TISL delegation named best in state

By William Marshall
Staff Writer

Union received the Best Delegation award at this year’s Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislation conference in Nashville. Junior Annie Laurie Crane received the honor of a position on the governor’s staff. Junior Stephen Phillips was also appointed to a position on the governor’s staff that includes working on the Internet site for the state organization.

“I think it helped that we supported each other and participated even though we didn’t have a lot of power,” Crane, Union’s head delegate in its TISL organization, said. This year was Crane’s second year to attend, and she believes that it was the group’s participation and positive attitudes in the conference that helped it garner the prestigious title.

This year, 17 students from Union attended the conference. Senior Smithy Sipes served as speaker pro tempore over the senate this year. Twenty-six colleges participate in TISL. These schools form a legislature that meets and acts like the actual Tennessee State Legislature. TISL convenes once a year in November and holds meetings involving writing and debating bills, discussing them in committees and voting on them.

Presiding over the legislation is a governor, house of representatives, a senate and a supreme court.

Some of the bills approved during TISL, called priority legislation, are actually considered by the Tennessee State Legislature to be made into law. This year, 10 of 167 bills presented were selected as priority legislation. Sipes introduced one dealing with the issue of criminals not profiting from their crimes by marketing their stories. Others included TISL participants’ having priority in government internships.

Sanderson approved in unanimous vote

By Stephanie Lim
Features Editor

Dr. Carla Sanderson, dean of the school of nursing, was appointed provost at the Dec. 5 Board of Trustees meeting.

President David Dockery named Sanderson candidate for provost last month. The role of chief academic officer has been filled by Dr. Howard Newell, who served in administrative roles for nine years before announcing his resignation this year to faculty. His term will end Jan. 31, 1998.

The recommendation to appoint Sanderson as provost was made by the Academic Advancement Committee after receiving Dockery’s recommendation and interviewing the candidate. Her term will begin Feb. 1, 1998.

The committee also suggested redefinition of certain organizational positions. These roles include:

• Dr. Charles Fowler, vice president for student services and enrollment management;
• Dr. Hal Poe, vice president for academic advancement and information services;
• Dr. Jimmy Davis, associate provost and director of institutional research.

The associate provost position is a new addition to the institutional structure and would fall under the provost’s direction. However, the associate provost would have no administrative responsibilities over the deans, Dockery noted in the faculty

Margaret Thatcher to be keynote speaker at scholarship banquet

By Andrea Aldridge
News Editor

Lady Margaret Thatcher, former prime minister of Great Britain, has been announced as keynote speaker at the 1998 second annual scholarship banquet on Oct. 20.

“We are honored that Lady Thatcher has agreed to be our speaker for this event, which will be part of the celebration of Union’s 175th anniversary in 1998,” President David Dockery said. “She is one of the key world leaders of the postwar era, and her firm advocacy of conservative political and economic principles has made her an influential leader on both sides of the Atlantic.”

Union’s first scholarship banquet was Oct. 9 with keynote speaker Lou Holtz, former Notre Dame head football coach. The banquet raised more than $120,000 for university scholarships.

Thatcher presided over Britain’s Conservative Party from 1975 until her resignation in 1990. Thatcher was the first female prime minister and served longer than any other British prime minister this century - three consecutive terms.

Thatcher, a University of Oxford graduate, has worked as a research chemist and is an attorney.

A Union University news release said Thatcher served in the British government since 1959 when she was elected to the House of Commons. She brought the Conservative Party to electoral victory in 1979 and opposed the socialist programs of Britain’s Labor Party. The former prime minister also sought to reduce the role of the government in the nation’s economic and social life.

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Happy Holidays from the C & C staff!
Here on the Fence

By Justin Phillips
Columnist

Christmas is right around the corner, and of course, I already have a list made out. However, one thing on it seems pretty shallow when I consider two specific incidents that have occurred this semester.

If you had any doubts before about whether or not kids were growing up too fast, then Pearl, Miss., and Paducah, Ky., should be your wake-up call. The best wish I can make from the fence this holiday season is that kids will stop killing kids. Just to catch up anyone who hasn’t heard: kids like guns...stop killing kids.

Pearl, Miss., and Paducah, Ky., occurred this semester. Specific incidents that have the corner, and of course, I already really speak.

I find it ironic that most Baptists favor the death penalty, yet still claim to hold close the Word of God. Does it or does it not tell us in the twelfth chapter of Romans that “vengeance is mine” and “to overcome evil with good?”

I think we all know those passages, yet find it difficult to think of Christ when some of his creations do some absolutely unthinkable things to others. After all, I am pretty sure that I would not speak so rationally of this issue a gunman entered my alma mater of Union City High School and shot several people.

The fact is that the courts do not know what to do with these kids. The church, at times, alienates them, and let us all remember that high school isn’t exactly the four easiest years of life for the typical adolescent.

