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Lady 'Saders lose triple header

by Faith Sacht

It was a stormy night both literally and figuratively for the Lady Crusaders softball team last Thursday. Underneath a cloudy sky, the Crusaders were swept 4-3, 3-0, and 9-2 by Saint Martin's College.

In the opener, NNU battled with the Saints until the seventh inning when a Crusader error allowed one of the players from St. Martin's to steal home. In the second game, the 'Saders came up short on the offensive end, failing to drive in runs. In the last game of the night, the team appeared to be exhausted by the prior two games. The bats for St. Martin's became hot as they went on a spree, scoring three runs in the second inning, three in the fourth, one in the fifth, and two in the sixth.

This is a common scene for the 'Saders softball team in their second year of competition in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. With a rather disappointing win/loss record, the end of the season spells relief for the softball team. Their season consists of forty plus games during the spring, and many more in the fall pre-season. Often-times playing more than six games in a single weekend, it is not uncommon for them to miss three days a week of school during the spring season.

Now for many of you, missing that much school may sound like a good thing. However, missing school is fun until your grades go down, your professors get frustrated, and you do not have weekends to call your own. "Time management is extremely hard," Kara Johnson said, "Balancing homework with practice, and your social life with practice is just really tough." Megan Rodenbach sums up the team's overall feelings regarding the headache of the season, "It just burns you out."

The situation the softball team players finds themselves in is common amongst collegiate athletes. Academics and athletics are not easy for any individual to balance. It will make an individual cry, hurt, and sweat. It will also make one tougher both mentally and physically than he or she ever thought was possible. This is especially true when one is part of a new program such as NNU's softball team. The Lady Crusaders' next home game is against Blue Mountain Community College on May 9. Put it on your calendar, and enjoy the sunshine in supporting the softball team. Oh, and props to the softball team for making it this far through another tough season. Keep up the hard work!



Photo by David Hille

Two Crusaders take first at meet

by Chris Canton

Two first place finishes for the Crusader track team highlighted a gloomy Saturday spent at the Western Open, in Monmouth, Oregon at Western Oregon University.

Zach Dwello finished first in the men's 3000-meter steeplechase. In the finals he finished with a time of 9:28.2, which was more than 19 seconds faster than Ethan Barrons of Western Oregon who place second in the event. Anthony Gould and Josh Fishburne each placed third in the Men's Pole Vault, with identical marks, having both cleared 14'1.25." Tyler Lane also finished third in the men's 1500-meter run with a time of 4:05.70. Freshman Chris Mosbacher faired well, finishing second in the men's 400-meter hurdles.

On the girls' side, Alina Lunsford, Aubrey Metzger along with Theresa Mangahas finished in a three-way tie for first place in the women's pole vault, having all cleared 10'6". Sophomore Bekah Bowman ran very well for the Crusaders as she finished third in the women's 200-meter dash and fourth in the women's 400-meter dash with a time of 1:03.71

Having to fight stormy weather, certain members of the track team rose to the challenge and faired well against the murky conditions. Many members of the team set PR's on Saturday, which could be a stepping-stone for this relatively young track program. Overall, it was a weekend in which the host school, Western Oregon, displayed their stronger track program to many of the visiting schools including NNU. However, with the young talent the NNU track team has on both the men's and women's side, the Crusaders could soon be just as competitive as their foes from Monmouth. - the pulpit by Ruth Cashell

As America continues to struggle with the role of women, so does the Christian community, especially in terms of church leadership. Michael Pate, a junior Psychology major at NNU, recently conducted a research experiment to investigate current attitudes toward women in ministerial leadership. Using NNU students as his sample, Pate discovered that despite the Nazarene church's push toward more open views of women in leadership, most current students (both male and female) still believe that women should not be pastors.

Pate sought to determine whether participants would attend a church with a woman senior pastor compared to a church with an equally qualified male senior pastor. He used 64 female participants and 44 males between the ages of 18-29. Using the non-gender specific name of Kerry, different scenarios were created by changing Kerry's gender. Each situation was followed by a survey in which participants were instructed to rank what occupation Kerry would be most qualified for, rate Kerry's perceived attributes and indicate how likely the participant would be to attend the church where Kerry was the senior pastor.

