

The Horizon

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Letters must be signed, include student's major or class standing, and be fewer than 300 words. The Horizon reserves the right to edit for brevity, grammar, and style, and may limit frequent letter writers.

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Student wins first place for fiction

By MIKE WHITPAN

Staff Writer
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'It's pretty nice to have that validation.'

Every year, the Louisville Eccentric Observer holds a literary contest in which they award participants on their work in photography, poetry, flash fiction and fiction. The award winners' work is then published in the annual Literary LEO.

Jessica Elliott, English senior with a writing concentration, brought home first place for her short fictional work, "La Belle Époque or A Week Without You," which was based on a friend who had moved away.

The story is written in a style which conveys to the reader her day-to-day life through the particular week of her friend's absence.

"'La Belle Époque' is basically a time in France when everything flourished, like literature and the arts," Elliott said.

"It's interesting to think of that as a friendship. Everything flourishes and then it dies."

This was Elliott's first time

submitting her work to the LEO and her story was one of three published chosen out of about 90 submissions. She said it took her a week to write and is basically still a rough draft.

Before writing fiction and creative non-fiction, she began writing poetry early in life.

"I kept a journal and everything," Elliott said, "and I can remember writing when I was very young."

She said her inspiration came mostly from her college professors rather than other authors.

Her inspiration for this particular story stemmed from her Spanish class when



Jessica Elliott

her professor was speaking about "La Belle Époque."

Elliott had also won first place for creative non-fiction in the IUS Writing Contest.

"It's pretty nice to have

that validation," she said. "You work so hard on things but it's not always rewarding."

Although she does not see herself writing a novel, Elliott will continue to write

fiction and creative non-fiction with the hopes of completing a collection of short stories someday.

"I would love to write a novel, but I don't have the patience," she said.

Black History

African-American past remembered

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A Common Experience event will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 2:45 p.m. in the IUS Library. There will be a student-led discussion of the book "Coming of Age in Mississippi," by Anne Moody.

Another Common Experience event will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 2:45 p.m. in the IUS Library. The event is called "A Comparison of the Bus-boycotts, the Sit-in Movement, Freedom Rides, and Communitywide Protests of the Modern Civil Rights Era." According to an IUS press release, Cliff Staten, dean of Social Sciences, will compare the various methods of participation used during the civil rights era of the 1950s and '60s.

The historically Black sorority, Zeta Phi Beta, has many events planned for the week of Feb. 19. Reme Vincent, vice president of the sorority, said the Zetas have an activity scheduled for every day except Friday.

"We call this Finer Womanhood Week," said

Vincent. "It's a time where every Zeta reflects on the accomplishments of all women of all races around the world." On Monday, Feb. 19, the Zetas will celebrate Black Women in History Day, with a luncheon and a special guest speaker, Lizzie Miller. Miller, a Zeta and a black female photographer, will speak on the struggles and accomplishments of black women around the world.

The luncheon runs from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room, and is free to all students, faculty and staff.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, there will be a bake sale at 12:15 p.m. in The Commons. Proceeds will be donated to the Wayside Christian Mission.

Wednesday, Feb. 21, is Black Greek 101 Day. There will be a showing of the film "School Daze," which is about black fraternities and sororities. Afterward, there will be a discussion about the stereotypes of black Greeks on campuses across America. This event's time and location are to be announced. On Thursday, Feb. 22, the Zetas are sponsoring "Women's Heart Healthy Event." A

special guest speaker from Floyd Memorial Hospital will speak on heart health and promote healthy heart awareness.

Kathy Corbeau, director of Campus Life, said her department will celebrate Black History Month with the placement of placards on the lunch tables in the Commons. The placards will be on the tables for the last two weeks of February and will contain historical information of notable black Americans. For example, one card might identify the inventor of the first street light, Garrett Morgan, who hailed from Paris, Ky.

The month draws to a close with a student forum on black history, sponsored by the MSU. Barbour is still working on the details of the forum, which are to be announced, but should take place in the last week of February.

"You can't know where you are going," Barbour said, "if you don't know where you have been. Hopefully, the people won't walk away empty, or angry, but having more insight into the African-American culture."

SGA

Credit-card funds out

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The bill will be voted on next week.

Mars said since that money is coming from a different account rather than a different line item it might be a little more troublesome to move the money.

"There are other monies in there that are sort of floating around," Mars said. "Moving money inside the general fund is simple because it's inside one account. Shifting money from different accounts is a little more tricky."

Joe Taflinger, general studies junior and senate pro temp, said part of what started the problem is that the SGA has been giving too much money to the student groups.

"It's a matter of fiscal responsibility on the student groups and on student government," Taflinger said. "If you give a group their \$300 limit [for two semesters] all at once, it becomes first-come-first-serve."

Taflinger also said there is some money that has already been appropriated for student groups, but can't be paid out until those groups submit receipts.

Jaarad Taylor, political science junior and SGA president, said he thinks the SGA still needs to give student groups information packets with step-by-step instructions on how to get events reimbursed by the SGA.

Also, the SGA is preparing for the elections they'll hold in March. Last year's elections yielded 77 votes.

In order to get more votes, mobile polling booths will be set up on campus. Laptop computers will be set up to allow students to vote for one week.

Taflinger said he'd like to see a voter turnout of 500.

"You can always aim higher," Taflinger said. "We're going to push it as hard as we can." Taylor said increasing the turnout would be a challenge.

"I think [500] is a little optimistic," Taylor

'It's a matter of fiscal responsibility on the student groups and on student government.'

Joe Taflinger
general studies
junior

said. "Four hundred might be a little out of reach, I'll be happy with 350. We need to keep a more realistic view."

Also, the SGA plans on spending some of their advertising money to get more students to vote for SGA members.

Taflinger said students should care about the election because it serves students.

"The SGA's function is to look after [the students]," Taflinger said.

"We're trying to show them what kind of impact we have."

Taylor said cheaper education is something the SGA tries to accomplish for students.

"We're looking to get less expensive education," Taylor said. "That's where SGA needs to be concerned, and that's where students need to be involved. If students don't care, then their student government is ineffective."

Taylor said one difficulty the SGA will have is the movement of the Student Groups.

"It's a target audience," Taylor said. "They're already involved on campus."

Taylor said the Student Groups help to spread the word about the elections and usually participate in them as well.

Chief Teddy



Photo by M.J. Curtis

Sara Siva, criminal justice senior, gives Chief Teddy his morning coffee. Teddy takes his coffee with two creams and plenty of sugar.

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