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Novelist Philip Baruth forcibly juxtaposes rosy past and dark future in his satiric science-fiction take on Bill Clinton. (Photo: *Bill DiLillo*)

If you followed the 1992 Presidential election, you remember it: The arresting image of a teenaged Bill Clinton shaking President John F. Kennedy's hand. The picture helped his campaign create an air of political predestination. Philip Baruth, associate professor of English, uses the photo as a fulcrum of a new novel wondering what if that image *was* predetermined?

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THE WEEK IN VIEW

Nov. 5, 10:45 a.m.
Forum: "Living Leadership: The Power of Executing Greatness," with Stephen Covey, Rudy Giuliani, Ken Blanchard, and a Fortune CEO panel. Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center. Information: 656-2085

Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Concert: UVM Lane Series presents solo ensemble "I Fagiolini." UVM Recital Hall. Information: [Lane Series](#).

Nov. 7, 7 p.m.
Hockey: The UVM men host Harvard on Thunder Stick Giveaway night. Gutterson. Information: [athletics](#)

Nov. 9, 9:15 a.m.
Conference: "Crop Circle" with three internationally known speakers who will cover history, symbolism, and scientific research about crop circles. Campus Center Theatre, Billings Student center. Information: 425-5616.

Nov. 11, 5:30 p.m.
Lecture: "Free Market Environmentalism" with Terry L. Anderson, executive director PERC, the Center for Free Market Environmentalism. Reception at Marble Court Fleming Museum with lecture to follow in Room 101, Fleming.

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Northern Forest Conference Represents a Joining of Forces

Two groups will combine their annual events this month in hopes that the combined conference will bring more awareness and aid to the Northern Forest — the 26-million-acre woodlands stretching from northern New York through Vermont and New Hampshire to Maine.

At "Partnerships for the Northern Forest," which will be held Nov. 13-14 at the Radisson Hotel in Burlington, research scientists who are part of the Northeastern States Research Cooperative will meet with government officials and business and community leaders affiliated with the Northern Forest Center's Northern Forest Community Leadership Exchange. The result, organizers say, will be networking opportunities, policy development and brainstorming sessions that will explore the future of this vast region that has recently seen changes in ownership and uses that have dramatically altered its economy.

"This is an exciting opportunity to integrate research that's been taking place in the Northern Forest with emerging ideas about a new policy agenda for the region," said Mike Wilson, senior program director for the Northern Forest Center. "We're bringing together leaders from across the region to work together on a broad-based policy agenda to help secure support and funding for sustainable development in the Northern Forest over the next 10 years."

Attention focused on the Northern Forest in 1994, when Congress called for a study of the region and subsequently the Northern Forest Lands Council issued a 137-page report of 37 recommendations.

"One of the Northern Forest Lands Council's recommendations was creation of a four-state research cooperative to study and help inform Northern Forest land management and communities," said Melody Burkins, Vermont's NSRC director at the University of Vermont's School of Natural Resources, "NSRC is that cooperative. It has helped grant over \$3 million in research projects focused on Northern Forest ecology, economic issues, forest products, recreation and tourism, and land-use change and other issues vital to the region's long-term well-being."

"This conference gives NSRC researchers a chance to share their results with one another and with community and business leaders who are shaping the region's future," said Judy Brown, acting executive director of the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation, UVM's partner in the NSRC.

Classroom Tech Initiative Lets Students Mentor Faculty

Technology is an ever-increasing part of classroom teaching, and yet some instructors still find themselves lost in the wilds of WebCT or meandering through HTML mark-up. Holly Parker of the Center for Teaching and Learning hopes a new program, TechCATs, or Technology Collaborative Action Teams, will change that.

Reversing the usual pattern of mentoring, the program pairs faculty with carefully trained and screened student technology mentors with the computer skills (or just the time) that some professors lack. The process begins with the teacher consulting with Parker, who worked with instructional technology for six years in the College of Education and Social Services before moving to the CTL, who helps participating faculty develop their project and then assigns a student to help them implement it.

