

# THE TALKING DONKEY

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## John Shelby Spong To Speak At "An Evening With John Shelby Spong"



STUDENT SERVICES OFFICE - In the wake of the successful "Evening with Donald Miller," former Episcopalian bishop and panentheist John Shelby Spong is scheduled to speak at Cedarville on April 27. The invitation was extended by Vice President for Student Life's Assistant Jon Purple and Vice President of Student Services Dr. Carl Ruby after agreeing that students deserve "more opportunities to dialogue with those outside the traditional evangelical mold."

"Yes, Mr. Purple, I'd love to dialogue with your impressionable students."

"We tossed around several names—Hugh Ross, Joel Osteen, Rick Warren, Brennan Manning,"

noted Dr. Ruby. "But Jon had just returned from an Interfaith Alliance conference where Spong spoke on ecumenism and was really touched, so we agreed that he might be someone we could learn from."

Known for his unapologetic rejection of the inerrancy of scripture, miracles, and the deityship of Christ, many would

consider Bishop Spong too drastic a leap beyond the shallow theology of Donald Miller. His most famous work, *Rescuing Christianity from Fundamentalism: Why Christianity Must Change or Die*, is a favorite among other liberal protestants who cringe at any attempt to elevate the Bible beyond a collection of fables.

"Donald Miller is a great writer, not to mention a funny guy. But in the end he's pretty tame," said Jon Purple. "I mean, you can only distort sin and the gospel so much until you begin to sound like every other neo-evangelical postmodernist. And antinomianism? That's old hat."

After pointing out the parallels between praying to God and sending letters to Santa Claus, Bishop Spong will participate in a book signing of his most recent work, *The Sins of Scripture: Exposing the Bible's Texts of Hate to Reveal the God of Love*. In this book, Bishop Spong presents the case that most instances of anti-semitism, misogyny, and environmental destruction throughout history and in present day are rooted in the influence of scripture.

"Part of an open-minded Christian education involves dialogue with those we disagree with," stated Jon Purple.

"But as loving Christians, we're not here to tell people they're right or wrong.

*Continued page 2*

## Development of Profanity Guidelines Underway

In a decision that trumpeted maturity among the administration, a censorship committee has been formed to protect the studentry from foul language, potty humor, and any negative references to One Voice. This action resulted from the recent controversy surrounding the printing of a certain noun uttered by a certain young man in a certain campus newspaper named after a certain species of coniferous tree.

"Cedars is not an outlet for the voices of miscreants and ne'er-do-wells," noted trustee Bill Smith. "Our hope is that any future slang usage of that word be completely removed, or at least replaced with the more tactful 'H-E-double-hockey-stick.'"

With members consisting of faculty from the departments of language, communication, and Bible, the panel will be known as The Committee for the Censorship of Cussing and other Bad Stuff until a more intelligent name is chosen by The Committee for the Coinage of Sweet-Sounding Committee Names. The first roundtable discussion is already *Continued on page 2*

## Student Body Finally Gets Excited About Something In Chapel

With a thunderous applause that would make "The Lion of Judah" feel like a kazoo solo, the Cedarville studentry celebrated in Friday's SGA chapel the announcement of what many consider a momentous day in Cedarville history. What could possibly stir our campus with such fervor?

"On behalf of SGA, we would like to thank Campus congress and the student life forums for their hard work in moving our university in a positive new direction," announced an SGA spokeswoman. "This is why we're here—to improve the quality of the Cedarville experience. And now, without further adieu, I am here to announce that the trustees have decided to permit the wearing of casual dress on every Friday next year."

Immediately the crowd of three-thousand erupted into deafening screams, even causing a child at Mom and Dad's Dairy Bar to run away crying. *Continued on page 2*



Can you *imagine* wearing a pair of these *every* Friday?!?!?

*Continued from "Spong"*

That would be intolerant. Instead, we must cultivate an atmosphere of love through dialogue so we can share Christ in a non-judgmental, non-preachy manner. This is what dialogue is all about—having a friendly discussion without drawing conclusions."

"Preach it, brother!" added Carl Ruby.

"NO! Preaching is confrontational and convicting. Good grief, Carl, you could make someone uncomfortable."

"Right, right. Dialogue is what we need. The idea is dialogue."

Several students, alarmed by Bishop Spong's scheduled appearance, have complained via email.

"Yeah, we patted them on the head and gave the whole 'we commend you for being discerned' spiel," said Jon Purple, rolling his eyes. "But why they think they're so good just because they can back their case with scripture is beyond me."

Is Bishop Spong only a stepping stone? Perhaps, according to Dr. Ruby.

"We'll see if we can't have Marcus Borg and the whole Jesus Seminar here by the end of the decade." *-Wilhelm von Schnelldorf III*

*Continued from "Chapel"*

The cheering and torrents of exuberant clapping persisted until interrupted by the spokeswoman, who continued:

"And to give you a taste of what this will be like, the trustees have agreed to allow casual dress every Friday for the rest of this semester."

More screaming ensued, with some students providing a standing ovation.

"Down with the legalists!" cried one student. Others raised their hands and proclaimed, "God is good!"