Now magnify all those emotions after shooting them through the MTV kaleidoscope, and the end product is something scary...something scarier than the child of Lorena Bobbitt and Freddy Krueger headed to the nearest men’s club after watching Alanis Morissette at the Lillith Fair Tour. Trust me. That’s scary.

This leads us to believe that there is something fundamentally wrong at home. I often forget about the real world when I leave this bubble and go home. There, I am loved, and someone is always there to offer support. Obviously, the same cannot be said for everyone.

You see, I, like many, do not understand a homestead kid can wake up on Christmas morning and have everything under the tree and still be lacking everything he truly needs.

You know, we had a party for Carl Perkins’ kids not too long ago, and I just sat in amazement thinking about the sheer hell on Earth that many of them have endured. I wonder if they’ll make it, or if they will be the ones to add Jackson, Tenn., to this list of tragedies. I wonder...and I add a few more prayers to my Christmas list.

The opinions of their creators, not the staff or Union University.

Letters to the Editor

By Stephanie Lim
Features Editor

For some unknown reason, I woke up at an insane hour Monday morning. With my stress level up and my immune system definitely down, I tried to tell myself to go back to sleep, but a strange pinging noise on the window kept me from re-entering dreamland.

I peered out my blinds to find sleet was bouncing off the “yard.” After staring in disbelief, I immediately turned into beautiful flakes of snow. Now, for you Yankee types, snow has a profound effect on us Southerners. For one thing, it totally disables any driving skills we may have possessed. Any and all traffic regulations are deemed null and void.

Perhaps this is one reason why I love the white precipitation so much: even the most ridiculous amounts of accumulation of snow would close down Memphis city schools, setting thousands of little spirits free to sled and have snowball fights.

But I think, this time, my fascination - and my inspiration - came from God.

Frankly, I do not believe I woke up at 6:30 a.m. on accident. I like to think it was God’s way of nudging me. “Hey Stephanie, take a timeout. Stop your whirlwind lifestyle for just a moment, and watch what I’m going to do.” For others of you who may have enjoyed the moment, the “nudging” may have come in the more rude form of an alarm clock, but still, the sight was enough to make one stop for just a minute to reflect.

I think that quiet serenity was God’s way of reminding me to take time out to enjoy his hand in the world we live in. With all the cynicism and suffering we see so often in the world around us, coupled with our own sets of concerns in the Union universe, I know I can find an unexplainable peace in his arms...if I’ll just be still long enough to let him hold me. The peace - his peace - is much like the unexplainable stillness that occurs during such a snowfall.

That simple, magical event brings me to a point about the season we have just entered. As we draw closer to Christmas, many focus on wishes lists or goodwill. I long for the days when my wish list could only be contained in the pages of a beaten-up catalog. The unfulfilled needs, hopes and dreams that we have become aware of while growing up, however, all melt away in the radiant light from the face of a baby in a manger. His love does and will conquer all, no matter how big a task. All miniscule problems and details are lost in the mystery of Christ.

Today he calls us to embrace it, in whatever form we find it...whether we see his hand in others’ lives or in an early morning snow. We must take time daily as our hectic pace heightens to sit in his beauty and wonder and just let him love us. That is, after all, the reason for which he came.

Come, let us adore him.

Dear Editor:

Being a member of Union’s soccer team and a fan of coherent writing, I take great offense to Steven Forrester’s letter to the editor in the Oct. 13 issue of the Cardinal & Cream.

Forrester addressed the lack of judgment of the Cardinal & Cream staff in their choice of “newsworthily” stories. Specifically, he points out that “there are some stories that the students care more about” than the “lengthy article about Union’s soccer team.” I would hope that this generalization, based on his opinion, is not true.

Union’s soccer team has been practicing for one reason; to represent God and Union University to the best of our abilities. We have no personal gain by playing for this team, assuming this exposure to the numerous scouts around campus doesn’t lead to a contract signing.

Instead, we sacrifice our weekdays and weekends trying to represent the student body - the same student body that Forrester claims to be uninterested in our accomplishments.

We are constantly matched against superior teams, but we compensate for any lack of talent in our efforts. We play with more hustle and aggressiveness than any team we face. The only source of recognition for us is the newspaper.

While I am disturbed by these comments Forrester makes concerning our mentality that produced such comments that astonishes me. It is painfully obvious that Forrester’s intention is to encourage mudslinging by the Cardinal & Cream because “controversy will increase circulation.”

It seems this is the same mentality that gave birth to the tabloids. Since Union’s goal is to build students intellectually, spiritually and emotionally, it would not be consistent for the paper to be aimed at the degradation and slander of students. I think the majority of our school does enjoy reading about Union students and their accomplishments.

It is important to remember that presumptuous opinions usually lead to “hasty generalizations,” a lesson learned in Written Composition I. If a writer does insist on including this fallacy in her or his writings, he or she should at least qualify them with “I think” or “I assume.”

I do realize that not all Union students appreciate groups who give up their time for the betterment of the school. However, I hope the ungrateful individuals do not number as greatly as Forrester’s assumption contends.

Craig Dismuke
Senior
English major