The study found that students thought it was more desirable to attend a church with Kerry as a male senior pastor. As senior pastor of a church, Kerry as a female was rated significantly less qualified that Kerry as a male. Interestingly, female participants also rated Kerry more qualified as a homemaker than male participants did. Students viewed a male pastor as more desirable than a female pastor, despite the female Kerry possessing the same attributes as the male Kerry.

What does this all mean? For one thing, this may indicate that NNU students do not base a person's capacity on experience or ability, but on the gender of that person. This also appears to signify that students here on campus hold significant gender-role stereotypes towards women in leadership, especially ministerial leadership.

Historically, the Nazarene church has held that women and men can share equally in pastoral roles in the church. In 1898, the Los Angeles Church of the Nazarene stated that women were eligible to become ordained ministers. The first woman was ordained a year later. By 1908, nine years later, 20 percent of clergy within the Nazarene denomination were women.

By 1993, however, women led only one percent of Nazarene congregations in the United States. In spite of historical acceptance of women in pastoral leadership, our own practice today has been influenced by a cultural reluctance to accept women in that role. In addition, many sincere Christians who try to adhere to the teachings of God's Word have come to believe that the Bible prohibits women in pastoral roles.

These theological objections are usually based on two or three texts from the Apostle Paul. These include 1 Timothy 2: 11-15 and 1 Corinthians 14:34-36. The problem occurs when these "parts" are taken as the whole of his teaching about women. There is textual, contextual, and historical evidence that suggests that these verses represent Paul's attempt to deal with a unique set of problems at a specific church. Paul's own practice shows us that the early church included some very important women leaders, such as Phoebe and Junia, as well as many others.

Pate's findings coincide with previous research that states that despite changes in cultural attitudes towards women, women seeking ministerial positions still experience significant opposition based on gender. For the sake of our denomination, this experiment needs further evaluation, for though Nazarene Theological Seminary warmly receives women, women have a difficult time finding a church or congregation that will accept them once they have completed their educational preparation.

It is imperative that we take this problem seriously. To withhold certain offices and functions from women institutionalizes dividedness in the body of believers based on no higher principle than that of gender. Women have just as much right as men to exercise their spiritual gifts in the Church and fulfill their ministry, especially if they are called to preach. Everyone suffers an appalling loss when half of the church's members are excluded from positions of responsibility. The wholeness and health of the Church of the Nazarene depend upon the freedom of each individual to exercise his or her spiritual gifts and calling to the fullest.

Pate has recently won the 2003 American Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers award and the Harold Young Research Award scholarship for this research project. He presented the corresponding paper at the American Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers Conference this past March.

What

The

of my life this year has been trying to come up with a topic to write about for the feature story. Trying to pinpoint what college people think about and care to read about has been painfully arduous and, I'm afraid, unsuccessful at times. Then I heard some where that the average young adult male thinks about sex every seven to ten minutes. I don't know about that, and I'm sure I don't want to know, but it did strike me that sex is something that everyone has in common in one way or another. Some people want it, some are desperately trying to abstain from it, and some have talks about it with roommates or dreams about it at night. It's something everyone comes across at one time or another.

story

My next obstacle for the feature is how to research my topic. I thought about going to some professors with anatomical understanding of humankind's sexuality. I thought about doing some reading, but the more I thought about it, the more certain I was that I should go to my MTV generation: people as they are, raw and uncensored. I sat down at a table in Sodexho with my little recorder, and started a conversation about sex. Throughout the meal, people came and went, but all were definitely interested in the conversation. The main players in this conversation include Alisha Kafka, Kyle Yake, Brett O'Conner, Dan Rosenthal, John Shaul, Powell: Yeah, and then they gave me Josh Fishburne, Jena Atwood, Lincoln Hagood, Josh Powell, and Scott Carver.

I'm going to put it all out there. I write this for the girl who has been completely sheltered from sex her whole life. It's for the guy who has been in the constant trauma Powell: They took me out of school the of finding out the truth about his sexuality from friends at school.

Finton: Let's start with what your parents taught you when you were younger. Shaul: My mom and dad never talked about Kafka: My dad pulled me aside in fifth sex. Not very much. I mean, I had the birds grade because I kissed a boy on the cheek,

and

the bees thing, but nothing. Atwood: I don't think mine ever did either. Shaul: I think my parents are old fashioned; they just don't talk about it.

