

Catching some air



photo by TAYLOR DURHAM | the Bison

Dustin Sloan of TNT competes in the long jump at the club track meet held Tuesday, March 31.

Lecture links Christianity, ecology

by JORDAN BAILEY
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HUMANITY sponsored a conversation with Hendrix College visiting philosophy professor J. Aaron Simmons on Tuesday night. The discussion was entitled "The Widow, the Orphan, the Stranger and the Swamp-marsh: Why Christians are Responsible for Non-Humans."

Simmons spoke to a group of students and faculty in the Rock House about the relationship between Christian ethics and environmental responsibility.

Alan Elrod invited Simmons on behalf of HUMANITY, and he said the goal of the discussion was to allow people to become involved in discourse rather than listening to a lecture without any engagement.

"What we hope to gain from this is the importance of the exchange of ideas," Elrod said.

Simmons began his discussion with the Christian imperative to care for other humans and then asked if non-humans counted as neighbors. He then quoted Bill Moyers as an example of people who claim Christian values contradict taking care of the earth.

Simmons discussed several charges made against Christians because of a lack of political involvement in environmental concerns, including that a belief in the second coming prevents investments in the care of the earth. Other charges are the interpretation of the call to have dominion over the earth as a call to exploit the planet and the dualism of spiritual and physical, which can lead to carelessness.

Simmons then discussed two general branches of evangelical environmentalism represented by the Evangelical Climate

Initiative and the Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation.

According to Simmons, the largest distinctions between the groups are that ECI is committed to the reality of human-caused climate change and favors direct governmental action to address environmental problems.

The Cornwall Alliance, however, is not focused on human-caused climate change, and it favors free-market environmental fixes involving technology.

"I think it's a problem when politics guides theology," Simmons said.

In 1970, Frances A. Schaeffer wrote "Pollution and the Death of Man," and Simmons used this book to show how a Christian view of ecology as a political issue was not a new phenomenon. Simmons said Schaeffer argues that Christians should side with hippies about the environment, but that when abortion entered the political arena, environmental protection was overshadowed.

The landmark Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*, in which the court declared most abortion laws unconstitutional, occurred in 1973, and abortion continues to be a voting issue for many evangelical Christians.

Simmons said that two reasons evangelicals are divided about environmentalism are the "fear of a slide to liberal positions on other issues and fear of dividing the evangelical community's perceived unity."

The discussion then transitioned to how Christians can support environmental protectionism and why Simmons believes that ecology is a central issue of Christian ethics.

"We don't have to revise our theology; we just need to live up to it," Simmons said.

In the Genesis creation account, God said "it is good" six times before the creation of

humans, so God places value on creation, and the word water occurs more often in the Bible than the word love, according to Simmons.

Simmons also charged the group to be open to different conceptions of Christian community and to be willing to say that different interpretations are possible.

"We have to be careful with getting lost in a cause," Simmons said.

Simmons then told a story about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian who resisted the Nazis during World War II. According to the story, Bonhoeffer stood and saluted an SS Officer when he entered a café. The theology students sitting with Bonhoeffer questioned him, and he told them that he refused to let the enemy decide when and where to fight the battle.

Simmons connected Bonhoeffer's views on fighting when appropriate to political involvement in environmental protectionism.

"Being committed to environmentalism need not require a softening on other issues," Simmons said.

The group asked several questions about incorporating social justice and environmentalism, and Simmons conversed with the students as the discussion shifted. He referred to the parable of the Good Samaritan as a demonstration of love by a social outcast who helps a beaten man on the side of the road.

"In my opinion, [the Good Samaritan] demonstrates how ministry is a rupturing of the logic of the world," Simmons said.

Simmons encouraged students to be socially aware and engage people in conversation while avoiding arrogance.

"Arrogance is always a problem, but honesty is always a way forward," Simmons said.

POWER: Students and staff do not let lack of electricity keep them from getting work done**CONTINUED from page 1a**

"If you look at these green boxes as electrical plug-ins in your house, there's a plug, there's a plug, there's a plug ... it just goes all the way around," McMillion said.

Those "plugs" send 13,000 volts of electricity through each cable, enough to cause fatal injuries.

"You can't even be close to it because it'll arc you," McMillion said, referring to the way electricity can jump from a power source to a conductor — possibly a person — through the open air. To avoid this, the entire tap box had to be switched off, and the power supply

to roughly one third of campus had to be disrupted.

"They basically told us before they pulled the plug," sophomore Aaron Tucker said.

He and junior Jordan Dollins were in the Benson auditorium, one of the first locations that Physical Resources powered down. Tucker and Dollins were painting and decorating hand props for Spring Sing and had to move into the sunlit lobby to keep working.

"We can't work outside since we're working with glitter," Dollins said. "It goes everywhere because

it's a windy day."

Tucker said working in the lobby was difficult, especially trying to keep paint off the tile floor. The biggest inconvenience, he said, would be to the social clubs that had scheduled Spring Sing rehearsals in the Benson.

In the student center, Aramark employee Sylvia Baker had been working with other employees to secure food and money when the power went out at 4 p.m. She said most of the food was not in danger of spoiling, but items like Chic-Fil-A's chicken sandwich could only sit out for a

short amount of time. After that, Baker said, she started giving the sandwiches out to students.

