



23 October 2008
Montreat, NC 28757

The Whetstone

Montreat College's Student Voice

Entertaining Critical Thinking: Crossroads

Stephanie Routh

"We don't really want to debate 'Christian' art," says Michael Dechane, Public Relations Specialist for the communications office, "We really would rather take secular mainstream art and consider it from a Christian worldview or perspective."

Crossroads, an art-focused, faith-based cultural event unique to Montreat College, officially began October 14th. This year the cultural festival focused on faith and film. Specific Crossroads events for the week included a special convocation about film with guest speaker Matt Bridges, movie showings with group forums, and the first-ever student YouTube Film Festival showing. Crossroads Film Festival was created by Daniel Bennett, Jim Dahlin, and Michael Dechane.



Daniel Bennett started Crossroads last year with a focus on music and culture.

To get students hyped for Crossroads, three different

movie discussions were held the week before. Students had the opportunity to see "Iron Man," the new release blockbuster; "Rivers and Tides," a documentary, and "The

Mission," a dramatic history. Sophomore Jake Clement attended two of the film discussions. "I love movies, and I love talking about movies," said Clement, "Having this forum to get people talking about the meaning behind the images is great."

The forums continued throughout the week. Students got the chance to enjoy movies such as "Cool Hand Luke" and "The Shawshank Redemption" with

group discussions taking place after the movie. Students were also strongly encouraged to participate in the judging and observation of the student film festival.

The YouTube Film Festival was open to all students. Participants were allowed a 7-10 minute film length that included three criteria: a certain prop, line of dialogue, and overarching theme. Students had ten days to write, film, edit, and produce the final film. A panel of judges spent two days determining the winner accordingly. Students also voted for their choice film at the premiere.

Crossroads Festival was designed to initiate critical and faith-based thinking from students in response to the art and culture around them. "I think it is great that we are looking at film in terms of its impact

on our culture," says Jim Shores, associate professor of communications. "Film, of all the art forms, is the most influential on our culture."

Jim Shores led the group discussion of "The Mission." A movie about Jesuit priests in the 18th century who tried to protect a South American tribe from slavery, the film is considered one of the greatest dramas of the 1980s.

"I hope that students begin to more critically examine what they are looking at and its impact on them," says Shores. "I think it would be great if they began thinking 'I am a part of this greater culture so what is the impact on my culture?'"

"Art is one of those things where you can look at it a bunch of different times and get different things out of it," concludes Jake Clement.



Crossroads is a tool that will hopefully initiate conversations on the different perspectives of faith and film.

"If students walk away with anything from Crossroads this year, I hope that they realize that every film they watch, explicitly or implicitly, has a worldview, truth about humanity and a psychology about God," says Dechane.

Men's Basketball Recieves Honor

Matt Johnson

From October 3rd-5th the Montreat Men's Basketball team had a chance to work with some of the best Division One coaches in the country at a Nike Coaches Clinic in Charlotte, NC. Some of the coaches present included Jim Boeheim of Syracuse, Jay Wright of Villanova, Thad Matta of Ohio State, Phil Martelli of St. Joes, Geno Auriemma from UConn, Jeff Chapel of Oklahoma along with other well known names.

Our clinic included ten sessions of a little over an hour

each. The coach leading the session would usually give a



brief introduction to the topic he was going to teach and

his own personal philosophy on it. The basketball team helped when a coach needed a live demonstration. For example, Coach Wright used five of us to illustrate the movement of his 4 out 1 in motion offense, and Coach Boeheim had nearly all of us on the court to go over the principles of his famous 2-3 zone.

The most interesting part of the clinic was being able to see the different coaching philosophies of each coach. Coach Martelli was

See NIKE CLINIC pg. 10

VERSE of the MONTH

Then the LORD said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you."

Exodus 34:10