The way you’re taught can affect the way you view yourself and the way you view the rest of the world. So far, my time at EMU has affected the view I have of myself, as well as my view of the world, for the better.

Last Wednesday my history professor Mark Metzer gave his lecture all planned out earlier in the day and changed it just a few hours before class. He called his lecture “Moonlight & Magnolia, Whips & Chains: The Creation of Southern Culture.” Since you’re probably not a history nerd like I am, I won’t bore you with the details of the lecture. But I will let you know that it changed the way I think about myself. It made me look at the economics, structural power and violence of the institution of slavery in 19th century America, instead of the racism and unjustifiable hatred side. For the first time I saw that some whites haven’t historically hated blacks because those whites are natural- ly fallen and hateful, but because of the propaganda of power begun by wealthy white planters to keep themselves rich and other- ers poor.

So now when I have a dis- cussion about slavery or racism I’m the only black person in the room. I won’t feel like I’m expected to represent the abused person’s side of the story, but that power knew most of our fami- lies in 19th century America and continues to abuse people across the world tonight. I’m glad Mark was humble enough to replace his lecture with a more inclusive view of fake action? We have power. There was no sit-in, no blockade of the Confederates to keep the military out. Maybe there could have been a sit-in to make hard anyone to get in. This university is after all, a business. So President Lapp was just changing the monetary situ- ation of EMU by allowing the military in. I say this to all of you now, in articles of activism on campus, we students have more power than some of us realize. So take that stick that’s been bugging you and throw it at those that stinky poo stick in someone else’s face and get something done. I don’t believe that could happen, apart from the fact that too, but it is not. I could see myself as my view of history. Even my English professors don’t like this, why don’t they do it this way.” It needs to be, “I don’t like this, how can I change it.”

The Weather Vane

Shaping a True Global Village

Somebody once said, “Don’t let college get in the way of your education.” I agree completely.

Last week I attended Mennonite Central Committee’s United Nations Student Seminar (see Kristine Sensenig’s article on page 4). It was one of the most rewarding learning experiences I have ever had.

For two and a half days we absorbed information about the UN, MCC, the current situation in Iraq, but best of all, we tied together with very practical ideas for advocacy work.

I could not have had as worthy an experience on campus in a classroom. We interacted with high- powered officials, including a Deputy Ambassador to the UN, a journalist who has written for Time, ABC and CBS and the head of Oxfam International’s office in New York.

College is not only about what we learn in the classroom. It is expe- riences things first hand and applying our knowledge to real life sit- uations that truly gives our university experience meaning.

The Global Village requirements that we all complete represent a good start at giving students “real world” experience, but fall short of making sure that we get the most out of our time at EMU.

The Global Village is currently undergoing a revision and here is what I would like to see come of it:

• A work requirement—every student should have to work on camp- us for 10 hours per week. Several different jobs should be made available that will provide students with work experience in a field they are interested in. The work should also help keep the campus func- tioning—everything from Athletics to working for The Weather Vane. A similar program that is part of the core cur- riculum at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina saves students $2,500 on their tuition annually.

• A classical foundation in core classes—I believe every student should have to read from the classics. At EMU we are continually making sure that we get the most out of our time at EMU.

The Global Village currently represents a great first step toward bringing the campus beyond campus.

But the problem is that’s all they are interested in. The work should also help keep the campus func- tioning—everything from Athletics to working for The Weather Vane. A similar program that is part of the core cur- riculum at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina saves students $2,500 on their tuition annually.

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