



The Mockingbird

Up, Down, Truth, Beauty, Strangeness, and Charm

Thursday

Volume Two, Number 4

News Shorts

Snippets of items too brief to describe elsewhere. Yes, this includes boxers and socks...

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Signs point to Pierce-Dempsey

Our experts in religious symbology now believe Kowalski is leading us to the now-closed Kenyon pub.



Another Bridging

Having a mid-life crisis? Feeling left out, dishonored, unremarked? The Mid-Life Bridging Ceremony may be your cup of Ovaltine.

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Use your decoder ring:



Suspendisse vestibulum placerat odio. Phasellus eget massa vitae libero non.

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Program Announcement

Summer Institute now comes in three flavors!

- The Normal schedule
- The Intensive 24/7 series
- The Xtreme 12/3 course.

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Invisible Ink Messages

We find a message visible only under UV light written on the painting outside the old Pub.



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The Kowalski Code Continues

Suspicious confirmed at last night's Young Adult Vespers, our investigators continue the search for meaning within the Kowalski Code

Readers will recall the discovery of a sealed compartment in the crypt beneath Rosse Hall. The compartment 42 lay beneath the feet of the unsuspecting stand-in minister alluded to by Rev. Kowalski in his Wednesday theme talk, marked by the name of the obscure 16th century composer "de Rore." We knew "de Rore" was a passing reference to the roar of a great beast, and it was at the very moment the compartment was being opened that the Young Adults on stage above broke into song, a song about "the Lion sleeps tonight." We left that lion sleeping, all right.

The compartment, when opened, proved to contain a large stone, split and cracked like an ancient turtle, and covered with keys of all sorts and sizes. Inspection of the turtle stone showed a slot which fit one of the keys. We moved carefully, remembering that such key-stones often contained poisons or other protective devices to spoil the contents should they be forced open. Indeed, this stone contained a dark corrosive fluid, but the key was

the correct one, and the scrap of parchment within was safe. Anxiously we unrolled it.

"Save the Whales; Collect the Entire Set"

This was the message that met our eyes. Even we thought it a rather lame joke. On the reverse of this scrap of dubious wisdom we learned the chinese word for slacker is pronounced "To La Zy." No! All that work for a fortune cookie?



Mysterious fluid contained within the Keystone found beneath Rosse Hall --phial photo

But then we remembered the underground society of patriarchal Unitarian-Universalist ministers, "Opus Penguin," makes use of vegetative dyes and herbal remedies. Shining ultraviolet light on the parchment revealed shining letters written in invisible ink, and

reading "Philander's Floor."

The Real Reason Pierce-Dempsey is Closed

The "Philander" of the keystone could only be a reference to Philander's Pub, the beloved watering hole of Summer Institutes past. Frankly, we didn't buy the story of closing the entire building due to the combined weight of happy UU revelers in the Pub last year. Despite the starch-rich cooking of Gund Cafeberia, not all of us weigh all that much.

We raced to the construction site. On our way, we were knocked off the Middle Path by a scurrying Cardinal, red robes flying. "What's a Cardinal doing in Kenyon," we wondered. We could hear him muttering "I'm late" as he sped down the path. Curious, we ran after. Just outside Pierce Dempsey, the Cardinal placed an object beneath a large rhododendron beside the door. It was another keystone! And the shrub concealed a tunnel into the boarded building, leading down toward the Pub.

Creeping our way into the subterranean gloom, we encountered our old friend the goldfish painting. Using our UV lamp as a flashlight, we could see the writing on the painting itself, reading "You're getting warmer"

Tomorrow: Truth and perhaps Beauty.

SI Theme Song

The votes are in, it's official! The 2006 Summer Institute Theme Song is *Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head*. Runners-up include:



- *Rainy Days and Mondays*
- *Drink, Drink, Drink* (nominated by 98% of Pub goers)
- *On Top of Spaghetti*

Afternoon Play Club

The Summer Institute Pre-school Parents and Young Children's Unwinding Program, SIPPYCUP, reports that their membership remains blissfully unaware of rain, power failures, and the other issues bothering other SI campers. "We just don't care," said one happy camper.



Too Welcoming?

Three de-ranked men wearing year-old underwear and thirty-year-old polyester shirts invaded the disco dance last night. The men are believed to belong to the UU Church of Bent. What a welcoming congregation, no?



FYI

At this point in the week, you should have more dirty underwear in your dorm room than clean ones. If this isn't the case, it might explain why no one will sit near you at evening vespers. You folks following the Mobius program know who you are, and so do the rest of us by now!



Talent Show Update

Back! By popular demand! The Tweezers (Tim Knot, Ali Gater and Brad Molten) will perform at Friday's Talent Show. They'll be performing their crowd-pleasing number *Boxers, Socks and Bras*. Rated MU – Mentally Unstable.



Have You Heard the One About...?

Mockingbird gets results

The Women of Watson are observed doing a better job handwashing, Thursday morning all campers were seen washing their hands. Now if only they would floss after brushing their teeth...

A Passenger jet was traveling through a severe thunderstorm. As everyone onboard did their best to ignore the turbulence, a young woman turned to a minister sitting next to her and with

a nervous laugh asked, "Reverend, you're a man of God. Can't you do something about this storm?" The minister replied, "Ma'am, I'm in sales, not management."

