Bennington Radio due to make waves

by Andrew Hobbs

After three years without a radio station Bennington College almost found itself by Andrew Hobbs. The two groups were unknown. Michael Nordine and Devin Schroeder, Will Lulofs, and Bennington applied for and received funding from student council last term to set up an independent internet radio station. At the same time faculty member Julie Last has been working within the administration to gain access to the old broadcasting equipment, funding for improvements, a new location and cooperation from the Information Technology department to set up a web page for podcasting.

Location an obstacle

This term Julie is teaching a course on radio production and radio stories. The two groups were unaware of each other until this past week and have now begun talks of joining together. Perhaps the biggest obstacle at present is finding a suitable location. Three years ago the station operated from the third floor of commons but the room is now off limits since the entire area has been condemned. At one time there were plans to renovate the area where the snack bar used to be into a media center for students. A section of the space would have been reserved for the radio station. Plans for that part of commons have changed and the radio has been forced to start a search for other spaces. Currently the student run internet station has gained permission to use one of the rooms in the Fels quad. At this point in time it is unclear whether or not the broadcast station will be able to function from one of the Barnes house quads. The transmitter is weak and requires a strategic placing to get the most coverage over campus.

Variety of Programming

Both Julie Last and the student operated radio hope and look forward to wide student participation and a variety of programming. Schroeder hopes to have many genres of music, comedy, interviews with big visitors to campus, and announcements. Last's students will personally produce various segments but also intend to make available a number of other student works. This includes recordings of music workshops, music festivals, campus bands, local bands, alumni creations, emusic projects, and a special Before The End news segment. Schroeder estimates that the internet station will be up and running in two weeks.

Tensions rise in the East

Feuding between Japan and N.Korea

by Eliza Slater

If there is a hell on Earth right now, it is probably located in the western region of Sudan called Darfur. You have probably heard some scattered details about the current goings on in this area, but more likely than not, you really don't know or care much. And why should you? Since America's headlines are occupied by the location of the corpse of a celebrity supermodel and the hair choices of a pop drama queen, there is clearly little room or attention for such trivialities as the brutality and violence that has resulted in the murder of at least 460,000 Africans. Let us not follow the shallow, absurdly self-absorbed, narcisstic footsteps of the general Western populous. Let us instead elect to become knowledgeable about situations of importance on the grander scale, even if they do not directly or personally affect us - even if they are situations that take place in a third world country halfway around the world.

In a short article in a student newspaper, only the surface of the immensely complex conflict in Darfur can be tapped.

More likely than not, you really don't know or care much. And why should you?

But maybe if we can just begin to understand some of the basic facts governing the atrocities being committed in Darfur, we as individuals, as a campus, a community, a nation, and a world can take action in relieving the immense suffering currently being endured by much of the Sudanese population.

In 2003, rebel forces composed mainly of farmers and nomads from the region of Darfur began to attack government-associated targets with the aim of obtaining a voice and governmental support for their generally ignored region of the country. In response, the Sudanese government deployed militias to "defend" the government and its representatives. Despite the government's denial of a correspondence with the militia referred to as the Janjaweed, many sources lead to the speculation that it is this group that is allegedly responsible (with the lure of a government stipend) for the vast majority of the "calculated campaign of displacement, starvation, rape and mass slaughter" that currently defines the state of Darfur.

See DARFUR on Page 9
An open letter to the campus community—

For most of you, the statement I am presenting here is unnecessary. For some of you, unfortunately, it is. It is a statement in response to insidious rumors/acccusations in regards to me and Ariel Cohen, Hannah Wolfe, and Kristin Scheer.

Those of you who believe these mythologies know who you are. With some of you, I have had the painful experience of suffering disgusted, disdainful looks where we were once on good terms. Those who propagated these lies manipulated you and made you a host for the parasite of their petty ends.

For most of you, the statement I am presenting here is absolutely no way to represent the views of Before The End or its staff.

Jonathan Hoefs

This section is open to any constitutionally protected free speech. All students and readers are encouraged to submit material.

Email material to submissions@beforetheend.org

How many of these are yours?

by Tambu Kudze
March 11, (officially at 2am), clocks will be turned one hour backwards, two weeks earlier than previous years. After the passing of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 the U.S department of energy awaits the 11th of March to begin its study on how the law will affect the amount of energy used compared to previous years. The law changed daylight saving from the first Sunday of April to the second Sunday of March and the last Sunday of October to the first Sunday of November.

