“Complaint” Against Lady Royals’ Coach

By Jeremy B. Yoder
Editor-in-Chief

According to an article in the Apr. 13 issue of Harrisonburg Daily News Record, the EMU women’s basketball program is in limbo as University Accord looks into a player’s complaint against Coach Mike Dunavant. The player’s identity and the nature of her complaint have been withheld. The annual team banquet has been postponed, and Dunavant has been asked not to contact the players during the University Accord process, though he will continue to recruit for next year’s team. Dunavant, who guided the Lady Royals to a winning 19-7 season this year, was unavailable for comment to the Weather Vane, but told the Daily News Record that he did not know what the player’s complaint was and that he had been told very little about the matter.

Members of the women’s basketball team were unwilling to speak to the Weather Vane, saying they had been told not to comment before any decisions were made.

Athletic Director Larry Martin declined to speak to the Weather Vane, referring only to his statement to the Daily News Record: “It’s true that we are dealing with a personnel issue … we are not prepared to make a statement right now.”

“There’s a process in place that’s been going on for a number of days now,” said Barry Hart, program director for University Accord. Hart said that University Accord’s primary goal is currently “to listen to all voices” concerned with the complaint “for the purpose of developing a decision-making process.”

Hart said that he hoped the process would be “meaningful, caring, and redemptive for everyone concerned.”

SIFE Takes Regional Championship

By Lindsay Dale
Contributing Writer

For a relatively short career in competition, EMU’s Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) team has done quite well, earning their fourth award in only two years of existence.

Last Tuesday, members of SIFE earned a Regional Championship in the SIFE Regional Competition in Washington, D.C. At the competition, each team presented their projects for this year in front of a judging panel of company executives and answered questions from the judges. The EMU SIFE team’s main projects this year were the Common Grounds Coffeehouse, minority seminars for Hispanics in the community, and a project in Guatemala. They had a few smaller projects in addition to these.

The victory means that the team will advance to the national competition, which will be held in Kansas City in May. They also made it to nationals last year, where they won the Rookie of the Year award. Some of their activities included projects with micro-enterprises in Thailand and a potter in Nigeria, as well as seminars about credit and economic development.

SIFE is an international organization that challenges students to provide a good or service to meet a market need, while demonstrating the principles of entrepreneurship and a market economy in an ethically way. EMU’s team hopes to meet these goals both “in a Christian context” and from an “international business viewpoint.”

Although the main focus is on business, non-business majors are encouraged to join the group as well. According to Michelle Musselman, SIFE co-president and founder of the tent city, after the first night.

Pyle and Senior Matthew Krabill have committed to sleeping outside in a tent for the last two weeks of school to raise awareness about the refugees displaced by the war in Iraq. Pyle explained, “It is inevitable that the war against Iraq will produce countless numbers of displaced people. It is a factor that is not always addressed or noticed.”

Despite the rain during the first three nights and temperatures in the thirties, others have joined Pyle and Krabill to stay for at least one night. While the number sleeping in the tents is relatively small, others on campus are supporting the effort through what Pyle has dubbed “humanitarian aid.”

Future plans for SIFE include preparing annual reports, fundraising, and of course, getting ready for the National Competition. The Common Grounds Coffeehouse is scheduled to remain open for at least three or four more years, because it will be supported by the Lilly Grant during that time.

One of the next projects to tackle will be the Lesotho Educational Sponsorship Program which will help children in Lesotho (a country landlocked by South Africa) attend school.

“Our team is planning on working with local schools in the Harrisonburg area to raise money for students in Lesotho,” said Pyle. For more information on theSIFE’s 85th commencement has been announced for 1 p.m. on Sunday, Apr. 27 on the lawn in front of the Campus Center. Professor Emeritus of History Albert Keim will give the commencement address.

SLEEPING IN TENTS, Raising Awareness

By Michael J. Sharp
Managing Editor

“It’s raining, a lot. And it’s cold, a lot,” said Rus Pyle, SGE co-president and founder of the tent city, after the first night.

Pyle and Senior Matthew Krabill have committed to sleeping outside in a tent for the last two weeks of school to raise awareness about the refugees displaced by the war in Iraq. Pyle explained, “It is inevitable that the war against Iraq will produce countless numbers of displaced people. It is a factor that is not always addressed or noticed.”

Despite the rain during the first three nights and temperatures in the thirties, others have joined Pyle and Krabill to stay for at least one night. While the number sleeping in the tents is relatively small, others on campus are supporting the effort through what Pyle has dubbed “humanitarian aid.” It started with first-year Sharon Kniss bringing hamburgers one night. Since then, there have been no less than four deliveries including scalloped potatoes, coffee, juice, cookies, and hot chocolate.

More important than the aid,” said Pyle, “is the sharing of this experience with [others]. Even if you don’t have food, come hang out with us anyway.”

N E W S B R I E F S

Richard A. Pannell has been selected to direct the Seminary’s new LEAP program, which will provide high school juniors and seniors with cross-cultural experiences as part of ministry inquiry.

EMU’s 85th commencement has been announced for 1 p.m. on Sunday, Apr. 27 on the lawn in front of the Campus Center. Professor Emeritus of History Albert Keim will give the commencement address.

Dr. Joseph Mant will present this week’s Suter Science Seminar, ‘Exploring the Heavens,’ in the Science Center Planetarium at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Apr. 10.

An Ice-Cream Social will be held this Thursday, Apr 10, at 8:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Greeting Hall.

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