trees, waterballoons, water guns and plenty of foam weapons. The Pirate side constructed a 25-foot ship from bamboo and cardboard, complete with a sail and generously stocked armory. The Pirates also boasted a working trebuchet, which inspired awe from both sides as it hurled balloons half the length of the field. All told, there were over 60 participants, two-dozen spectators, nine photographers, and upwards of 4,000 waterballoons

With the whistle blown the

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"Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted."

- Isaiah 49:13 NKJV