The idea of daylight saving time was first suggested by Benjamin Franklin in 1784 but was not implemented until Englishman William Willet mentioned it again in 1907. Daylight saving time was fully adopted in the US on March 19, 1919 and its benefits were realized during World War I when war costs had to be reduced as much as possible.

In winter, the advantage of daylight saving time is offset by homes’ and businesses’ need of lighting in the morning. It is less effective in the winter because it is very dark and people tend to use lighting more in the evenings. In summer, if there were no daylight savings time, early-risers would use less energy. The energy used during the existence of Daylight saving is offset by the decrease in the amount used in the evening since the sun sets later. During these bright evenings people tend to organize outdoor activities that do not require a large amount of energy compared to that consumed by indoor appliances used if they had stayed home.

According to the Department of Transportation, after most part of the nation was put under extended daylight saving time because of the 1973 Arab Oil Embargo, there were more advantages to it than they had originally planned for. During this period there were fewer crimes as it was daylight most of the time and most crimes occur during the dark nights. It was also noted that there were less traffic accidents as people no longer traveled from work and school in darkness.

These are some of the results that still hold true to the present day.

Not everyone is in favor of daylight saving, according to U.S Department of Energy. Some people say that the extended daylight hours make people visit friends frequently therefore wasting gasoline. It is also said that people in warmer regions will use more energy to cool their houses making the expected saving of energy negligible. Those with sleeping disorders complain about how difficult it is for them to get used to the time changes. Poultry farmers also complain about how their chickens having a hard time adjusting to the time changes. (I really wonder how chickens notice that the time has been adjusted backwards or forward!)

These complaints have not been taken into consideration. The extended daylight saving time is believed to have potential to increase the number of voters in upcoming elections. It is also expected to decrease

More likely than not, you really don’t know or care much. And why should you?

Sincerely,
Jonathan Hoefs

READERS' FORUM

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DST Reminder: Don’t forget to spring forward

by Tambu Kudze
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Long road ahead for S. Council
by Andrew Hobbs

Let me be the first to admit that I did not exactly fulfill my responsibilities as a student council representative last term. I missed four or five meetings. This, under the new bylaws (essentially the student council constitution), would have meant losing the body for a surplus of unexplained absences and forced Sawtell to elect a new representative. Unless, of course, student council was willing to lose the entire bylaws document they spent all of last term drafting...which somehow the council has managed to do. Thus the student council's first term after undergoing a drastic restructuring was a complete and absolute failure. Somehow I was persuaded to continue as a representative for Sawtell this term despite my lackluster performance in the past. When the first meeting I was made known that the bylaws had been lost I was speechless. How can a student council lose its governing document?

Tackling all this in consideration: I think it's quite remarkable that I came out of that first meeting with more hope for student council than ever. There are many capable and dedicated students who have already gotten the ball rolling toward making real accomplishments this term.

I especially urge all the houses to demand that your representatives attend meetings (throughout this critical point in the life of student council). But maybe you don't mind if the handful of people that attend control the whole council.

Ballroom event: "astounding"
by Rose Strickman

Normally, I'm not one for social events; I always fall asleep at parties and have teamed sports. But I have to—just have to—go to the ballroom dancing lessons. I put my coat down in the entryway of the Student Center. I'm late, as always, everyone else is already there. The students are facing each other in two parallel lines, I see a space and slip into it, figuring I'll pick things up as we go.

Surreptitiously, I eye my fellow dancers. The boys are dressed in their usual jeans and shirts and so are some of the girls, including me. The advertisement specified semi-casual, but what does that mean at Bennington? Some of the girls are wearing beautiful evening dresses while others are so colorful and tropical that I have to wonder what their formal dresses must be like.

The instructor, who obviously takes dancing very seriously, is elegantly dressed and insists that we practice all of our steps. It is demonstrated each step and tells the students to copy it with their partners.

Before long everyone is bouncing into each other and tripping over their own feet. Alex sighs. "Let's try that one again." It is explained to us that merengue is a "nightclub" dance; you're supposed to meet people through it and have fun dancing. Thus, the dance is all about inviting and repeating, spurning and accepting.

With Julie Moore helping him, the instructor—Alex by name—demonstrates each step and tells the students to copy it with their partners.

Rebecca Tinsley “not a heroine”
by Andrew Lacasse

"I am not an expert and I am not a heroine," Rebecca Tinsley began her address this past Wednesday after Elizabeth Coleman spoke highly of her involvement and long record of her accomplishments.

