

DIVERSIONS

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

HORIZONS

Section B

The Wisdom and Selflessness of Mothers



KERIANNE HOBBS
Editor in Chief

*A mother holds her
children's hand for a
short while, but their
hearts forever.*

-Unknown

In honor of the approaching holiday of Mother's Day, I decided to take a step back to truly appreciate all that my own mother means to me.

When I was in the second grade, our class had to write a paper on a topic chosen by our teachers every Tuesday. On the

Etan Doronne's India

DORONNE BACKPACKS THROUGH INDIA AND SHARES
TALES OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE'S 'GENEROSITY, KINDNESS,
AND WILLINGNESS TO SHARE WITH AN OUTSIDER'

By ANDREW MICHEL

In America, we often get stuck in our own culture, people mostly keep to themselves. We usually have to get to know a person before we'll do them a favor. Americans often look at foreigners as some sort of strange species from a far-off place. Any American that heard the speech Etan Doronne made on Apr. 13 would never feel that way again, at least about India.

Doronne told a room full of students and faculty the story of his India, which he experienced on a year-long backpacking trip through the rural parts of the country. That is not to say that he told the story of how India was in his own view: Indian people say "my India." According to Doronne, "They do not say "This is my India. Stay out.' They say 'this is my India. Enjoy it. Be nice to it."

"I never felt unsafe," Doronne said, "in the countryside. If I had a bad experience, it was in the big cities."

Doronne first described his arrival in India. He sought out an internet café, then a bathroom. He was surprised at what he found. "It was just, you know, a hole. And do you think there was toilet paper?" Doronne said. He had

see DORONNE page C2



Doronne

CONTINUED FROM B1

to go across the street for toilet paper.

“Like for a lot of other things, I ended up doing what they do. In this case, it was just using some cloth and my hand” Doronne explained.

Doronne enlightened his audience about the transportation in India. He described his 4-hour bus ride to the first village he visited. The bus’s windows were always open, and he was amazed by the bus’s manager who kept all the money and ticket information in his head for the entire ride.

Doronne went to his first village because he heard it was celebrating a festival. “I was walking around and I was the only foreigner. People were very surprised by me, but not unfriendly. I was left alone unless I approached someone. Then they were very nice.”

Doronne went on to describe some other villages he visited on a bicycle lent to him by a new friend from the first village and on the motorcycles of various friends.

One of the most helpful bits of information Doronne presented was the advice that if one is in India, he should do as the Indians do and eat at a dhaba, a small, local eatery. “You don’t get sick eating at these small places,” said

Doronne. “You get sick at the big city restaurants.”

Doronne ended after sharing countless more small tales of the Indian people’s generosity, kindness, and willingness to share with an outsider. Chai and samosa were served to the audience during a short question-and-answer session after the end of Doronne’s speech.

After the session, the guests retreated to the room across from where the speech was held where they were asked to fill out evaluation forms about the speech.

Doronne spoke again at Yavapai college the following Saturday, Apr. 17. For more information on Etan Doronne, his travels, and seminars, or his India, visit [myindiaexperience.com].