

**“Now this is Just Embarrassing”**

Maddie Stagmaro

As I sit in my dorm room, I'm faced with a choice. I need to use Google and other sites to do research for my paper. But if I start now, I won't have any bandwidth left to browse the internet when I'm finally done. So, do I work on the paper and lose almost all contact with the outside world? Or do I procrastinate even more?

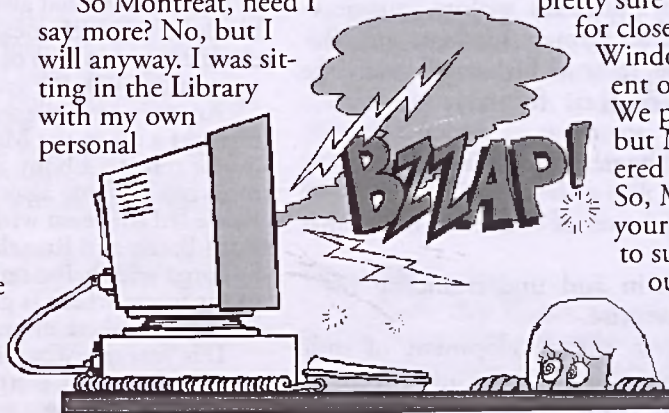
These are the questions that many students here at Montreat College are faced with. We pay close to \$30,000 a year to attend school here. Why? For a recently installed cell tower (that still lacks Verizon), no reliable source to print something, and the world's lousiest internet.

This semester, I'm excited to say, I am taking a Screen Writing class with Dr. Jim Shores. We recently met on the second floor in Morgan Science building to host a guest speaker. When the speaker discovered that his computer was too old to plug into the over-head projector, he turned to the college's fancy Mac computer sitting

on the desk. The mouse didn't work. He then tried to log onto his personal computer but couldn't get passed the security system that is set up for students.

One gentlemen sitting in the class graciously volunteered his newer Mac laptop. But, he wasn't getting... you guessed it! INTERNET! It took 3 tries before we were able to find a computer that was actually able to hook up to the over-head and get enough internet to bring up web pages. The guest speaker tried to play some videos, but they were taking at least five minutes to load.

So Montreat, need I say more? No, but I will anyway. I was sitting in the Library with my own personal



For more from Josh, visit [www.mcwhetstone.com](http://www.mcwhetstone.com)

**Why History is Important**

Josh Van Dine

The month of February is known as Black History Month. It is a time where we honor African-Americans who have had an impact on history whether it is Martin Luther King Jr., who helped end the segregation that was taking place against African-Americans in the 1960s, or if it is the members of the Tuskegee Airmen, who helped fight against the Germans in World War II. However, we should not just celebrate the African-American culture; all of history is important and it should be embraced. Unfortunately, the main mentality about the subject of history is that all that is required in learning history is the memorization of dates that no one really cares to know; this causes many people to turn away from history.

History, however, is much more than dates; it is one very large story written by God for the world; the one big story can then be divided into smaller and smaller stories. For example, one can study the history of a particular continent, a particular country within that continent, a particular city within that country, or a particular individual within that city. The multiple stories can then be divided into

chapters when one studies a particular era of the encompassing story. These stories can help people by allowing themselves to get to know their personal self through their heritage; or we can prevent history from repeating itself in a bad way.

By getting to know His story and the smaller stories that are found inside one can apply something good that happened in the past to the present; or the study of a tragic event can prevent something similar from happening in the future. For example, Americans would find the founding of America inspiring, so if a politician takes America in the wrong direction we can look to them for direction. Also, I'm sure everyone agrees that the death of 6,000,000 Jews at the hands of the Nazis is a great tragedy that has taken place within our history. However, if we don't get to know the story of this horrible tragedy, then something similar to it or worse will take place in the future. As George Santayana states, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

History is also important because

laptop trying to get some homework done. I was instant messaging with a friend from home for about an hour when everything having to do with the internet completely died on me. I couldn't get online at all! I couldn't check my email. I couldn't finish my conversation with my friend and I couldn't get online if I needed it for homework. So, what's my only other option? The computer Lab.

The computers in the computer Lab are just a little bit dated. They still have Windows XP. The official release date of XP was October 25, 2001. Yes, I said 2001. Now I'm no expert, but I'm pretty sure that means it's been around

for close to 10 years. Since 2007, Windows has released two different operating system options. We pay almost \$30,000 a year, but Montreat hasn't even bothered to upgrade.

So, Montreat, in view of giving your students the best chance to succeed, how about moving out of the past and giving us the tools to move into the future?

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it allows someone to get to know him/herself and the people around them.

For example, it is highly likely that someone has a relative who has fought in some war like World War II. So, if that person learns about World War II history then he or she will get to know the relative that fought in the war. Also if that individual is in the Army then their relative's experience in that war will inspire them in the current situation.

To many people the study of history is just the memorization of dates which causes them to turn away from history because they find it boring. People need to realize that history is much more than just dates and figures. As a pastor at my church said in a sermon one time, history is really a story that can "either inspire you or depress you." If there's an event that inspires you then it's important to learn and hold on to. If there's an event that depresses you then it's also worth learning because then you can prevent a repetition of that event in the future. History also allows you to get to know yourself better, especially if someone in your family helped make history.