Yake: My parents told me that I need to save my kisses for my wife. Shaul: Save the kisses for the back of

your hand.

Finton: And what do you believe about that; are you saving your kisses for your wife?

Yake: I'm gonna have to say I've kissed people who aren't my wife. Shaul: Your grandma. I'm just kidding.

Finton: What about you Josh, did your parents ever talk to you about it? Powell: No, they read books to me about

Finton: What do you mean? Shaul: The Cat in the Hat?

Powell: Books about where it comes from and all that stuff.

Finton: So was it pretty open? Did you guys talk about it freely?

Powell: Um yeah...uh no. I don't know. Mmm, it was mainly just the books. [My parents] would kiss each other in the open, but it wasn't really talked about. All [of a] sudden that haunting book replaced the normal story time.

Finton: They would read to you at bedtime about sex?

Powell: Mmmhmm. Yep.

Shaul: Sweet dreams.

Finton: Are you okay? Was that totally cool with you and it worked out fine? books to read on my own eventually. That was when I was around ten or twelve. Finton: So was that good for you because you understood stuff? I think a lot of people just end up learning at school. day they talked about it, because I was taught that the school point of view was not the good point of view; that safe sex is wrong. Abstinence 'til marriage. No sex. We didn't talk about kissing.

and he found out about it somehow and he told me I couldn't do that. It wasn't acceptable. Atwood: My mom just told me that boys are horny. Shaul: She used that word? That would not have been acceptable in my house.

Kafka: I got the purity necklace when I was 16, and I had to sign a contract about places that were good to go on dates and places that were bad. It was a contract to my dad and God and my husband and myself that I'd be pure. We never talked about sex, but since I've been in college, sex is such an open topic in my house. Like, it comes up at the dinner table all the time and I come across my mom and dad being a little sensual with each other because they don't hide it anymore. Finton: This is to everyone, what do you think your honeymoon is going to be like?

When it's finally okay to ... Powell: Chi-ca-chi-ca-waa-waa? Kafka: That was the best response I've heard all day.

Shaul: It's going to be awkward at first, I'm sure, if you saved yourself for that night. It's going to be different.

Kafka: I think I'm gonna have a little bit of nervous tension built up, but I think it will work out fine.

Atwood: I think it will be like Alisha said, it will be awkward, but it's just another level of the relationship that you haven't experienced yet. Things will be new and strange, but in a good way.

Kafka: Is the kissing included in this? Finton: Oh yeah.

Kafka: I used to think that you should save your kisses for your spouse and be really careful about that. Now I think that you shouldn't just go hanging out with everybody, but I think that everyone you share that with, it gives you a connection with them, and you have this connection with whoever you share that with. I think you learn from everybody. You do give of self, but I think it shapes

your-

you into who you become. If my husband wasn't a virgin I would never take that back from him because he's the man I married and I love him, and his path has made him who he is.

by Angie Finton

Finton: How do you guys view non-committal make-out?

Powell: Never had it.

Atwood: I'm opposed. I think you need to be in a relationship before it goes that far. Shaul: I don't really see what you're saying. Is it just, "Will you make-out with me?"

Yake: No, I will not make out with you! Finton: No, you know, friends with benefits. I've heard of it happening on this very campus.

Yake: (sarcasm) That's crazy. I don't think anyone at NNU would ever do that. We're too Christian of a college. Finton: What about apparel?

Shaul: Oh my gosh, girls need to learn to put some clothes on.

Josh Fishburne joins the table. Fishburne: You need to learn to put some clothes on.

Shaul: Seriously, on this campus, girls need to understand that guys are wired differently. That stuff triggers thoughts in my head. I think girls need to understand that what they wear influences not just what people think about them, but also what they think of other girls, too. There's a time to dress up nice, but when you've got your cleavage hanging out of your V-neck sweater, or you got short shorts, it makes me think of them as lust objects.

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I don't think it's wrong for girls to dress attractive, year something to catch someone's At the same time there's a fine line ween dressing attractive and dressing indalous.

