

Photo by David Peete

# Editorial

## Fire On The Mountains

Several weeks ago, on a quiet Sunday morning, the normally fresh mountain air hung heavy with smoke: an ugly smoke that choked the breath and burned the eyes. It represented a raging fire that had burned through the entire night and was responsible for destroying 1,000 acres of land in Black Mountain. The cause was believed to be arson.

Statewide, in that single 24-hour period, 192 fires burned 1,763 acres of land. Many of the fires were caused by the dangerous dry spell that hung over the south. Campers who were careless with campfires contributed to the damage, and many of the fires smelled suspiciously of arson.

Those of us who take advantage of our beautiful surroundings by camping must remember the simple but crucial rules for controlling campfires. Even one lit cigarette thoughtlessly thrown down in dry woods could threaten the homes and lives of thousands of animals and destroy a generation of trees.

There's no such thing as an innocent bystander when a fire is raging out of control. Although it is helpful to be familiar with fire-fighting procedures, volunteers who will follow the advice of knowledgeable people on the scene can be useful.

As for the arsonist, there is little the law can do, because a person must be seen setting the fire to be arrested. The only thing one could do is to report any suspicious circumstances to the police.

Fire is detrimental to the lives of people, animals, and land. It is a serious threat to life, but if people follow simple precautions, forest fires can be prevented.

—Cheryl Curtis

## Hate To Eat And Run?

by Laura Dendy

Are you one of those unfortunate people who has classes from eleven to one and is unable to eat lunch? It's a real drag to go without anything to eat from breakfast to dinner or worse yet, from dinner to dinner. It seems to me that since we pay for these meals we should have a chance to eat them or at least receive a monetary refund for meals we are repeatedly forced to miss.

One solution would be to have a scheduled twelve to 1 p.m. lunch period which would make it impossible for people to have classes at that hour. Another would be to arrange some way that we could receive a proportionate amount of money at the end of the year in return for meals uneaten.

I realize that we are expected to schedule our own lunch hour but try as one may that is not always possible, (unless of course one wishes to limit the classes he or she is taking in order to make sure

he or she can eat lunch). The drawback to that plan of action is the student may find himself graduating from Montreat after three years instead of two.

I realize that we pay a minimal amount for our meals and that the cafeteria management is based on the assumption that a certain number of us will forego eating a certain percent of the meals during the year. Unfortunately, the knowledge of that fact does little to quiet one's growling stomach as he tries to concentrate on the English lecture that he attends from twelve to one.

Looking on the bright side though, perhaps he will have biology lab next period and since he hasn't eaten, perhaps he won't become too ill while dissecting his rat.

This complaint seems to be one felt by many. (I've even heard professors complain about their strenuous schedules which allow no chance for nabbing something edible to stimulate the mind and body.)

Even if the hunger pangs don't get you down, it's most likely that a lack of energy will, and by seventh period you'll be dragging around.

Studies have shown that the midday meal is the most important one for young adults and I feel it is important to have a midday break from classes. This break serves as a period of rejuvenation and refreshment especially for the student who has just made it through three hours of classes and faces two or three more in the afternoon.

The most disciplined mind still has its limits as far as attention span goes. Often the ten minute break between classes just isn't enough to pick one up for the next class.

As anyone who has tried it knows, ten minutes is also too

short a period of time to try and grab a bite to eat. If you're lucky enough to be able to move right along through the line then you still end up gobbling down your food before running on to the next class. Few people's insides will stand for this cruel and unusual punishment, therefore we end up regretting even bothering to eat about twenty minutes later.

If I don't know what the best solution to this problem is but I do feel that some steps should be taken to insure the students next year of a midday meal if they so desire one. Let us hope that the administration will cooperate with our food service management in an effort to amend the present situation.



## Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

With Montreat-Anderson College being a "Christian Institution," you would believe that the mistakes a person made would be forgiven and not held against the person, if they turned over a new leaf. Anyone who believes that statement, is wrong! I was not allowed to run for an office because of mistakes made last semester. One student leader informed me, that nominating me for an office, would be like voting for a criminal running for the office of judge. Dean Wilson informed me that anyone who has ever been placed on Disciplinary Probation is not allowed to become a student

leader. He said this was School Policy. Where is this stated as being School Policy? It is not in either the student handbook or college catalog. I was also informed that as long as I was a student at Montreat, I would never be allowed to hold a student leadership position. Maybe this situation has never occurred before, therefore it was unnecessary to state the so called "school policy" in the student handbook.

People should not be judged only on the past. The present should be looked at also.

Sincerely,  
Elaine C. Rolfsen

## Rev. Thielman Recuperates

by Doris Cooper

Calvin Thielman entered the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota on March 31. He had an angiogram which showed that his left anterior artery was 99 percent blocked.

Calvin's doctor, Dr. James Cain advised him that surgery was necessary. The surgery was performed the same night and the doctors were successful in achieving a blood flow of 140 cc's per minute which is extremely good. Calvin was in the hospital for ten days and the doctors were amazed at his rapid im-

provement. After another week in Rochester, the Thielmans returned to Montreat.


Calvin is very thankful for all the prayers of his friends in Montreat. He is now at home resting. He went to his doctor in Asheville on April 20 and his doctor is very pleased with his amazingly fast improvement. It will probably be six weeks before Calvin will be back to his duties here in Montreat. Please remember that he needs plenty of peace and quiet as well as our prayers for a fast recovery.

### Policy For Letters To The Editor

1. Maximum of 150 words.
2. No obscene language.
3. Letters must be signed, but signature may be withheld upon request.
4. Letters are subject to editing.

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The Aletheia, student newspaper of Montreat-Anderson College, is published weekly. Opinions expressed in the Aletheia are the opinions of the writers, and are not necessarily those of the college administration, the faculty or the Aletheia.



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## Editor's Note...

Starting a college newspaper from scratch is quite a job to undertake. Allen Meadows set the foundation first semester and made it easier to slide in place this spring. The newspaper staff, for the most part, has been a supportive and dedicated group of people. Since there is no formal journalism at Montreat, the time they have spent reporting, shooting pictures, and drawing has been their spare time and the time and effort they gave has made the newspaper what it is in its first year. Richard Grey has been a personal friend as well as the advisor. When things looked hopeless, he gave me advice and encouragement that greatly helped me through the rough spots. And I am deeply grateful for the people at Black Mountain News, who constructively criticized our work, helped improve our style, and eased the tension on Black Thursdays.

To you, readers, many thanks for the overall support and for helpful suggestions. I hope you have felt there has been improvement in your paper. I look forward to seeing a better paper next year.

Thank you,  
Cheryl Curtis