In its debut semester, requests for TechCATs run the gamut — a password-protected online archive of photography for a history class, a database of film clips for a film professor, interactive "WebQuests" for education and natural resources professors, and training on the WebCT online course program for both faculty and their students.

"It levels the field for the students. They feel like the knowledge they have is important," says Parker, who attracted ten technology mentors almost instantaneously through an e-mailed query. "What I really try to do when setting up the teams is figure out which student best matches up with a given faculty. If I could, I'd try to set up people with the same major, or at least similar interests."

Charlie Rathbone, associate professor of education, is working this semester with Ashley Steele, a third-year student who had already taken the first-year elementary education course he is teaching this semester. Rathbone is fairly computer savvy, and he values Steele's pedagogical opinions as much as her Web expertise.

"In her other classes, she sees a whole range of the ways technology is used in classroom. She's a great source of ideas of what other people are doing, and she offers a good critique of them and of me," Rathbone says.

Steele enjoys the opportunity to work closely with one of her professors and to "provide an honest student's perspective," but says that one of the best aspects of the program for her has been watching a faculty member develop his

The conference hopes to attract business people, community and non-profit leaders, state and federal agency representatives, academic researchers and others committed to the long-term well-being of the Northern Forest. They will attend research presentations, workshops about new forest products, creative economic ideas, community planning and funding strategies. The Northern Forest Center will announce the first four Northern Forest Community Partnership Awards individuals from each of the four states.

University of Vermont Continuing Education is coordinating the event. The \$140 fee (\$80 for students) includes registration, meals and entertainment by renowned Adirondack storyteller Bill Smith. The conference runs 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 13, and 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 14. Complete conference details and registration information are available at [Partnerships for Northern Forest Conference](#), or call Wilson at 207-824-8263 or Burkins at 802-656-2982.

Vermont Public Television To Air Six Athletic Events

Vermont Public Television will air six UVM athletic events this academic year, starting with the men's hockey game against Brown on Nov. 8 at 7:00 p.m.

The station will air two games each of men's basketball, women's basketball and men's hockey. After the Nov. 8 telecast, VPT will broadcast the home game against Dartmouth on Jan. 10 (7:00 p.m.), in addition to women's basketball games against Hartford on Jan. 21 (7:00 p.m.) and Boston University on Feb. 14 (3:00 p.m.).

The men's basketball games scheduled for statewide broadcast are Hartford on Feb. 23 (7:00 p.m.) and Maine on Feb. 29 (1:00 p.m.).

Greg Madden is again the play-by-play announcer; Tom Crowley (basketball) and Joe Gervais (hockey) will provide color analysis. Chris Wojcik will also contribute analysis, features and interviews on the hockey broadcasts. Joe Merone, executive producer at VPT, will produce the games.

Vermont Public Television broadcasts throughout Vermont and in bordering areas of New York, New Hampshire and Quebec by antenna, cable and DISH Network.

Faculty Fellowships for Service Learning Available for Spring

Faculty interested in integrating service-learning into their courses are invited to apply for the 2004 Faculty Fellows for Service-Learning program. Selected faculty will take part in a 10-week seminar facilitated by Richard Schramm, visiting professor of community development and applied economics, and Courtney Lamontagne, associate director of the Office of Community-University Partnerships and Service-Learning.

approach to a course from scratch (Rathbone had not taught this particular first-year course before).

"He may be learning certain aspects of technology and how to apply them, but in turn, I am learning what it takes to develop a course, what goes into it, and how hard a professor actually works," Steele says.

Parker is currently accepting requests from faculty for TechCATS assistance during the spring semester. See the [TechCATS Website](#) for application information. The program is funded for a two-year trial by the Provost's Office.

Grant Will Make Middle-Schoolers Game for Food Safety Science

It won't be EverQuest — the hugely popular multi-player online video game — but Stephen Pintauro, associate professor of nutrition and food science, hopes the educational Internet game he and his team are developing will effectively teach middle school students what they need to know about food safety.