At New York's Kennedy airport today, an individual later discovered to be a public school teacher, was arrested trying to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a set-square, a slide rule, and a calculator. At a morning press conference, Attorney General

Alberto Gonzalez said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-gebra movement. The FBI is charging him with carrying weapons of math instruction. Al-gebra is a fearsome cult," Gonzalez said. "They desire average solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in a search of absolute value. They use secret code names like 'x' and 'y' and refer to themselves as 'unknowns', but we have determined they belong to a common denominator

of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. As the Greek philanderer Isosceles used to say, 'there are 3 sides to every triangle'." When asked to comment on the arrest, President Bush said, "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, He would have given us more fingers and toes".

Every joke, no matter how good it might be, will always offend someone somewhere

sometime. Orfeo's Humor Conundrum Reversal: Every joke, no matter how bad it might be, will always appear funny to someone somewhere sometime. A humorist is one who successfully earns a living off the former; a comedian is one who successfully earns a living off the latter. A Unitarian is one who discusses the theological implications of the above.
--Don Rechtman, submitted via Internet

This Year's New Program: Summer Institute 12/3



The SI Main Planning-Like Entity, SIMPLE, on behalf of the SI Committee For Olternate Living Konditions, or SICFOLK, is pleased to announce the second complementary SI program schedule, joining the year-old 24/7 no-sleep program and the regular 18/6 schedule. The new 12/3 program in an intensive condensation of the SI experience into three days for those who cannot get away for the entire week, or enjoy "extreme sports."

In order for participants to gain the full measure of SI, caffein-enhanced beverages will be served (coffee and colas will be available by perk, French Press, and IV drip). Campers will attend at least two workshops simultaneously, using earphones, for example, to listen to morning workshops with the left ear, the hymn singing with the right, and perhaps journal at the same time. If this can be done while holding a yoga position, so much the better. Recordings of the theme speaker will be played while participants sleep, replicating conditions seen during the normally scheduled theme talks. Due to the "X-treme" nature of the schedule, campers will be permitted to sleep until noon, as long as the recordings hold out.

The SIMPLE-SICFOLKS sincerely hope this schedule will show signs of success, supplementing the Summer Institute services!

Mid-Life Bridging Ceremony Proposed

Inspired by the Young Adult bridging ceremony, the middle-agers among us are clamoring for a ceremony of their own. This ceremony would mark their entry into the well-known group of UUs over age 50, the UUAARP.

Middle Agers are also demanding an all-night program on Friday night, saying that if the SI Youth can have an all-nighter, the elders deserve one as well. The middle-agers are requesting their all-nighter be scheduled in the pub.

"Distillin' and Tastin' Workshop" Not

Members of the Kanawha West Virginia Unitarian Universalist Church are threatening to secede from the Ohio Meadville District after learning that the SI Planning Committee has denied the congregation permission to conduct their Rot Gut Whiskey "Distillin' n Tastin" Workshop at SI 2006.

Tuth "Les" Nogums, Director of the Kanawha's church outreach program was outraged at the quick dismissal of the congregation's proposal. "Heck, we been doin just fine down here with this here program. We been gittin all kind of new folks on our "Distillin n Tastin" Sundays" and we think it would be great fun at SI."

Mr. Nogums was quick to point out that SI has been home to both a wine and a beer tasting seminars in the past 2 years. Workshop Coordinator Wendie Uptieght confirmed that the SI Planning Committee had reviewed the proposal but was quick to reject the offer.

"It was unanimous. The whiskey tasting was not the objectionable part. We respect different cultures and want SI to be a home for all people. But putting a still on the lawn in front of Old Kenyon was just not acceptable."

"Plus, the proposal was clear that this was to be part of the "24/7 All Day/ All Night" programming (set to begin in 2006)." said SI Chair Bobby "Biggie Wiggle" Erdieman. "We don't think it was a coincidence that the "Distillin n' Tastin" workshop was to be offered right before the "Standing in the Graveyard/Howling at the Moon Workshop." I am sure this would be a popular combination of workshops but we do have our limits."

Wet Enough for a Platypus?

Who is to blame for all the lousy weather this week? We have a few theories...

- If you've been carrying sun screen in your backpack or pocket, for Bog's sake leave it in your dorm room!
- Choir Director Hal Runner has written a song called *Water Cycles* which the choir has been diligently rehearsing all week. The lyrics speak about humanity being "connected to the sea" and "we become the water." Please, Hal, stop! Try practicing *Let the Sunshine In*, instead.

Found Humor

Honest, we can't make some of this up.

Lost: Lost & Found Bin

Yes, we appreciate the irony of this situation, but if you know the whereabouts of our Lost & Found bin, please contact the church office at 330-673-4247. It's a large, translucent plastic bin, bearing the lable "Lost & Found."

What's in a Name?

Why "Kaleidoscope?" What does this have to do with Kenyon or Summer Institute? Unscrambling the anagram reveals the code message "SPICE KOOLADE"

Talent Show Rules Change

If you attended last year's talent show, you know it got pretty risque. The SI Planning Committee is now requiring that all acts be fully dressed during their performances. Said SI Chairman Bob Heardman, "No underwear, no thongs permitted. We run a classy, family-friendly talent show with no riff-raff"

Neither is Journalism a Workshop

Mockingbird reporters have learned that a proposed SI workshop, *Gonzo Journalism*, was rejected by the SI Planning Committee. According to the workshop proposal, the class would prepare a daily alternative newsletter, learn the ins and outs of mocking, er rather, poking fun at established media outlets and provide SI attendees with a quality publication. *Gonzo Journalism* presenter, Ed Itour, said he was "fried" by the Committee's rejection, and "took small comfort" in learning the similarly named *Boring Journalism* workshop had also been rejected. The SIMPLE folks decline to comment.