

## On Campus Prices Push Some Elsewhere

By Josh Schatzle

The price of living on campus will be going up again next year. Room and board costs, currently at \$3,752.00 per year, will rise to \$3,940.00 next year. With the charge of room and board on the rise, students may look at off-campus options in terms of saving money.

According to Dirk Wilmoth, Vice President for Finance and Information Technology at Montreat, the cost of room and board are quite reasonable. In comparison to other state independent schools, Montreat's room and board cost is almost \$250.00 below the average.

The cost for on-campus living can be attributed to universal utilities such as phone and cable use, which though included in the cost at Montreat, would be left to the student to pay individually at many other colleges.

The cost of board is determined for the most part by Aramark, which is in contract with Montreat as the food service provider. The meal price plus maintenance becomes the students boarding charge.

This year's rising costs can be attributed to Aramark's 3% markup, as well as additions and improvements to the dorms.

"By next year", says Wilmoth, "the dorms will be equipped with a universal direct Internet link, that's the plan." Currently students can only access the Internet through private suppliers for a fee. Next year, however, students will have unlimited access to the Internet without charge.

But, Internet access is hardly the leader on the list of complaints given by dorm residents. Instead, students complain of problems ranging from bug infestations of a wide variety, to overbearing RA's and RD's.

Other students find the cafeteria's food to be lacking. Senior Scott Robson expressed, "For what we are paying this

## Yearbook Makes A Come Back

By Lisa Griffin

For the first time in three years, the college will produce a campus yearbook. Dave Sperry advises a staff of five people and Zola Griffin heads up the group as the editor-in chief. The staff members are Amy Buckner, Elizabeth Baker, Zhanna Goroshko, and Christi Waddell.

In the past, yearbook sales have been relatively low in number, this year that problem will be solved by giving the yearbooks to students free of charge.

Women's basketball star, Crystal Lingerfelt commented, "I think that giving them free is a wonderful idea, that way no one gets left out."

The yearbook will include class pictures, sports teams, and other various student activities.

Senior Erin Broome laments, "I think it's great and all, but I didn't even have my picture made."

College identification pictures will be used for students who did not have their

picture taken.

There was talk of offering a make-up photo opportunity for students who for whatever reason missed the first one. Interested students were asked to sign up in the cafeteria.

Due to lack of interest there will not be a make-up session.

Students seem to be pleased at the prospect of having a yearbook again.

Amy Harkleroad, Tennessee native, heartily expressed, "I am really excited about having a yearbook for my senior year here at Montreat, I want to be able to remember everyone just as they are now."

Junior Will Mangum agreed, "I think that it is important to have a lasting memory of one's collegiate years."

Anyone who wants to submit an old school picture (no snapshots) to be used in the yearbook is welcome to send those to Zola Griffin via campus mail, box 120, before Wednesday March 5.

school for our meal plan we should receive a better quality meal."

Sophomore Stephanie Italiano, SGA representative, responded, "I have little sympathy for those who complain about the quality of food here. We've held numerous food committee meetings, and very few if any students attend." In regard to the dorm situation, Italiano also had comments. "In every dorm on this campus there is living some bug population, whether it be wasps in Davis, to ants in Anderson. Something needs to be done about these problems."

Still, some students have found that living off-campus can be quite affordable. With a roommate splitting the cost of an apartment, or house, one can expect to pay approximately \$200.00 a month, plus a fee for utilities.

Also, there is the cost of food to

consider, unless one desires the meal plan which is available without cost of room at \$1,668.00. Off-campus Senior Jon Abel says, "There are pros and cons to living on your own. There is the needed quiet time away from the bustling school activity. But on the downside, you feel out of touch with school events."

In terms of providing for the costs of food and living, Jon stated, "Food is cheap, I spend maybe \$50 to \$60 a month."

Other students' estimations for food cost are similar, from \$60 to \$100 monthly. A survey of utilities proved the same, approximately \$50 to \$75 monthly. Using these figures, the cost of living off-campus can be determined at or about \$3000.00 for a year, assuming \$200 rent, \$100 food, and \$75 utility.