Yake:

ul: Yeah, I'm not saying you have to r like a Muslim robe or anything. ton: What about the difference been how a girl dresses verses how a girl ies herself?

e: The question is whether she showit off because she wants to show off d features.

ka: I feel like on this campus that sn't matter.

ul: I don't think that matters if it's goto make guys think sexual thoughts. ka: Say I wear an outfit because I just t to dress up for a day. I get crap for get compliments, but more often than people make other comments. If it's cut or has spaghetti straps and it's not essarily high on the legs or anything. thing that's flattering I get crap for. not that I'm like, "Oh, I want people to a tme." I feel like that doesn't matter, ugh.

ood: I think I've grown up in a conative home, and I've just learned to flash my body.

ul: There's so few girls who dress dalous on this campus, so when they t stands out. I mean, guys don't wear gs to enhance what they have; it would ind of gross.

on: Guys used to wear really short ts.

ka: Man-thighs are not attractive.

Shaul: I think those few girls who do wear less make a bad impression for their whole gender.

Yake: I don't get that, like when I see a girl dressed like a hooker, I don't think that Angie's a hooker. I don't make that transition; it just goes for that one person. I think it matters how they carry themselves, too, and the situation they're in. If someone's going dancing verses going to church there's a difference. If you're at church, because of the setting, you're not thinking, "Oh, she looks nice." Your focus is different. If you're in a dance club, she can be wearing the same thing and the focus is different for sure. Shaul: Yeah, but sometimes at church a girl will get up to do a special and she'll be wearing something that's four inches above her knee. To me that's distracting. I'm not thinking about God now, I'm thinking about how cute she looks in her shirt.

Hagood: Wait, four inches above the knee?

Atwood: You want us to wear robes to church?

Yake: Four inches isn't very high. Hagood: Try fourteen or fifteen inches above the knee.

Shaul: We are recording this, Lincoln. Finton: I'm writing an article about your sexuality as a Christian. How did your parents introduce the subject to you? Fishburne: I don't think my parents and I ever had that conversation. They're pretty conservative. I really don't think they even have sex.

Yake: Dr. James Dobson introduced me to the world, only through a videotape. This was the week before sex-ed at school and my mom wanted me to find out about it the right way. Education at school just involved the physical aspects. They taught us how to use a condom, but at home they would tell us to abstain from anything until marriage. Finton: Do you think you know enough about sex?

Kafka: I learned a lot from Cosmopolitan magazine that I probably shouldn't have learned. One thing

I would like to do about a month before the wedding is get some books about things so I know what I'm doing and what to be aware of before going into it.

Fishburne: What kind of books are you talking about, Kama Sutra?

Kafka: I don't know. Even books explaining the man and the woman and how you work so you can understand differences.

Powell: One thing my mom told me is that when I'm engaged and about one month from the wedding she'll give me this book that I've seen her give to other people. It's always in this sack and I'm like, "What's in there?" I guess it's the book that will make me see the light. Finton: What do you think is appropriate for people once they are married? This one time I was babysitting for a three year old, and I'm looking through her videos because she wanted to watch a movie. I was looking through Care Bears and all these homemade recordings, and I find one without a label, and I pop it in, and it's this girl's mom and dad going at it.

Yake: Oh no.

Finton: Stuff like making videos, oral sex, is that okay?

Atwood: I think it's not. You have to really look at Scripture and find out what it really says about how it's supposed to be after marriage. The world has set some standards that are contrary to what the Bible says. I think those things are a no-go.

Finton: One of the big problems with Scripture is that it is so vague.

Hagood: I don't think there are any verses on it, really.

Yake: It makes it clear that something like an orgy is wrong, and sex outside of marriage is wrong. Once you've made a commitment to your husband or wife, you're giving each other your bodies, too. I think it's pretty much whatever with your spouse.

Finton: How do you decide what is okay in the pre-marriage stage for yourself?

Kafka: When the physical starts to become the main focus the relationship, that's not healthy, and it's not positive. Sex can be an awesome thing in marriage, but when it's outside of marriage it can really harm the relationship. Fishburne: Then is there such thing as doing too much or going too far when you are married?

Kafka: For sure. I think some guys think that

"Once I'm married

I'm going to have sex all the time," but once a woman is married she still needs to feel appreciated and loved and cherished, and you still have to work on the affectionate side of it. A woman will give sex to get affection, and a man will give affection to get sex. There has to be a mutual respect for each other's needs. I learned that from "His Needs, Her Needs."

