

OBSERVER

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Augustana College

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Augie goes Catholic at Explore program

Jeremy Wilgus
Staff Reporter

At a little-attended Explore meeting last Thursday, the Pope announced that Augustana will become a Catholic school. The Pope, who is Catholic, said that he looked forward to welcoming Augustana back into the fold. While the announcement might be seen as a shock, attendee Richard Nelson admitted, "I really just came to get my name in the raffle. I hope I win the mountain bike."

The move has been a long time in coming. While studying the student body makeup, the Board of Trustees noticed that the number of Catholic students is a good deal larger than the number of Lutheran students. "It was timed just right," said President Tredway. "Pastor Swanson is leaving, so we'll be able to make the switch with no foreseeable problems. It's in the best interest of the community to make the move, this way we can serve the majority of students in the best way we know how."

Pastor Swanson was unavailable for comment, although there was a memo nailed to his office door. "It's regrettable that the change is going to be so sudden," the note read, "but these things happen. On the other hand, I'm retiring, who the hell cares."

There will, of course, have to be some changes on campus. Notably, Latin will become an emphasized language for study, and there will be a new direction in the study of Religion. In the Religion department, a new specialization will be created, emphasizing Hagiography, the study of the lives of saints. A new choir will be formed, focusing on chants and bringing the church music field more into the spotlight. And of course, Traditional Catholic school uniforms will be mandatory. Men will be required to wear slacks

and dress shirts, while the women will be donning plaid skirts and knee socks, to the delight of local perverts.

Furthermore, the disciplinary board will have much more power. While some fines will merely be changed over to penitence, such as a few Hail Mary's, the board will have the power to excommunicate way-



photo doctored by Kyle Ford

President Tredway, with Pope John Paul II, announces Augie's new Vatican connection at an Explore program.

ward students. "We don't have to play kid's games anymore," Dean Backmeyer said. "They break the rules now, and we don't need to fine them. The Pope has authorized us to bar students from heaven. They do it at Notre Dame, and it's been a great success."

However, there could be some strife in departmental meetings. The questioning of the college's new mission could result in charges of heresy. "There is no doubt about it," said Dean Jurasek. "We could have the odd member of the faculty who disagrees with the Academic Bulls, but we will just have to cross that bridge when we come to it."

Furthermore, in response to concerns about security at the College, the Pope will give the school a detachment of his own personal Swiss Guard. The soldiers, armed with only the best weaponry that the fourteenth century had to offer, will now be a constant feature of the campus.

"Of course, there was some concern as to how we would deal with the loss of money from the ELCA," said Dr. Tredway. "First, we figured we just wouldn't tell them. We figure they might not notice for awhile. It's worth a try. However, sooner or later, they'll figure it out. In that case, the Catholic Church has set aside some funding for us, although it will not match the amount we received previously. However, the Pope has authorized us to sell indulgences, a practice not used for some time." When asked as to the nature of the indulgences, Tredway responded, "We've worked out some preliminary concepts. Promotions for faculty could be one option. Also, those in need of better grades could buy them, openly this time. And of course, there's always Student Government positions, Community Advisers...the list just goes on. And we have a plethora of merchandising deals, including Augie Rosaries. They're the perfect gift for parents, fellow students, and all kinds of occasions."

It's not as though the transition has been fully worked out. There were some disputes as to the renaming of the school. The Pope was very much in favor of the name St. Augustine, but Dr. Tredway was able to convince him that the school would lose name recognition. However, some changes have occurred. Augustana will no longer have the Viking for its mascot. In keeping with the strength of its athletic teams, the new mascot will be the Fighting Martyrs. Competition is fierce to find the student lucky enough to wear the outfit. For more information, see the section on indulgences above.

There was some concern that the low turnout at the meeting might have upset the Pope, but Dr. Tredway explained to the Holy Father that nobody attends Explore. However, our beloved President need not have bothered; the Pope had fallen asleep.

\$135,000 slough brightens life

Cara J. Whellegs
Staff Reporter

For years the slough has been a mark of Augustana's heritage and a rallying point providing a sense of community for the school. We have smelled its sweet fragrances and anointed our classmates in its flowing waters. Yet as Augustana grows and our reputation gives us even more pride, it becomes obvious that our current beloved slough needs a change for the better. It is for this reason that Augustana has chosen to purchase a new slough.

Where is there a large enough, flowing body of water that we could take pride in as a slough? Why, the Mississippi

River, of course!

"The choice seemed obvious enough to us," said a member of the Board of Directors at an informal interview. "The Mississippi can provide our students with the same wonderful fragrance and anointing waters." By purchasing a small portion of the river and providing a shuttle service, the administration plans on giving the students of Augustana a slough they can be proud of.

Of course, the decision is not without controversy. Several faculty members have questioned the plan to provide a shuttle service to the Mississippi. The problems mostly center on the feeling that Augustana is here to provide an education and not social activities which may prove

dangerous to students. "The shuttle might plunge into the river!" said Dr. Roy G. Biv, professor of General Studies. "Is it prudent for us to encourage students to engage in such a plethora of dangerous and obviously irresponsible activities?" The opposition threatens to ruin possibilities of a shuttle service that many feel is important to safety. "If we want to drown ourselves in the river that is our choice," said a disgruntled student. "At least we would be safe on the way there."

Despite controversy over a possible shuttle service, the purchase of a new slough seems inevitable. Undoubtedly it will provide enjoyment for members of

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