Tinsley came to the Student Center equipped with a slideshow with dozens of images of the Rwandan landscape and its people. She briefly told the story of a genocide that killed 500,000 Tutsis, but focused on the stories of several remarkable young women. Although many of the women had been beaten, tortured and raped, they had remarkable hope and insight for the future of their country.

Many relief efforts have people making baskets or providing a meal to a person, but Rebecca Tinsley believes the best way to help them is to teach them something. Sustainable relief efforts helped women by providing them with skills. Animals are raised, bees are kept and crops are grown by women in a widow's home and will provide food and money for them to sustain themselves. More important are the children of Rwanda, only 7% of whom continue to secondary school. The young women of Rwanda have consistently been cheated out of an education. 30% of those enrolled in Rwandan secondary schools, and only 10% of Rwandans who continue to universities, are women. Rebecca Tinsley cites the traditional views of Rwandan males as the reason for the low number of women attending schools. Tinsley knows that the school will enroll only young women, rather than men, as Rebecca Tinsley believes that Rwandan women are the easiest to learn.

At the end of her visit Rebecca Tinsley asked for the support of the students, faculty and other College community members. Although she made it clear that she would not turn away million dollar donations, small donations are what she is looking for. She is most eager to find people willing to assist in the instruction of English and information technology for future doctors, biologists and engineers who will need these skills.

The Rwandan School for Girls will tentatively enroll 200 bright young women in January 2008 and 600 by January 2010. Every Rwandan will not be enrolled at the school, but it will mark remarkably progressive step for Rwanda. Tinsley may not be a heroine, but next year 200 girls will claim she is. They'll proclaim it in English and type it on keyboards.

Community School akin to Bennington
by Mary McLaughlin

"When I hear, I forget. When I see, I learn. When I do, I understand." The Chinese almost made its way into my FWT essay, but words just could not fill the blank page past the quote. Certainly, it describes my experiences over Field Work Term, but it also fits my "standard" education here at Bennington. In fact, it fits everything. I found it on the cover of a pamphlet about The Community School. The Community School (TCS) reminded me strongly of Bennington College.

Though smaller, TCS is of roughly Bennington proportions, with a 10 to 1 student to teacher ratio. According to TCS, about 40 students at the school, between 7th and 12th grade. They occupy one large house, on 310 acres of farm in New Hampshire, not far from the border of Maine. In this house is the Dorm L. Benz Library, a computer lab, a theatre, a kitchen, a shop and more. A class is held in nearly all of the rooms of this large white building but their far from the public high school nightmares we hear about so often.

The morning begins with a 10 minute meeting: announcements are made, happy birthdays are sung, dish duty is assigned, attendance is taken and interesting facts (or stories) are shared before students go to the first class of the day. The first class is the longest it goes from about 8:30 to 12. The students are free to pick from a list of classes including physics, drawing intensives, 20th Century Genocide, Biology and so on. Every month, students move on to a new class but not before displaying what they've done and learned to other students and parents in a "Walk Around" (Think open house,
Students cuckoo for sudoku

A math professor spoke at California State University at Chico this past Friday about a number game that doesn’t involve math: sudoku.

Professor Rick Luttmann from Sonoma State discussed techniques at Chico with students. "The secret is asking the right questions," Luttmann said. "Try the possibilities and see what consequences there are." Sudoku, which means "single number" in Japanese, was invented by an American in 1979, although puzzles of a similar nature appeared in French newspapers in the nineteenth century. Sudokus are a logic-based number puzzle with nine boxes (nine columns and nine rows). The object is to find numbers one through nine in each row and column without repeating them.

The game has gained much popularity and is said to be beneficial for the mind. Part of the appeal is that it depends on logic instead of math and requires no external knowledge as crosswords do.

Harvard Medical School: Hour of TV adds 46 calories

The Harvard crimson reported that each additional hour of television translates to forty-six additional calories for toddlers, according to a study from the Harvard Medical School. "The study attributes toddlers’ weight gains to the consumption of fattier foods rather than lack of exercise. Many of the food items were high in calories, sugar, and fats, including trans fats," reported The Crimson.

Obesity has increased greatly in American youth over the past three decades, with the highest rates among children ages 6-11. Obesity among U.S. children and adolescents, 1971-2004

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Obesity rates continue to climb

Mississippi, Alabama, West Virginia and Louisiana led states with the highest percentage of obese adults.

Percentage of obese adults, 2003-05

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N. Korea, Japan in war of words

by Hector Najera

A week ago, on Thursday, Japanese and North Korean diplomats held talks for the second day to consider restoring ties between the two nations. The day before, talks were cut short due to tensions over the abduction of Japanese by Pyongyang during the 1970s and 1980s.