Supported by a new three-year, \$500,000 grant from the USDA's National Integrated Food Safety Initiative, Pintauro and colleagues from his department and UVM Extension will build on an existing federal curriculum that teaches food hygiene and microbiology in a way that complements the way science is taught in middle school. The twist, Pintauro says, is the video game.

"We're going to make it a real-time, multi-player gaming community," Pintauro says, describing an Internet-based array of quizzes, videos and interactive lessons. "Kids will play against kids at other schools or at home simultaneously."

The researchers will designate control and experimental sites in Northeastern Vermont and Burlington to compare the effectiveness of the 10-week program. The control sites will use the existing off-line program, while the experimental sites will use the online game. After a semester of training and curriculum development, UVM undergraduates will teach the control classes. After they finish, the UVM researchers will assess how the different methods performed.

And why is middle school the time to learn about food safety?

"It turns out that middle school kids are an ideal audience," Pintauro says. "Their science curriculum is ripe for including these kinds of these topics at a level that is more than kids stuff. They'll learn a little microbiology, but in the context of food safety and hygiene. As pre-teens they're at a stage where they can start to apply this; many of them are cooking meals or are just a few years away from working at food service."

Pintauro is collaborating on the project with Todd Pritchard, a lecture in food and nutrition science; Dale Steen, an Extension assistant professor in

St. Johnsbury; and Karen Schneider, also of Extension.

The program seeks to teach faculty the mutual benefits of working with a community partner. During this professional development seminar, participants will identify course goals and objectives and explore academic benefits of service-learning.

Faculty fellows will be provided with \$1,000 to be used for professional development purposes as prescribed by Article 21 of the Bargaining Agreement.

Application information has been distributed to all university departments and faculty. The application deadline is Dec. 1, 2003. Information: Richard Schramm at Richard.Schramm@uvm.edu.

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Filling a need: Handmade bowls destined for the 2002 edition of the annual Living/Learning anti-hunger event. (Photo courtesy of UVM Empty Bowls).

Lift an 'Empty Bowl' Against Hunger

A small cash donation and a non-perishable food contribution is enough for a vegetarian meal, a hand-made bowl, and a reminder of the problem of hunger at the 12th annual "Empty Bowls Dinner" on Nov. 9 at 6 p.m. in the Living/Learning Center Fireplace Lounge.

The requested cash contribution is \$8; the meal includes soup, bread and a beverage, with a bowl from the pottery studio for the first 300 attendees. Proceeds from the event will benefit hunger agencies in the Burlington area, including the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger and Room to Grow.

Information and volunteer opportunities: 656-4200 or [UVM Empty Bowls](#).

Conservationist's Speech to Offer Scenarios for Land Protection

Jeffrey McNeely, chief scientist at IUCN-The World Conservation Union, will speak on "Protected Areas in 2023: Scenarios for an Uncertain Future" at 7 p.m. on Nov. 11 in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building.

McNeely's talk is part of the School of Natural Resources's Conservation Lecture Series.

The speaker has worked at IUCN since 1980. He has published more than 30 books, including *National Parks, Conservation and Development: The Role of Protected Areas in Sustaining Society*; *Expanding Partnerships for Conservation*; and *Ecoagriculture: Strategies to*

Business Lecture Looks at Market Incentives for Conservation

Resource economist Terry Anderson will explain how market principles can be applied to environmental problems in a talk on "Free Market Environmentalism" to be held Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. in Fleming Museum, Room 101. The talk, which is part of the business school's Stata Lecture Series, will follow a 5:30 p.m. reception in the Fleming's Marble Court.

Anderson currently serves as executive director of the Center for Free Market Environmentalism, based in Bozeman, Mont. His research helped launch the concept of free market environmentalism and also prompted debate over the proper role of government in managing natural resources.

A senior fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and professor emeritus at Montana State University, Anderson has published extensively and is the author and editor of numerous books, including *Free Market Environmentalism*, *Enviro-Capitalists: Doing Good While Doing Well* and *Property Rights: Cooperation, Conflict and Law*.

