

Dorm Renovation Budget

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Staff Writer

In October, 1988, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* released a report that echoes the situation here at Montreat today. It stated that the cost of fixing and updating all the crumbling and outmoded buildings on the nation's campuses may be as high as \$70 billion, while urgent repairs alone would cost about \$20 billion. The study indicates that about one-fourth of all college facilities are in need of some sort of repairs, renewal, or replacement. It also suggests that current spending on building maintenance is inadequate, with colleges and universities deferring about \$4 in repair monies to other projects, for every one budgeted dollar that they spend.

Locally, here at Montreat-Anderson College, most students feel the same way about their own college campus. Many students continually ask themselves and their peers, "What is being done for renovation and repairs?" And yet, no one, not even the administration, can come up with a definite answer. When asked if the administration

knew of the problems or complaints in the dorms, Dean Hargrove responded, "I am aware of some." So, we have come to a point where not only the Montreat students want to know what is going on, but also their parents.

There also needs to be two points brought out from the start. First, is that in 1981, Montreat-Anderson College launched the "Decade of the Student" campaign to raise \$11 million for such things as continuing services, the Belk Campus Center, and renovation of dorms. The money allotted for the renovations was \$660,000 dollars. But, when asked if all the money was raised and spent on renovations, no one knew. As far as we know, the dorms have yet to be renovated although it has been more than ten years since this money was set aside; many students agree that it shows. Second, in my interview with Mr. Walter Hall, Montreat-Anderson's Business Manager, he was able to give me the amount of money spent this year only on repairs and renovations:

M-A Hall:	\$19,220.00
Howerton:	\$12,391.00
Davis:	\$ 6,843.00
McGregor:	\$ 5,727.00
TOTAL:	\$44,181.00

Students, staff members, or even parents may ask themselves the same question, "Where did all the money go? Granted that there were a few emergencies (example: the furnace in M-A Hall), house keeping costs, and repairs to damaged items; but I do not see any improvements."

In each dorm, the students can come up with their own versions of repair needs for their living facilities. In my interview with Dan Hensley, the head maintenance director, some interesting points were brought up about the renovations and repairs. Mr. Hensley stated in agreement with Dean Hargrove, that if there was not as much damage done in the dorms, then there would be more money for renovations. Most repairs are done at the end of the school year, before all the conferences. The residents of these conferences damage the dorms once again and the maintenance crew is again called in to repair the dorms before school starts in the fall. When asked which dorm is the most destructive Mr. Hensley immediately responded, "Howerton."

"Is the new dorm in order, or should we halt the plans and renovate the existing buildings first?" I asked Mr. Hensley. He responded, "The new dorm is in order and in much need, but there needs to be continual renovation for the dorms. We receive 10 to 12 work orders a day for repairs on dorms which mostly include damage repairs."

Please read that last quote very carefully. It states, "there needs to be continual renovation for the dorms," which in turn states that there is not any continual renovation right now. Why not?

Recently, a petition was circulated which asked the administration for much-needed washers and dryers. When asked about the out-

come of this request Mr. Hensley stated, "All parts for the washer and dryers have been ordered. Plumbing and wiring for two new washer and dryer sets have been installed in M-A Hall, and should be ready in two weeks."

When asked about the washer and dryer situation, Dean Hargrove responded, "The washer and dryer dilemma has been looked at."

So, just as many other college and universities around the country have neglected repair, renewal, and replacement on their campuses, Montreat is not any different. Much needs to be done before the new dorm is to be built. All dorms need new paint, carpeting, and lobby furniture. All radiators and pipes should be updated with modern heating facilities, so that students may study and sleep in peace. The water situation needs to be resolved. The washer and dryer dilemma needs to be more than "looked at." The school should back up their words in the handbook by providing proper laundering facilities which will actually DRY your clothes and not only test their ability to withstand space exploration. As most other campuses throughout the country, cable television should be available in all dorm rooms. Also, all lobbies should be equipped with such entertainment resources. Repairs and renovations should be met for the facilities that "we" live in before a new dorm should be constructed.

The Aletheia Weekly

Published weekly by the Student Activities Committee of Montreat-Anderson College, Montreat, N.C. 28757. Advertising rates are available upon request.

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Circulation: 600 Weekly