Japanese abducted

In 2002 the North Korean government admitted that it abducted thirteen Japanese citizens in order to train spies in the Japanese language and culture, which angered the Japanese. Japan demanded the return of all surviving captives and five were repatriated, but North Korea claims the other eight have died. For Japan it is impossible to restore diplomatic ties without the resolution of this issue. North Korea also seeks the settlement of issues stemming from the Japanese colonial rule of the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945.

In February, the six-party talks—comprised of North Korea, South Korea, the United States, Japan, China, and Russia—reached an agreement that requires North Korea to disable its nuclear program by mid-April. At that time North Korea must also allow the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency to verify the termination of the nuclear program.

"Atmospheres of Terror"

However, before the moratorium North Korean economy can benefit from millions of dollars in diplomatic recognition and energy aid, other sensitive issues must be addressed. If North Korea such issues include alleged "atmospheres of terror" created by Japan after Pyongyang's nuclear tests last year. In a letter submitted Wednesday to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, North Korea accuses Japan of cracking down on pro-Pyongyang groups in Japan, calling the searches of the offices of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan illegal.

As the talks continue they will have a definite effect on the twenty-three million North Koreans, of which most live in poverty. Currently there are about 600,000 ethnic Koreans living in Japan, many descendants of the two million Koreans brought to Japan as forced laborers during Japan's 1910-45 colonization of the Korean peninsula. Out of these about 80,000 are pro-North Korea, while over 200,000 support South Korea. The rest are neutral.

Negotiating with the press

H. Chavez of Venezuela stirring up a storm

by Hector Najera

He has called President Bush "the devil," is allied with Fidel Castro, accuses United States officials of plotting assassinations against him, but he rules the fifth largest oil-producing country on the world. So he's O.K.

After spearheading a failed coup in 1992, Hugo Chavez became president of Venezuela in 1998, winning with 56 percent of the vote. Since then he has survived a failed coup against him, a general strike, economic depressions, and the criticism of his government. However, he has continued to grow in popularity, especially with Venezuela's poor. He has brought the democratic process to people living in ranchos and shanty towns, initiating programs aimed at making the adult population more literate, and helping the poor. He has also bought billions of dollars in Argentine tina and other Latin American leaders.

He is fascinated by the need for Latin America to reestablish its cultural identity outside of American cultural imperialism. In this spirit, Chavez continuously denounces attempts by the United States to influence Latin American economic policy.

In an interview with Julian Brookes, an editor of Mother Jones, reporter Richard Gott explained some of Chavez' Bolivarian principles, "[Chavez] recognizes the significance of the ideas of Bolivar. He's more interested in culture than in economics. All leftist revolutions in the past have been based on an economic restructuring of society. Chavez isn't so fascinated by that, but he is fascinated by the need for Latin America to reestablish its cultural identity outside of American cultural imperialism." In this spirit, Chavez continuously denounces attempts by the United States to influence Latin American economic policy.

It is difficult for Americans to understand what is so appealing.

See CHAVEZ on Pg 8


The Gift Garden Inc.

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BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201

(802) 447-7222

Flowers, Plants, Balloons, Fruit & Gourmet Baskets, Candles & More
Sarah
By Rose Strickman

Slowly, Sarah released him, both physically and mentally. He turned and stumbled back into the Shack. Sarah listened closely, but she heard nothing intoxicating, no cries of, "Yo, Henry, what's on yo' neck?" or "Law, Henry, what wrong wit' you?" Abby left, while Sarah melted silently away.

She staggered into the woods. She should have felt satiated, and indeed she had. But now her stomach was rotting. Sarah grabbed, clutching her belly, and crawled behind a tree, where she sat in the darkness, her hands extended in front of her.

She looked at her voracious, then recollected. Then she hit her.

She had fed on a human.

She had driven fangs into his vein, drunk his blood and used her powers to revitalize him and make him alive.

"Licker?" That said it all.

Sarah hacked out, utterly disgusted. Henry's blood had been so sweet, so rich.

She hadn't noticed before she was so hungry, but her changed body had rejected the white in the most direct way possible.

No more liquor for Henry Wheeler.

Sarah decided firmly. She did not want to throw up every time she thought of him.

Then it hit her.

She had fed on a human. She had driven fangs into his vein, drunk his blood and used her powers to revitalize him and make him alive.

Sarah swallowed as she realized what she had become this night. She was alive on the grave.

She had feared the lights of civilization to come.

Her hunger now was nonplussed. Then the smell hit her. Stale, sour alcohol.