Atwood: So what happens if you get into a relationship and you have a physical line, and the other person has one, but they're set differently? Do you compromise?

Yake: Rosh ambo (*rock-paper-scissors*) for who's right.

Kafka: There are always going to be things you don't want to do in a relationship, but if you feel like you're being totally untrue to yourself, then I think you need to question whether that person really values your standards.

Fishburne: You have to make your standards known.

Kafka: Exactly, which girls are bad about doing. Atwood: I think they expect the guy to take the lead.

Fishburne: It's like chocolates. You take a bite from each one; if you like it, keep it, if you don't, move on to the next. If it's the orange one, spit it out. Just kidding.

Kafka: Watch, that ends up in the article.

Fishburne: How far do you think is too far in the relationship? Does anyone think that sex is okay? **Kafka**: No.

Fishburne: What about making out? I'm sure that most of us have partaken.

Atwood: There are different levels to making out. Fishburne: So what's too far?

Atwood: First base? Second base? I think in the shortstop range.

Kafka: I think making out is not the best, but it's just so much fun it's hard to stay away from.

Fishburne: I find that when I'm making out with a certain girl, there are two things that get me in trouble: when we start making out for too long, and when it's too often.

Hagood: I don't have any views; it's been too long.

Powell: I'm definitely unkissed. Woo! It just worked out that way, I'm not saving it 'til marriage or anything. Whatever happens, happens. **Finton:** You're okay with it if it comes your way? **Powell:** It would be kind of cool.

Atwood: For me, making out sometimes takes over how you know the person. I don't want to just know them that way, it can take over with being too often or too much, and you can get into patterns. You want to be intimate with the person, but make sure you don't get carried away with it.

says in Proverbs, "How can man scoop fire in his lap without getting burned?" I don't know if that has anything to do with making out, but I think it applies to it. If you get too close to something you can get burned by it. I would like to think that in the next relationship I'm in I wouldn't have to make out with the girl until I was married. I'm a physical guy. For me it's better to stay away from that, I'd like to mutually agree to stay away from that.

For me when I make out I always want to go farther, and there's always that temptation there.

Powell: There's a saying, "Guard your heart," and know your weaknesses and stay away from them.

Daniel Rosenthal approaches the table. Carver: We're talking about sex, man. Rosenthal: Oh, awesome. Personal orientation or what?

Finton: Maybe more your boundaries. How did your parents introduce sex to vou?

Rosenthal: We lived on a ranch, so it was a goat example. Obviously there was stuff missing.

Finton: What are your limits physically in a boyfriend/girlfriend relationship? Rosenthal: That's different than random make outs. I have different lines. If I'm just going to make out with a girl for the fun of it, then I'm usually willing to go farther because I know it's going to be a one or two-time thing. But with a girlfriend, only kissing is okay. It's a longterm thing you're building on then. I want it to be a thing of freedom and not a thing of bondage. If it feels like bondage at all it's not right. I did a speech on random make-outs last year and how they're okay. Finton: What are your grounds for that? I think everyone at the table agreed that it's not okay.

Rosenthal: Making out's fun. I feel okay about it. I have a sensitive spirit as far as that goes, and my conscience is strong, and I can tell.

Finton: Do you think that you bond emotionally from it?

Rosenthal: Very much, and that's why I like it so much. That's the only time it's fun, because that's where the intimacy is at, in the emotional bond. I'm not about trying to keep emotions out of it. Fishburne: Once I kiss a girl, I'm committed. No friends with benefits. Brett O'Conner approaches the table. Carver: Let's ask Brett about sex. O'Conner: Twenty-day countdown 'til my wedding.

CONSCRIMENTARY What are your expectations what are your expectations with?

book right now.

Finton: What's the title for the benefit of your listeners. Future reference. O'Conner: It's called Sex For Married Couples. It talks about what the male needs to do and what the female needs to do.

Rosenthal: Just get naked.

Finton: Brett, are there some lines you wouldn't cross once you're married? O'Conner: The book was saying that here are some women who are uncomfortable and still think it's wrong to have sex. The counselor in the book was saying that God made sex for married couples to enjoy.

Fishburne: You're saying God made se

for pleasure, but did He really? Or did He make it for reproduction's sake? I'm not advocating that I'm only going to have sex when I want to have a kid, but the argument could be made.