Anderson received his bachelor's degree from the University of Montana in 1968 and his doctorate in economics from the University of Washington in 1972. He has been a visiting scholar at Oxford University, the University of Basel, and Cornell University Law School. Anderson was also awarded a Fulbright Research Fellowship to Canterbury University.

The talk is presented by Rocki-Lee DeWitt, dean of the School of Business Administration, and by David Harrison, assistant professor of business. The Stata Lecture Series, which brings nationally renowned scholars to the university, is organized by the business school with support from Nicole Maria Stata, alumna and chief executive officer of Deploy Solutions, a workforce management company based in Westwood, Mass.

For more information, call 656-3177 or visit the business school's Website at [UVM School of Business Administration](#).

Feed the World and Save Wild Biodiversity.
McNeeley has been deeply involved in the development of the Convention on Biological Diversity from its very beginnings, and was co-founder of the Global Biodiversity Forum.

Information: 656-3095 or [Conservation Lecture Series](#).

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Awards and Honors

Major Jackson, assistant professor of English, was among 10 authors to receive the 2003 Whiting Writers' Award, given annually to "emerging writers of exceptional talent and promise." Jackson, author of the collection *Leaving Saturn*, was recognized for poetry. The Whiting awards were established in 1985 by the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation, a New York-based organization dedicated to the support of the humanities and of creative writing. Past recipients include playwright Tony Kushner and novelist Jonathan Franzen.

Publications and Presentations

The **Early Childhood Teacher Education Program** will be well represented at the Nov. 5-8 conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children in Chicago. **Jeanne Goldhaber**, associate professor of integrated professional studies; **Dee Smith**, head teacher; **Amanda Terreri**, child development specialist; **Barbara Burrington**, head teacher; and **Laurie Shelton**, child development specialist, will all give presentations in various conference sessions.

Michael Giangreco, research professor at the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion, has published the article, "Working with Paraprofessionals" in the October issue of *Educational Leadership*, a publication of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The article examines carefully designed paraprofessional support in the classroom to facilitate the effective inclusion of students with disabilities.

Toni Kaeding, adjunct assistant professor of nursing, and **Betty Rambur**, dean of nursing and health science, published an article titled "Rural nurse leadership project" in *Policy, Politics and Nursing Practice*.

Kathleen Liang, assistant professor of community development and applied economics, published an article titled "Economic and Non-economic Drivers of Location Decisions Among Vermont Small Manufacturing Enterprises" in *Business Journal for Entrepreneurs*.

Christina Melvin, clinical assistant professor of nursing, will give a presentation, "A Collaborative Approach to Oral Health in the 21st Century: A Clinical Nurse Specialist's Effort to Address a Clinical Dilemma," at the Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists conference in San Antonio, Tx. The meeting will be held from March 11-13, 2004.

Andreas Nolte, who recently earned a master's degree in German, is the author of a new book, *Mir ist zuweilen so als ob das Herz in mir zerbrach: Leben und Wirk Mascha Kalékos im Spiegel ihrer sprichwörtlichen Dichtung*. The text explores the life and writing of German poet Mascha Kaléko, whose work was banned under Nazism.

Dr. **Matthew Watkins**, professor of medicine, was a co-author of an article in the Oct. 15 issue of the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* titled "A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Ad5FGF-4 Gene Therapy and its Effect on Myocardial Perfusion in Patients with Stable Angina." The article reported on the latest findings from a multicenter trial examining the effectiveness of "therapeutic angiogenesis" — an intracoronary injection of a gene product designed to promote blood vessel growth in the hearts of patients who suffer from debilitating chest pain due to coronary artery disease.

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Imagining an 'X President'

By Kevin Foley



Novelist Philip Baruth forcibly juxtaposes rosy past and dark future in his satiric science-fiction take on Bill Clinton. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

If you followed the 1992 Presidential election, you remember it: The arresting [image](#) of a teenaged Bill Clinton shaking President John F. Kennedy's hand and looking like he might burst from the joy of it. The picture helped the Clinton campaign create an air of political predestination. Years later, Philip Baruth, associate professor of English, uses the photo as a fulcrum of his new novel *The X President* (Bantam), which wonders, among other things, what if that

image *was* in some sense predetermined?

