

Budget Improvements Continue to Be Made

By Christian Malone

Seven weeks ago, a financial controller was hired to handle school finances due to budgetary problems. Rumors buzzed that the school was close to bankruptcy. Though it's still too early for the problems to be solved, things are better under control in preparation for the 1997-98 school year.

In response to the rumors, Palin Spruance, Montreat's controller assured, "Absolutely not, we're a long way from that situation." Vice President for Finance & Information Technology Dirk Wilmoth added, "Montreat College has \$19 million in assets, so, financially, we're fine."

Right now, the budget is being re-evaluated for the upcoming year, and

changes are being made which Spruance feels will help balance the budget and overcome the problems it experienced this year, when it experienced a demonic \$666,000 deficit.

A committee called S.C.O.R.E. (Select Committee On Reducing Expenditures) was recently formed to look at ways the school can amend the current budget in order to cut back expenditures and find ways to save money. This will include more competitive buying (shopping multiple places for the best price on supplies) and holding a volunteer clean-up at the end of the school year involving faculty, staff, and their families, which will make clean up much cheaper than in the past.

A long-term decision was to change

the budgetary planning from a twelve-month budget to a six-month budget. The faculty and staff will reevaluate the budget every semester.

Spruance feels this will keep faculty and staff from overspending. He stated, "Many faculty and staff, upon receiving their budgets, go out and spend their money right away, leaving them little money for the rest of the year. By having a six-month budget, they won't be able to spend as much money at one time."

A large part of the financial problems came from a drop in SPAS revenue the past year. SPAS' budgeted revenue was \$3.01 million for '96-97. It ended up pulling in only \$2.33 million.

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Campus Trusts Luck Of The Draw

By Lisa Griffin

Final exams were not the only cause of stress and disruption among students this week, anticipation rose as Montreat attempted their first ever room lottery to assign dorm rooms for the upcoming school year.

In the past rooms have been assigned on a first come, first serve basis, which many students felt was unfair. Senior Amy Harkelroad voiced, "I wish they had used the lottery system in the years past, I have been wanting a room on second floor for three years, but someone always beat me to it."

Howerton R.A. Alan Hines also spoke out. "I think the room drawing is

a great idea, it gives everyone a fair chance at the room that they want."

The process went as follows, students wanting to remain in their present rooms had first dibs on that room, but if they wished to change rooms, they had to count on the luck of the draw. Student's names were put in a bowl and randomly drawn out. When a name was selected, that student got their choice of the remaining rooms.

The tension mounted in Howerton lobby on Wednesday night as a room full of rowdy guys gathered to stake their claims.

A confident Nathan Haugaard voiced, "I'm not worried, I already have

my room requested."

A nervous, yet sarcastic Phil Quinn remarked, "This is the biggest night of my life."

According to second floor Anderson RA Sarai Fortney, the drawing seemed to go smoothly in Anderson and most people got the room of their choice. Fortney explained, "Most of the girls requested the same room as this year, and the people who did participate in the drawing seemed to be pleased with what they got".

Many requests were simple. Anderson resident, Crystal Lingerfelt just wanted "a room with ample water bal-
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