

Against All Odds: The Man Against the Mountain

TODD COST

There are many bright and creative individuals on our campus. One of them is Ian McAlexander. Ian is a sophomore this year, and plans on graduating in May. At this point in time, the greatest challenge in Ian's life is rockclimbing. Ian was an avid rockclimber until December 24, 1987 when he injured his foot while climbing. His foot is healing and he should be out of his crutches in a few weeks. When asked what the greatest thing about climbing was, Ian said, "It was the thrilling challenge experienced when faced with an impossible climb." He also enjoys the beautiful views taken in once he reaches the mountain's summit. To Ian, this is the chance to be face-to-face with blue skies and cool, crisp air. What an adventure!

Another great aspect of hiking and rockclimbing that Ian enjoys is the many different people that he meets. "While hiking", Ian says, "it is interesting who you meet. A good number of women are hiking these days, and this intimidated me. It is hard to see women who are rougher and stronger than you." When asked if he would like to continue hiking later on in life, Ian said he would like to hike as long as his body stays healthy.

Rockclimbing is not Ian's only interest. He also enjoys good literature, jazz music, and art. He especially enjoys art that is meaningful, creative, and "a little more than meets the eye." After Montreat, Ian plans to major in chemistry and eventually obtain a Masters in teaching from Appalachian State University.



Finally, the one thing that keeps Ian going day to day is his belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. Ian reads his Bible daily and believes in the fact that "I am a Christian, and God gives deliverance." His favorite Bible verse is Psalms 34:17: "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."

New Students: Making Them Feel A Part of Us

RENEE JENKINS

After a hard and tiring semester and a rejuvenating Christmas break, most of the M-AC students returned to school with refreshed and positive thoughts. As these continuing students arrived back on campus January 12, they found a couple of new sights. For one, snow and best of all, new faces.

Many of Montreat's new students came in on Tuesday and I must commend them on fitting right in immediately without any orientation due to the snow. One of M-AC's new students is Lori Boggess from New Jersey. She heard about M-AC from a close friend, Diane Jeffries, who attended school here last year. Lori admitted, "At first Montreat didn't win me over but the more I prayed about it the more I wanted to come."

Along with the new students, many old faces are back again. Many of the "re-admits" stated that Montreat seemed to have changed for the better and they wanted to return. Such students as Paula Johnson, who returned back to Montreat to become a Resident Assistant in MA-Hall, stated, "There's advantages to being at Appalachian State University and at Montreat. At Appalachian, I got to do things I couldn't do here at Montreat because Montreat is so small but the closeness of Montreat is important and it's something that I've missed at Appalachian."

Let's give these new and readmitted students that Montreat welcome that M-AC is known for. Making them feel like a part of us is what Montreat is all about. Pray for these students as they try to adjust and remember also, those who have left us for various reasons.

Why Did the Seniors Stay?

PEGGY LEIS

On May 7, 1988 Montreat Anderson College will celebrate a great moment in history. That moment will be graduation. For some, this may not seem very exciting. Yet for those of us who have been here for what seems like 10 years, May 7, will mark the first graduating class with a 4 year degree. The seniors will graduate with degrees in Christian Ministries, Human Services and Liberal Arts.

But why did these Seniors choose to stay here at Montreat instead of transferring? Was it the sheer need to be bombarded by quizzes and term papers? To stay up endless nights reading novels, textbooks, etc.? The addiction to cafeteria food? As I talked with some people, I find that none of the above were any reason. Nan

Weitzel says she stayed because the college offered a degree that she wanted, also the student/teacher ratio was excellent and the co-ed dorm was also influential. John Hayes stayed because "I felt at home and have met so many good friends." Todd Cost says, "At the time that I made my decision, I felt like Montreat best suited my needs-- between Steve Williams and Tisa Lewis, there may not be two more qualified teachers in my field."

Overall, many seniors feel very fulfilled academically. The student teacher ratio is a plus, and teacher's are very approachable in terms of assignments, homework, etc.

Whatever the reason the Seniors stayed, they'll receive their big pay off on May 7 and be the first Senior graduating class in the history of Montreat Anderson College.



To Leave or Not to Leave?:

The Sophomore Question

KIM THOMPSON

Here it is second semester, four months until graduation. Across the campus, questions echo such as: "Are you coming back next year?" and "What college are you transferring to?". Why so much emphasis on who's leaving and who's going to stay? Because now Montreat-Anderson College has many new four-year programs, so now Sophomores have a greater choice of leaving or staying. What will the majority choose to do? That's what I decided to find out.

After talking with several sophomores it seemed that more were leaving than staying but that doesn't mean that very few are staying, just not as many as are leaving. When asked why they were leaving, many said that Montreat couldn't offer them the degree they needed for their projected career. Others complained about the cost and are choosing to live at home and attend a local college. A majority of those leaving, however, agreed that they would rather go to an established college or university rather than be another set of "guinea pigs" for the year or semester to slow transition of Montreat to a not to leave."

four-year school. I guess these people know what is best for them and their future, but what if we all thought this way? How could Montreat ever build up to a four year college?

Luckily, there are some who would love to give the four year programs a chance. Though not everyone staying is for this reason, a good many are. These are the ones who feel good about the change over and want to help make it happen. There are also those who are staying because their major is being offered. Maybe this is one of the few schools that does offer their

major. Such majors as, Christian Ministries, Child Care Administration and especially Recreation. Other reasons ranged from parents making the student stay to not being able to transfer some of their credits to the institution of their choice.

Whatever the reason, the administration can be assured that there will be juniors and seniors here next year to continue what those of those leaving, however, started. Then of those who haven't decided yet, maybe they'll need another year or semester to decide "to leave or not to leave."