"There is an almost heartbreaking sense of potential with the young Clinton. The picture suggests something larger than Clinton, a perfect storm," Baruth says.

The novel's first seeds came in 1992 when Baruth, who supported Clinton's campaign, found himself in the familiar position of being at a candidate's "victory party" — and, after backing Dukakis and Mondale among others, in the unfamiliar position of celebrating a real victory. In the years that followed, Baruth began reading voraciously about Clinton, wondering why "he was not a loser." That took him into Clinton's psyche; and that, Baruth says, took him to fiction.

"I knew that I wanted to write about this foreshadowing in his youth. And so I started to think about using a three-tiered Bill Clinton as a fresh way to see him," Baruth says. "But you can't do a 109-year-old Clinton, a 49-year-old Clinton and a 16-year-old Clinton without using some elements of science fiction."

Past imperfect

The story begins in 2055, with protagonist Sal Hayden, a biographer and professor, collaborating with a centenarian Clinton (called "BC" in the book — "At a certain point, the fingers won't type the word," Baruth says. " 'Clinton' just seemed like too much of a landmine. "). With America riven by violent Timothy McVeigh-style separatists and fighting a losing world war without allies against a coalition of Eastern countries in something called the Cigarette Wars (which were sparked by Clinton's anti-tobacco accord, which pushed tobacco companies into new Asian markets), Clinton is largely forgotten, a deep affront to his ever-legacy-conscious pride.

The plot eventually sends Hayden into the past to rewrite rather than chronicle Clinton's past in service of redirecting the future. One senses a bit of wish-fulfillment here — Baruth's scholarly work revolves around the 18th century, and he wrote a 75-page biographical sketch of the actress Charlotte Charke. When the book jumps in time, it skips in tone as well, moving from a miserable future of terrorism on bullet-trains to a time of fin-bedecked Buicks.

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Front Line Faith

Erica Hurwitz came up with a service learning project for her Religion in America course that sends students to area churches to find out how religion works on the ground in America.

Four Colors Suffice

Dan Archdeacon, professor of math and statistics, will discuss the controversy and history of the "quaternion of colors" in his University Scholar Seminar: "A Tale of Crayons and Their Consequences: Why Four Colors Suffice," at 4 p.m. on Nov. 12 in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building.

"The more I got into that recreation, the more fun it became," Baruth says. "You'll notice a marked shift in the book: The first part is dark, and then there's this exhilaration in this post-war, pre-war moment."

Risky business

Baruth's conventional fictional mode is to torque reality: His first novel, *The Millennium Shows*, concerned the Grateful Dead-like "Dead," and his second, *The Dream of the White Village*, explores its themes in a faithfully rendered Burlington-like city. Baruth says that fictional take-offs from pop culture reality are his "bread and butter," but acknowledges that the approach has dangers.

He began the book, for example, well before Clinton's impeachment hearings. This wasn't a problem — "It didn't affect things at all. The design of the book assumed that Clinton was going to leave office in some kind of disgrace. But as he satirized Clinton and the collective "guilty pleasure" the leader's persona gives fans, Baruth began to worry about appearing cruel if something happened to the real-life model for his fictional "BC."

Baruth also discovered that using time travel as a literary device — even when used to add emotional heft to satire through foreshadowing and as a sort of professorly post-modern comment on the contingency of texts and reality — was also risky.

"When [his agents] sent the book out, I'd get these fan letters from people at literary publishing houses saying that they loved the book, but they couldn't buy it because time travel is the kiss of death," he says.

The novel, which was completed on Election Day 2000, eventually found a receptive home and is being marketed as cross-over science fiction. That pleases Baruth, who admires Neal Stephenson's intricate and emotional sci-fi.

Of course, it might just disappoint a teenaged fanboy looking for a 1950's-style time-travel farce. In Baruth's book, the technology is, for the most part, an afterthought. (The mechanism for hopping through time is taking a flight to a reservation east of Las Vegas. Who knew?) Arguably the most lovingly detailed bits of futureania in the book are Clinton's mechanically enhanced body and fingers, "smooth ball sockets... of treated dental ceramic... [and] sea-green polymer gel."