Rosenthal: He made pleasure, though. Kafka: I think sex can enhance the relationship dramatically.

Rosenthal: All you gotta do is know what she needs, and then it's okay, because if she's having fun, then you're having fun.

O'Conner: You have to make sure she enjoys it.

Rosenthal: Heck yeah, it's like a conversation.

Carver: Are you recording all that? You're going to have some good quotes. Fishburne: What is a lustful thought? Is it anytime you think about sex?

Atwood: Really, we're thinking about it right now.

Fishburne: Can you fool around without having a lustful thought?

Kafka: There's so many dynamics to that.

O'Conner: It's weird. All the sudden we're going to be married and there will be no line. I mean, can you lust after you're married?

Rosenthal: If you're intimate with the Father you're going to know when something's right and when it's wrong. Finton: How is it so arbitrary for each person? Do you think God's truth changes for each person?

Rosenthal: It's about intentions and selfcenteredness.

Kafka: One time I read in a book that creation is God's first missionary to the world. If no one had any other law or

creation, then that would be enough. I see that with the

physical and sexual, too. If you know that you are called to live at a higher standard because of a law, I feel like you have to live at the standard that you know about. I don't think that makes sex okay for the person who's never heard, but they don't understand the law. But if they come into knowledge of the law and choose not to obey it, then they are in sin. They're going to be judged according to what they know. If you know what God says about purity and you go against it, then I think you are guilty.

Fishburne: The more I think about it; the more I think you can have lustful thoughts in marriage. I don't think putting a ring on the finger changes that. I'd be curious to talk to a married man and ask him about it. What is the change in your thought

process when you are married? Rosenthal: I think that's why I can make out with random girls and never feel bad about it. I always asked God about it first, I was joyful in my act, I treated her good, I cared most of all about what she felt, and I don't think there were lustful thoughts in my head. It was an outpouring of my heart.

Fishburne: Was it a companionship kind of thing? I'm not saying that it was a sin, but I don't want to be involved in that kind of relationship because of what that does to the level of the relationship. I don't have any qualms about other people doing it, but I think it can be really selfish. Kafka: I think for me, the only way I'm capable of doing a non-committal make out is if it's totally selfish. If I have any emotions for that person I can't do it because I get attached very easily, and that's how I give of myself. Kisses, intimacy, it's huge for me in a relationship. If I'm in it for purely, "I want this, I want to kiss someone." Not saying that I don't care about that person at all, because it does bond you, even if it was a selfish act, but if I care about that person, and if I have any hopes or attraction to that person, then I will get hurt so easily in a non-committal make-out.

Fishburne: Is that lust, then? If it's not an outpouring of emotion or showing of affection, but it is a reaction to loneliness or physical need to be filled with companionship, then is that the problem? Rosenthal: I don't feel like that's totally

lust, but it's a part of that. I think there's a sense of innocence in every need.

I think it's a misunderstanding of where you go to meet those needs. We wouldn't be Christians if we weren't selfish. We've come to know that the only way we can fulfill our needs is through Christ, so that's a selfish endeavor in itself.

O'Conner: Yet, as Christians God calls us to be selfless.

Rosenthal: He is fulfilling all of our needs, that's when we can be selfless. When we don't need anything else, we're not going to be seeking. We're going to be able to give. You can't give when you're empty or when you're in need. O'Conner: With marriage, it's something God created for love, for reproduction, and He created sex for married couples to do. I think when you're married; you go through a lot of living by convictions. I think you're lusting when you're thinking about someone else, or committing adultery in your heart. That happens to married couples who aren't getting sexual pleasure. If the sexual pleasure isn't there, that can be a big problem. I think if you're thinking about your wife, it's clean, but if you're looking at other women, then it's had

Kafka: And the Bible talks about that in I Corinthians 7, that it may be good to refrain from each other for a time, but if you withhold from each other, that's lust and adultery waiting to happen. Rosenthal: If you love each other and everything's honest and open, then you're not going to have that problem.

If you have read to this point, my prediction was correct: sex sells, even in The Crusader. But honestly, taboo was not the goal here. However, we did want to address a controversial issue from a Christian perspective. Most of us have been sheltered from this very subject and even through this medium, are still being sheltered (the uncensored version was a bit more elaborate).