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Sarah turned and stumbled back into the woods, heading away from the house.

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Why Can't I Own a Canadian?

HumanistsofUtah.org
Dr. Laura Schlessinger is a radio personality who dispenses advice to people who call in to her radio show. Recently, she said that, as an observant Orthodox Jew, homosexuality is an abomination in any circumstance. The following is an open letter to Dr. Laura penned by a east coast resident, which was posted on the Internet. It's funny, as well as informative:

Dear Dr. Laura:
Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God’s Law. I have learned a great deal from your show, and try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind them that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate. I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some of the other specific laws and how to follow them:

When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord - Lev. 1:9. The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?

I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?

I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness - Lev. 15:19-24. The problem is, how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offense.

Lev. 25:44 states that I may indeed possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighboring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can’t I own Canadians?

I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself?

A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination - Lev. 11:10, it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don’t agree. Can you settle this?

Lev. 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle room here?

Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev. 19:27. How should they die?

I know from Lev. 11:6-8 that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?

My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev. 19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to the trouble of getting the whole room cleansed with a curse? Lev. 24:10-16. Couldn’t we just burn them to death at a private family affair like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 2014)

I know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God’s word is eternal and unchanging.

Your devoted fan,

Laura penned by a east coast resident, which was posted on the Internet. It’s funny, as well as informative:

There She Goes

by Hector Najera

There she goes, hugging her purse to her chest, wisps of hair floating about her head. She’s taking quick steps, moving farther and farther away from the ripe horizon.

She left dinner ready and has forty-five minutes to get to the factory. The hills hide between promotions from this store and that, all stacked in one corner of the kitchen counter. The fridge is almost empty, and she’s down to her last twenty. It’ll be the first of the month soon, and the rent has to be paid.

It’s Saturday again and Carlos left without telling her. He’s making a habit of it. When he comes back I’ll deal with it, she thinks. For now there are dishes Juanito left...

I wore gloves?

The light of day fades as a light breeze caresses her face.
Every month) After a 40 minute classes start up again. meeting to discuss progress and to do a little house keeping. Then democratic meeting to discuss issues at groups to have the weekly demo-
only 3 days a week. On one after-
noon, students take math, foreign

I11 Nirvana. Dancing is a transforming process for me:
shortage of learning opportunities.

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But for the next song I am • Each individual has natural talents and adventure, a rigorous but joyful pursuit. • Cooperation and teamwork are • Learning is the doorway to the wonders of culture, the natural world and the community.

more than l 00 years. They've been
solutely open to any progressive re-
been unable to bridge the gap be-
tional businessmen and political
molded by his beliefs against the United States as a representa-
portraying this catastrophe, to influence this catastrophe,
we will never know if a greater

I smile back. "Thanks," I
know it will only last as long as the music does, but it does feel marveloul! The music comes to a halt, and so do we. "You dance well," Alex says to me, smiling.

I go from being myself to being a light-footed, light-headed glamorous lady. I know it will only last as long as the music does, but it does feel marveloul! The music comes to a halt, and so do we. "You dance well," Alex says to me, smiling.

Walking in a winter wonderland

TCS focuses on being involved in the community around them, which is why the students are expected to help clean up around the school, but a bigger part of this is reflected in the involvement of nature in education: Students are involved in an organic farm and a certified tree farm on the property, as well as a reclamation project involving an adjacent sand pit. Studies in forestry have taken students as far as Costa Rica, the Czech Republic and Japan. Still another element of community involve-
rate how extremely disliked they are
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throughout Latin America, for old fashioned historical reasons," says Gutiérrez. "The United States has intervened all over Latin America for more than 100 years. They've been in Cuba at the base in Guantánamo since 1988. So there's this tremendous legacy of hostility that's always so closely linked to the progressive ne-
government to exploit them."

In many respects Chavez has been unable to bridge the gap be-
the rich and the poor. In his attempts he has alienated tradi-
tional businessmen and political elite. His moves to re-
slow down the spread of the holo-

by Christie Goshe

about a man like Chavez. Argentinean president Nestor Kirchner has already established ties with Chavez. Fidel Castro, president of Cuba, has a long stand-

I'm floating with him as much as I did with her. We whirl grace-
ful dance that I enjoy dancing with but does so with such pa-
and Alex can't stop himself from introducing new moves that he didn't teach us; I keep up reasonably well. I feel like I'm floating in Nirvana. Dancing is a transforming process for me:

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More information can be found at www.communityschoolofhr.org

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