But the description of gadgetry is in service of a character, a gesture, an image of a faint clicking when the ancient Clinton is moved by forces we cannot see and can only partially comprehend.

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Front Line Faith

By Jon Reidel

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Lecturer Erica Hurwitz has managed to overcome the challenging task of incorporating service learning into her Religion in America course. (Photo: Adam Riesner/UVM Medical Photography)

Long before the September announcement by President Daniel Mark Fogel of the new Office for Community-University Partnerships and Service Learning, Religion Lecturer Erica Hurwitz was thinking of ways to incorporate elements of service-learning into her classes.

Having served as a faculty fellow in service learning in the spring of 2003, that wouldn't seem like a very difficult task for Hurwitz, or for

other faculty familiar with the popular concept. But depending on one's field of expertise, finding ways to include a service-learning component is more challenging than it might initially seem.

Try Hurwitz's area of American religion for example. Given the contentious issues surrounding the use of religion in public education, on top of the already challenging charge of developing service-learning partnerships with community organizations, one could argue that Hurwitz faced the toughest challenge on campus.

"With all the legal mandates against it, I'm trying to be very careful not to step over the line by requiring students to do something that's considered religious service as opposed to service-learning," Hurwitz says.

Hurwitz came up with a project for her Religion in America course that sends students to area churches to find out what types of outreach programs they have in place to help local residents. From those visits, students compile a directory of services offered by each religious organization and give them to other religious outreach programs and the Vermont Department of Prevention, Assistance, Transition, and Health Access.

Hurwitz says she wants students to get a feel for "how religion works on the ground in America" and how the faith of individual church members intersects with their activism. The findings by students have varied greatly with some discovering churches that offer a wide range of community services, while others focus more on supporting causes in different parts of the world.

Faith and action

Seniors Nicole Buckland and Elizabeth Clifford went to St. Paul's Cathedral on Cherry Street in Burlington. Buckland says she was given an extensive list of the different organizations the Episcopal Church supports financially or through volunteer work. She was surprised to hear about the many ways parishioners choose to show their faith through activism. One woman, for example, set up a fund for needy people to use coupons for gas or groceries. Another woman opened a religious bookstore in the church that offers literature from all faiths.

[The X President](#)

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"I think they saw it as part of her faith," Buckland says. "I can see how those services benefit people. My impression of St. Paul's is that they really seem committed to finding the root of the cause of the problem and then finding ways to affect issues like hunger. Rather than just giving out food, they seem more concerned with finding ways to eradicate hunger."

The second part of Hurwitz' service-learning project has students interviewing members of faith communities and gathering stories that illustrate the connection in Burlington between faith and activism. These stories will eventually become part of the Vermont Folklife Archives in Middlebury. "Each project compliments the other," Hurwitz says. "One uses oral histories as service-learning, and the other helps people become more aware of services that are available to the public."

Buckland says she's always been aware that churches play a key role in providing services to communities, but had no idea to the extent.

"I don't think people realize how big it really is," Buckland says. "This project has made me realize that church outreach is a huge part of society. There are so many places that it crops up that people don't realize. In no way did I feel like they pushed religion through their religious activism. Each person internalized religion differently and chose their own way to put it back into society."

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Professor Reloads a Mathematical Matrix

By Cheryl Dorschner



Strange graphs and imaginary maps: University scholar Dan Archdeacon will unwind one of math's knottiest visual problems in his upcoming lecture. (Photo: Bill DiLillo)

Students at Allenbrook Elementary School in Williston were surprised last month when the faded United States map painted long ago on the concrete patio at the school's entrance was refurbished in eye-popping pink, yellow, green and orange. Strong opinions about the color choice clattered in the halls and at recess, but few seem to have thought about the placement or the number of those colors.

"I like it repainted," said Adam Kaminsky, 9, of Williston. "It would be cool if they painted every state a different color."