"Calvinism is another name for Christianity!" yelled another, clearly abusing the opportunity to scream out loud.

Mustering up his best Mel Gibson impression, one especially excited sophomore cried out "Freedom!" and then attempted to throw himself off the mezzanine before being tackled by two RA's and forced to sit on the stairs for a three minute time-out.

"I confess, this excitement extends into the staff as well," commented campus photographer Scott Huck, after the service. "[The admissions office] will let me take pictures in chapel every Friday now!"

A smiling Pastor Rohm also shared his sentiments: "I love these kids. I love their enthusiasm over the important things in life. I haven't seen an ovation like that since the Missions Conference of '88. I'm glad to see our students finally get excited about something in chapel."

Rohm admits that his expository sermons on Amos, while rich in biblical truth, simply can't compete with the ecstasy of wearing denim instead of khaki.

"I guess jeans are easier to fall asleep in—bless their little hearts!"

*- Yoshima Takahashi*

*Continued from "Profanity"*

scheduled for Saturday, April 29, and will be hosted by the Communications Department in accordance with the Center for Roundtable Talks. Representing the Department of Language will be profanity expert Dr. Donald Deardorff, who just recently finished a literary criticism piece entitled, "I Swear: By the Moon and the Stars in the Sky."

"I'll be there," sang Dr. Deardorff, putting to rest any rumors that he might be attending Saturday night karaoke at Beans and Cream instead.

Concerns have arisen over how the members will handle themselves in creating a "black list" of naughty words. Some have suggested avoiding the awkward mentionings of the

words by mouthing them silently, while others wish to conduct the talks in Pig Latin.

"Either way, the talks have to happen. Language is out of control at Cedarville, and I'd hate to see another punk band up the ante just to look rebellious. I mean, seriously—just because you can drop the f-bomb doesn't mean you're a bad at-sign-double-dollar-sign."

The committee's jurisdiction of censorship will include *The Talking Donkey*, *The Torch*, *Cedars*, the Rock, and any scribbles on those boards underneath the top bunk. Alumni Relations voluntarily offered up their magazine, *Inspire*, for censorship, but the committee admitted that it has "no desire to read it whatsoever." *- Guido Valentine*

## Dixon Statue Discovered To Contain Chocolate Nougat Center

DMC - Rocking the confectionary world, the senior research of mechanical engineering major Darren Newbrough has shed some more light on the already well-lit effigy of Cedarville's former president. Initially aiming to get a rough estimate of the statue's scrap value, density tests revealed a curious substance encased within, most comparable to the filling of a Three Musketeers Bar.

"Your typical idol is made of a crayon-safe copper alloy and filled with foam peanuts," Newbrough stated before a small press conference at the Dixon Statue. "But 58.4 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>—that's

just unusual. We did some background checking and, sure enough, the artisan left us a little treat."

Not to be outdone, a physical plant worker leaked papers indicating that Dr. Brown has already submitted a work order for his statue, due 2028, requesting that it include marshmallow filling.

*- Guido Valentine*

Item	Dens. (lb/ft <sup>3</sup> )
plantain	52.94
butter	54.92
beeswax	57.22
creamy nougat	58.38
peat (wet)	59.61
water	62.43
monkey flesh	63.78

## Alpha Sigma To Weigh In On "Soda" Versus "Pop" Controversy

ENS 343 - Soda or pop? That age-old question will rear its head again at this Thursday's Alpha Sigma meeting, though experts doubt the possibility of closure for this divisive issue among the student populace. But division is no stranger to ENS 343 at 8:00 each Thursday evening.

Alpha Sigma, *the Cedarville philosophy organization*, is known for facilitating discussions so complex and thought-provoking that first-time attendees often leave the meeting questioning their own existence.

"We make it clear that these discussions aren't for your typical armchair philosopher," admitted Alpha Sigma president Garrett Little. "But we've beat metaphysics and epistemology to death, and I laugh at the modernist who tries to bring his antiquated Cartesian drivel into our territory."

Nevertheless, by propounding topics with monosyllabic words, Alpha Sigma hopes to tone its discussions down to a third grade level, maintaining the intensity of debate while appealing to a broader audience, maybe even Lawlor.

"Should be pretty intense," commented the Alpha Sigma

secretary. "We've seen tears and flying pencils over foundationalism, but this could really hit at some nerves. We're asking campus safety to attend, just in case."

When questioned over the telephone, Officer Dale Martin didn't hesitate to comment:

"I'll be darned if 'soda' walks away with this one. Like I tell [my wife] Cheryl, you open the top and what do you hear? Huh?"

[background] "Pop, dear. It's a crisp, popping sound."

"That's what I'm talking about, dangit! It's a blasted onomatopotato, or however the heck you say it."

Rumor has it that a rogue sect of unruly Pennsylvanians will attend, demanding punch and cookies and then arguing for the acceptance of 'soda-pop'.

"Soda-pop? That's the lamest thing I've ever heard," proclaimed Little with an expression of nausea. "Pop is going down, and any of its kin. We'll own you."