Terrie Smith, the Catering Director for Aramark's Classic Fare Catering, was told an hour in advance about the power outage.

"We thought it was an April Fools joke for the first 30 minutes," Smith said.

But she and her staff, who are responsible for the food in the Heritage Cafeteria, had contingency plans to feed students if the power did not come back in time for dinner.

"The students have to be fed, and that's our first priority," Smith said.

However, the electricity came back on in time for dinner. Only the Hendrix Building was still dark after 5:30 p.m. DeRamus, McMillion and the maintenance crew had spent the past hour and a half replacing a broken part on the tap box, and the damaged cable was ready to be removed.

One end of a rope was tied to the old cable, and the other end was tied to a prong on a forklift. As the prong moved upward, it pulled the cable out of its underground

casing. The other end of the old cable was attached to the new cable by another piece of rope. So, as the old cable came out, the new cable was pulled through and laid into place.

By 9 p.m., the lights in the Hendrix Building were back on.

"It's a positive thing for our campus, that we can do all this ourselves," McMillion said.

Most schools that encountered a similar problem would have been forced to hire contractors, which can cost "many thousands of dollars."

WORK: Students not sure what is under construction**CONTINUED from page 1a**

The frustrations have not come from noisy drilling or industrial smells, but from the simple inconvenience of roadblocks, which force students to find different driving routes.

"I've only noticed the construction because of the roadblocks," junior Brittany Mills, a resident of Searcy dorm, said. "One day [construction workers] are there and the next day they're gone, but then they're right back up the next day, so I never know where I can and can't drive."

The construction on Remington Street, which runs between the

West married apartments and behind the girls' dorms caused some detours and delays.

"I never realized how much I used Remington until it was impassable," junior Molly Ellis, a Shores resident, said. "I'm ready for the construction to be done and to not have to think so hard about how to get around on our small campus."

Even though the number of students who have been affected is great, no one really seemed to know what was being fixed.

"I thought they were widening the turn in front of Stephens dorm," junior Mary McBride, a

Pattie Cobb resident, said. "It's frustrating not knowing what they're really doing."

Students have said a chapel announcement making students more aware of the construction would be helpful.

"Walking to the Ulrey is scary," junior Anna Shaffer said. "It would be great if they would tell us in chapel what is going on because chapel is where most students get information about campus."

Despite the inconveniences and not knowing what was going on, students still managed to live their lives while coping with the modifications.

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KIBO: Coffee and jewelry assured to be "quality"**CONTINUED from page 1a**

It extended from a group of Harding graduates doing mission work in Uganda and is still mainly focused in that area but now also includes Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. Harding alumnus Clint Davis is currently president of the nonprofit organization Kibo Group, and Harding alumnus Bret Raymond is on the Kibo Group board and also CEO for the Asian Development Management Group, an economical development organization in Tibet.

"They are about helping these people in Africa develop their own projects, learn things about business and development and give them the resources to set them on the right foot to provide for themselves," junior accounting major Rachel Klemmer said.

The coffee beans available for purchase are a part of a fair trade movement through the Kibo Group in the surrounding area in Africa.

"[The Kibo Group] created a way to give the farmers a fair value to pay their workers a fair living wage for that situation and still be profitable and use it in what they called the Source Café," said Phil Brown, Harding associate business professor and director of the accounting program.

The Source Café was also started by the Kibo Group as a center of economic development and example in Uganda. The café provides the coffee beans for sale through Kibo.

One is not lowering his or

her standard of coffee to aid a good cause, Brown said, and the women he has spoken to about the necklaces agree that it is quality handiwork.

"The commodity that you are going to be acquiring is of equal quality as you would get at any coffee house," Brown said. "You are getting a quality piece of jewelry for a comparable price and aiding a poverty-stricken area on something you might have bought anyway. To me it's just a logical extension."

Jessica Stroud, a junior accounting and financing major, said she hopes people will understand they are helping people in need by buying these simple items.

"It's a way to help by incorporating this mission into your everyday life," Stroud said. "I would like to think they would tell other people about it, and it would become this easy, everyday reminder that you're helping the least of God's kingdom, the people who can't help themselves."

Brown, Klemmer and Stroud each said they hope the stories behind these products will inspire other people to use their careers and talents to help others in need.

"There are a number of students that have a strong desire for international projects and strong interest in using their skills and career training for the sake of the kingdom in a real direct way," Brown said. "And if we can marry up students' interests, abilities and career directions with opportunities, they can

make a significant impact one geographic area at a time."

Klemmer and Stroud said they hope to set the foundations for a missionary service club for business majors before they graduate.

"Long term, what I hope would come out of it is more than organizational structure," Stroud said. "I would like to see where it's about students seeing a need and communing together to volunteer their skills."

The necklaces and coffee beans will be available for sale at a booth in front of the Harding Bookstore with support from the Associated Women of Harding.

For more information on the Kibo Group or Project Kibo, go to their Web site, www.kibogroup.org, or e-mail Rachel Klemmer at rklemmer@harding.edu.