His friend Chandler Jacobson, also a Williston third grader, disagreed. "They're just a little bit ugly. I'd keep orange and change the blue to dark blue and add purple," he said, "Three colors would be enough."

But three colors are not enough.

And it took mathematicians until 1976 to prove it.

Puzzle as fundamental problem

A story often told: it was 1852 when a mathematics student Francis Guthrie noticed that the counties of England could be colored with just four colors yet all adjacent counties were done in different colors. He asked his professor, Augustus De Morgan, whether four colors were enough for every map — real or imagined.

This "quaternion of colors" was widely treated as a simple puzzle, but in time mathematicians realized it was a fundamental problem.

"It was thought to be easy, but had several false proofs that stood for a decade," says Dan Archdeacon, a professor of mathematics and statistics. "Finally solved in 1976, this was the first proof that used computer analysis — and that was controversial because mathematical purists wanted to be able to check the details. But that couldn't be done in one lifetime."

Archdeacon will discuss the controversy and history of this "quaternion of colors" in his University Scholar Seminar: "A Tale of Crayons and Their Consequences: Why Four Colors Suffice," at 4 p.m. on Nov. 12 in Memorial Lounge, Waterman Building. The public is welcome to this lecture, which is sponsored by the Graduate College. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.

Multi-dimensional mathematician

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[The X President](#)

If you followed the 1992 Presidential election, you remember it: The arresting image of a teenaged Bill Clinton shaking President John F. Kennedy's hand. The picture helped his campaign create an air of political predestination. Philip Baruth, associate professor of English, uses the photo as a fulcrum of a new novel wondering what if that image *was* predetermined?

[Front Line Faith](#)

Erica Hurwitz came up with a service learning project for her Religion in America course that sends students to area churches to find out how religion works on the ground in America.

Archdeacon teaches in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He is this year's University Scholar in the area of basic and applied sciences. The University Scholar Awards Program annually recognizes faculty for sustained excellence in research and scholarly work. Scholars are nominated by their colleagues and chosen by a panel of faculty.

Solving mathematical problems through the graphing of surfaces — topographical graph theory — is Archdeacon's research specialty. Archdeacon draws graphs on planes, such as the four-color maps in this classic problem, and on three-dimensional shapes such as a cube and torus (that's math-talk for a doughnut).

Of course, he doesn't stop there. Shapes that turn impossibly upon themselves, such as Moebius strips and Klein bottles are his forté. "Four dimensions — don't scare me at all," he smiles. "And five or six dimensions are interesting."

Sitting in his office where books share shelf space with mathematical shapes and puzzles posing as sculpture, he calls up a few pages of solutions on the computer in his office to show a visitor his work. Pages of dot-connected diamond matrices interspersed by mathematical sentences scroll by. Archdeacon is wearing a shirt with repeating geometric shapes in four colors. He jumps up and scrawls the numbers 1-16 in a 4x4 table to explain a point. He erases the numbers and sits down. He goes back to try again.

Resolutely understated, he says his research is simply "problems in geometry and drawing pretty pictures." His record shows more to it. Archdeacon has published widely in the mathematical fields of graph theory, combinatorics and theoretical computer science. He frequently is a guest speaker at national and international meetings. For the past four years he has been the managing editor for the *Journal of Graph Theory*, the leading professional publication in the field. The breadth of Archdeacon's mathematical knowledge is wide — he has taught more than 30 different courses. And like "A Tale of Crayons," his course syllabi would lure even the mathphobic. Topics in his courses include: poker-hand probability, a lecture on an Ann Landers column and answering the question "what color is my hat?"

"My research does tend to look like doodling," he says, looking apologetic. In fact, it looks more like a game of dominoes with the blacks and whites reversed and the dots tied with black thread.

He tells a tale on himself.

"Once on a nine-hour flight, instead of sleeping, I started working on a problem. I spent a solid eight hours drawing graphs on a Moebius strip," he recalls. "When we landed the person next to me leaned over and said, 'What were you doing all that time?' I answered, 'Math.' The passenger replied, 'I thought that might be math.'"

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