- Yoshima Takahashi

### ADVICE

*The opinions expressed herein are of the writers, but not necessarily those of The Talking Donkey, its staff, the office cleaning woman, Cedarville University, the Dixon Statue, Ralph Nader, the Kremlin, or Tahitian cliff-divers.*

## How to Write a Cedars Viewpoints Article

by guest writer Nicholas Page

Viewpoints articles: love them or hate them, they provide an outlet for alternative thought otherwise nonexistent amongst our close-minded students and faculty. And that's why I write—to fill a void, to enlighten the proletariat, to bring sanity back to the mindless, Bush-loving masses. You know, I could have gone to a better college. Really, I could have. Alas, since I'm here, gracing you with my presence, do allow your feeble minds to nurse upon the wholesome milk that flows forth from my words. Better yet, join my revolution and consider submitting a Viewpoints piece of your own. Of course, few have my gift of prose, ergo the oft-asked question, "How do you form such poignant, coherent arguments?" And so I sit them down upon knee and tell them:

1. Choose a topic that could possibly have some value in discussion. The definition of 'worship,' for example.

2. Begin complaining and pontificating about the state of evangelicalism. Complain about how "they" never get it and how "they" have left the true meaning of worship. But be sure never to actually define who "they" are, or explain why "they" are that way. (Even though its probably rooted in their idiotic, chauvinistic, complementarian, pro-gun, war-mongering, SUV driving, gay-bashing fundamentalist mindset. Ignorami, all of them.)

3. Point out how silly "they" are, and how you just don't quite

get them. Don't actually make an argument, just belittle them with a condescending tone while simultaneously pretending to sound precocious and learned in the subject.

4. Keep prattling on for several more paragraphs, never drawing any conclusions or grounding your thoughts in anything of substance, just continually making quasi-profound statements, each one more irrelevant and vacuous than the previous.

5. Be sure to contradict yourself at least three times.

6. Top off your endeavor with an intentionally provocative title that really has nothing to do with your article, and asks some question that you don't actually answer. For example: "Worshipping God, but Why?"

7. Add me as a friend on Facebook and then email your article to the Viewpoints editor, telling him that Nick recommended it. You're golden.

*Nick Page, affectionately known as "Nickers" to his friends, is an English major and regular contributor to Cedars Viewpoints. A proud vegan, Nick is a self-titled sesquipedalian and enjoys using words like "verisimilitudinous" to decorate his award-winning short stories about his struggles as a liberal on a conservative Christian campus.*

## CHILDLIKE AMUSEMENTS

In Celebration of Asian-American  
Awareness Month

Fortune cookies, all-you-can-eat buffets, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles—each of us has a soft spot in our heart for authentically Asian delights. In the past year, however, nothing has captured the hearts of idle Americans like the logic-puzzle game “sudoku.” [Ed. note: Our Japanese staff writer, Yoshima, has informed me that sudoku was actually invented by an American architect in 1979. Shucks. Nevertheless, he also informed me that it was originally called the “Number Place” game. Isn’t that pathetic? Do Americans have any imagination? And so I’d like to thank the culture of Japan for adopting this game as their own and renaming it to “sudoku,” which probably still means “Number Place” in Japanese, but sounds infinitely cooler.] Therefore, pleasure the left-side of your brain with this sudoku tileset, compliments of our on-staff mathematicians:

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

Next issue: Learn to draw anime in thirty-four easy steps.

## ...UPCOMING EVENTS...

### **Films that Matter presents:**

"Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure"

-Friday, April 21, SSC Event Rooms

### **"Wooing her in Koine Greek:**

**A Story of Trial and Error"**

by Dr. David Hoffeditz

-Tuesday, April 25, SSC Theatre

### **J-S: A Mosaic of Senior Citizen Memories**

Join us in the lush Cincinnati Museum Center as several '43 graduates share their memories for three and half hours.

-Friday, April 28, Cincinnati Museum Center

### **Wedding Extravaganza**

Feel free to attend any of the 219 marriages occurring directly after graduation and decide for yourself whether he was worth the \$80,000.

-May-August, Various locations

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Feel free to email us if you would like a .pdf copy of any past issues. Feel free to email us if you want to hear a good knock-knock joke.

Don't email us if you regularly read *CCM Magazine*.

### **"Please, Sir, I want some more."**

As the privileged editor of *The Talking Donkey*, it has been my delight to serve you this year—to watch your glowing faces and soft giggles as a freshly printed copy of our paper is placed in your hands. Yet such pleasure comes at a price. In an age when attention is torn between browsing Facebook and watching “The Family Guy”, we rely on faithful readers like you to keep us alive. Recognizing the laughably abysmal failure of our paid subscription offer, *The Talking Donkey* has expanded payment options to include sacks of rye. Method of transfer negotiable; please contact via phone or smoke signal. Send traditional payment of cash, check, or money order to PO Box #3300. This year’s donors included Dr. Scott Calhoun. (Thank you, Dr. Calhoun—a cheap plastic plaque will be mailed to you shortly.)

Until next time, thanks for making our job so easy.

- Wilhelm von Schnelldorf III