Our intent was to discuss an issue that perhaps some Christians have been too quick to label off-limits in conversation. Hopefully we have shown here that Christians (even college-aged) can openly and maturely discuss something often considered taboo.

outtheloop

France helped Iraq

by Chloe Barrett

A disturbing document discovery amidst the wreckage of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry revealed that France regularly provided Saddam Hussein's regime with vital American intelligence about Iraq.

Disclosed in the files was evidence of France consistently sharing classified contents of American transatlantic conferences and diplomatic relations with Baghdad. "Friends of Iraq," stationed at the French Foreign Ministry, wrote the files.

Shared exclusively with Baghdad, these files kept Iraqi insiders informed of all American preparations for war. It is probable these files aided Saddam Hussein in preparing for the U.S.'s military assault upon his regime. One document was quoted as revealing an American "attempt to involve Iraq with terrorism" and "as a cover for an attack upon Iraq." ; Contents of conversations between Bush and French President Jacques Chirac are recorded. Bush was quoted as saying America was 100% confident of Osama bin Laden's responsibility for the September 11th attacks, and asserting that American response to the terrorist strike would be "decisive." Further information documented a visit of bin Laden to Baghdad in 1998, which France had never disclosed to American intelligence.

Additional files gave insight into American popular opinions toward Saddam, detailing their unease. This could have cued Iraqi officials into the probability of American military action against Iraq prior to war.

Conversations involving American Secretary of State Colin Powell and French Ambassador Hubert Vedrine are also disclosed in the file. Powell stated his anxiety over the possibility that Russia could be cooperating with Iraq, and that [Powell] would ask for a "new draft resolution from the UN Security Council on Iraq."

Bernard Jenkin stated that the secretive and traitorous conferences between France and Iraq "went beyond diplomatic courtesies, and point toward French duplicitousness."

At present, the entirety of the document has not been disclosed to the American and international public. Meanwhile, the unfolding of possible international consequences France could be facing for secretly aiding Saddam's regime has begun.

Pledge

by Sarah Chase

On Wednesday, the U.S. Justice Department pushed the U.S. Supreme Court "to reaffirm the right of Americans to recite voluntarily the Pledge of Allegiance."

From the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, a panel of three judges in San Diego, California, ruled this past June, 2 to 1, that public school classes could not lead recitations of the pledge, because the clause in the constitution which prevents the government establishing a religion would be violated by the words "under God."

"Two decisions of the Supreme Court have said without qualification that the pledge is constitutional," said the Justice Department.

By late June, the Supreme Court may decide whether to hear the appeal. The Circuit Court put a stay on an order "pending an appeal by the school district named in the lawsuit, Elk Grove." "Without the stay, public schools in the Western states in the 9th Circuit would not have been able ask students to recite the pledge with the words "under God" beginning March 10." The 9th Circuit includes Hawaii, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska.

Earthquake shakes Turkey

by Sarah Chase

At 3:27 am, an earthquake occurred in southeastern Turkey on Thursday with a 6.4 magnitude. Lasting 17 seconds, the quake was felt in the provinces of Sivas, Kayseri, Erzurum, Bingol, Tunceli, and Erzincan. There were around 100 casualties, said Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Housing Minister Zeki Ergezen said the complete number of deaths is nearly 150 region wide.

Bingol, a city with 250,000 residents, faced major damage, as 25 buildings and a bridge were destroyed. About 1,000 residents were injured and 90 were dead, said city official Sevket Turan. The collapse of a middle school dormitory caused parents to question the safety of the school's structure.

"The stable I built did not collapse, but the school did," Abdulah Gunalah said. One of his children was rescued from the rubble.

According to the headmaster, 198 students, ranging in age from 7 to 16, were asleep at the time of the quake. This disaster left one teacher and five students dead. 72 of the students were rescued from the rubble. Muhsin Balgi said that students were heard screaming after the building collapsed.

"We hope another 50 students will be saved," said Balgi.

Upon visiting the area, the prime minister said that "shoddy material" was used in building the school, and "proper inspections had not been carried out."

"Investigations will be launched and the guilty will be prosecuted," said the prime minister.

