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Students, Citizens, and Forest Service Ban Together

Groups spend Endless Night Fighting 450 Acre Forest Fire

By Matt Haney

Thursday evening, about 4 pm, a fire broke out in the furnace of a house on the side of Big Piney Ridge. Soon thereafter two propane tanks exploded scattering embers into the nearby woods and the largest fire in Montreat's modern history was underway.

The fire spread quickly in the dry, high wind conditions. Fire teams from as far away as Morganton came to assist, many of them ill-prepared because they had been told to come

to combat structure fires rather than forest fires.



M-AC students participate in "bucket brigade"

Photo taken from Asheville-Citizen Times

In the early stages, the fire was much to much for the fire departments on hand to combat alone. Montreat citizens and students banded together to save homes and establish fire lines.

Three groups of students went up the mountain side to establish fire breaks. Ben Fortson and Jay Guffey led a group of about 15, mostly outdoor Recreation Majors, up the Northern ridge. Shawn

Stewart and about 10 students went up the southern ridgeline with a forest service, and 12 men from Davis Dorm braved a head on assault between the ridges with the Skyland Fire department.

The northern ridge team was racing against time, the fire was spreading rapidly up the mountain and to the north. "We were able to control it at the bottom, states Jay Guffey, "but up higher on the ridgeline it was worse, we weren't able to get there in time."



Remains of House which burnt during Montreat fire

Photo taken from Asheville-Citizen Times

According to Stewart, "When our line held, it was a great feeling."

By Friday morning, the forest service had arrived in force and students were no longer needed on the ridges. The battle of logistics was to begin in earnest on the part of MRA and M-AC.

Bob Graham, Mark Neil, and Steven Walker were instrumental in coordinating the use of McGregor and other college facilities to meet the needs of the firefighters.

SGA Offers Leadership Courses for Credit

By Kathryn Letterman

The Student Government Association has created the following leadership Development Courses: GE 121, 122, 221, 222, 321, 322, 421, and 422, which will be offered for one half credit hour. This series of courses may be taken by student leaders that serve on the SGA Legislative Committee and have voting rights. These courses are designed to enable students to recommend and render decisions about student legislation. Also, these students will learn more about parliamentary procedure. These courses may be taken up to four credit hours.

GE 131, 132, 231, 232, 331,

332, 431, and 432 is another series of elective courses that may be taken by student leaders serving on both SGA Executive and Legislative committees and have voting rights. These students will prepare advisory reports, revise the SGA constitution when necessary, and develop skills in parliamentary procedure. Also, students will become more familiar with Robert's Rules of Order. This series of courses will be offered for one hour of credit.

The courses will be graded by the SGA president, the Vice President, and both of the SGA faculty advisors. The purpose of these courses is to enhance leadership skills on campus.

Suddeth's Talent to be Recognized in Anthology

By Marsha Evans

Robby Suddeth, a sophomore at M-AC, entered his poem "Childish World", in the North American Open Poetry Contest. The poem is about "the sadness of the way the world is sometimes seen through a child's eyes," says Suddeth. The talented work made it into the semi-finals and will be published into an anthology of poetry, called A Break In The Clouds, this summer.

Suddeth drew a lot of encour-

agement from English professor Brian Fuller. "He didn't just fool around and tell me what he thought I'd want to hear," Suddeth replied.

However, Suddeth's biggest influence came from close friend Clay Martin. "He is one of the rare people who also wanders around in the realms of the abstract."

In addition, Suddeth entered two poems in the M-AC Art Festival and won a \$25 award for a poem left untitled.

Childish World

Broken tickled children squint holding exaggerated lifetimes in a single searing tear, they squint and dare to show expressions laced with anger, challenging passersby to mold their emotion, to pretend to care.

One crouches beside the cracking curb, filling the fissures with enough mental energy to complete weeks of homework, staring brown and lonely forsaken eyes as the perfect world dances and dances to a stolen tune pouring from the heart of a scraped-knee child.

Andy Warner, who was with the Davis men between the ridges, said, "It was incredible how fast the fire moved." When asked about the large burning oak that fell about 15 feet from him, Andy could only respond, "It made me really trust in God."

Mark Neil, Becky Brown, Amy Dill, Shawn Stewart and Brent Ozanne worked all night and into the morning with the Southern Ridge team. Ozanne manned a chain saw while the rest of the team cleared brush and dug trenches. Ac-

While Jack Spencer, his staff, and student volunteers like Krista Neilson, Erica Becum, Michelle Nicholson and Kristina Strickland worked without sleep to feed the hungry firefighters.

When it was all over, the fire had consumed 450 acres and three homes. Carl Johnson, of the forest Service, expressed, "The students were very effective at getting what you needed where you needed it quickly. We've really appreciated the college and conference center. We've not once wanted for anything."

Greybeard Players Present *Arms and the Man*

Show a success despite low Crowd turnouts

By Ed Heidel

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday April 22-24, the Greybeard Players presented their spring production *Arms and the Man*. Many hours of hard work and preparation were put in by the cast and crew. Although the audience was not as large as expected due to the fire, no one was left unsatisfied. Notable characters included Rod Stewart as Sergius, a comic if not cocky Serbian officer. "Rod really consistently captured the comedy of his character," Frances Domingues stated. The chocolate Cream Soldier played by Mark Bolick won the sympathies of the entire audience. Everyone involved in the production was dedicated to bringing quality theatre to Montreat.

Bryan Wilson a second semester freshman was quoted as saying, "The sets and costumes were excellent considering the limited theatrical resources Montreat has." Hopefully this is a foreshadowing of great things to come from the Greybeard Players as the drama department continues to grow. This year alone there have been more productions than in the past three years combined. Jennifer Hardman was quoted as saying, "Theatre is a medium of communication that Montreat has been neglecting for too long." This production would not have been possible without the dedication of Brian Fuller and Julianna Lassiter assisted by the Theatre Practicum class.