Telephone and power lines were damaged. With "more than 100 aftershocks" hitting the region, many villages were unable to be reached by rescue workers.

Sitting on the North Anatolian fault, Turkey frequently is rocked by earthquakes. An earthquake in 1971 killed 900 people in Bingol.

Iraq's schools in disarray

by Amanda Chase

War in Iraq has caused many changes in the lives of the Iraqi people. One such change has been the closure of schools. This change has been temporary, as teachers are now returning to their classrooms. In Baghdad, teachers returned to schools this past Saturday, despite a lack of students. Since there is no real government in Iraq as of yet, many school administrators are waiting for government orders to begin school again.

Both television and newspapers in

Baghdad are non-existent at present. Most parents want to hear word from the media, encouraging them to send their children back to school. Without television and newspapers, it is difficult to encourage the populace to return to life as usual before the war, including sending their children to school.

Though many children have not yet returned to school in Baghdad, some other cities have had better luck. In Mosul, a city in northern Iraq, a television broadcast did tell students to return to classes at the Hiteen elementary boys' school on Saturday. Out of 583 students at the school, only 15 attended. An English teacher at the school, Wafaa Mahmoud, said, "they are afraid because of the bad circumstances we face. There is no security in the streets." Out of the thirteen teachers at the school, only five teachers arrived for work. According to headmaster Hamed Ahmed, the teachers employed at the school have not received pay in several weeks.

Another major problem prohibiting some schools from opening is damage done to school buildings. Many schools have been either looted or burned. There is even a school that has a missile in one of its walls. Iraq's recovery from this war is going to take a long time. When more schools do finally open, there will hopefully be a renewed sense among the Iraqi people that normal life is returning.



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team can get in meld and tricks (stick with me, I'll explain). Once the bidding is over, me, I'll explain). Once the the person who took the bid (bid the highest) can call trump (the suit that is most powerful). Ger the team who took the bid passes four the person who took the bid person pers There as Some people is and there are play with passing. You get points for a run (all cards in one suit except the 9), marriages (K and Q in metrica. Some people is two of that one suit) and several other combinations of metrica vary depending on who you should know that one suit) and several other combinations of mules that vary depending first, you should of 9's, 1's, cards. The final four players. First, you should there is two of the final with four players. First, is only made up of you for the order of the final with four players. First, you and there is two of the final with four players. here with four players, First, you sould here is two of eractions are in that one suit and several other combinations of a run (all cards in the version 1 know best: single deck one suit except the 9), marriages (K and Q in that one suit) and several other combinations of the share were source on the source of the say for example. The final step is to "plane" that one suit are pre-with four players, and A's and there is the order of the say for example. vin four players. First, you should know that a Pinochle deck is only made up of 9's, 1's, O's. K's. 10's. and A's and there is two of Pinochie deck is only made up of 9's, 1's, Q's, K's, 10's, and A's and there is two of Q's, K's, 10's, and he carde in that order

The final step is to "play it out." Let's 2'S, K'S, IU'S, and A'S and there is two of each card. I listed the cards in that order hereater that hierarcher is different in Di ach card. I listed the cards in that order because the therarchy is different in Pi-

Decause me glerarchy is unlerent in ri-nochle than in most other card games. ocnie man in most omer card games. The 10 is higher than the K, but less "make your bid." The person who The next thing you need to Life Bext unity you been w know is that you play with parttook the bid starts by laying a card (usually the A of trump) then evners: four people, two teams. inally dealt of yone must follow suit and beat Then you bid, the highest card on the table if Then person they can. You do this Everyone is originally dealt four Person they can. You do this until all play with! Enjoy! twelve gat 250, the dealer the cards are played. At that the bidding. We cause 250, the person they can. You do this until all the cards are played. At that point you count how many begins the bidding on how begins be bidding on how egins une vicence.

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A's, 10's, and K's (those cards are worth 10 points, while the rest are worth nothing at this and voila!, that is your score! You have just finished a "hand" and you play until one team gets 1500 points and are declared the

Wow! Thanks for sticking with me there; you won't be sorry that you read this. The best way to learn to play is by observing a group who really knows how to play, then giving it a try yourself! Pinochle is a fun, social game that any one can play. It is a wonderful combination of skill and luck, so it is never the same twice! I hope all of you now have a sparked interest and will find some friends to

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