

Dear Editor,

As a work study of the Admissions office, I have witnessed some recent occurrences that have frustrated and discouraged me. Events include the dismissal of Former Director of Admissions, Willie Mangum and a recent case involving an employee I think should remain anonymous.

I was upset with the events surrounding Mangum's resignation. While I realize there are two sides to every story, from my perspective it did not seem that Mangum's best interests, or the interests of the student body in general, were taken into account. In conversations I have had with Willie since his resignation, I have become aware of how upsetting the whole situation has been to him. He has expressed concern over poorly handled communication. From what I have seen, some members of the administration have demonstrated a greater interest in recruiting statistics than in Mangum's individual value to the institution as a whole.

I have trouble finding where respect and Christian value were taken into account. In the Montreat College Statement of Purpose it professes a belief that all "persons are thinking, relational, moral and spiritual beings of dignity and worth." What about Mangum's case?

The administration might not have seen as many numbers as they would have liked from Mangum. I am not saying the administration is completely wrong in their decision, but every day I would see students, ranging from international to athletes, flood to Willie's office, just to say hi. Willie had personal relationships with many students and related well with prospectives. He is missed by many. It appeared to me that his priority was students not numbers. One of the reasons I came here was because I knew I would be an individual not just a number. I do not know that Willie's replacements will have the same effect on the students lives, when they refer to me (and others) as "one of you work study people," rather than trying to learn our

names.

Furthermore, there was recently an issue with another work study. This person decided to write a letter to the board of trustees about personal experiences at Montreat. It was to include love and appreciation for four years spent here, acknowledging some dislikes as well. When it was observed that this student was retrieving addresses for members of the board of trustees, within the hour, the student was asked to get rid of the list of addresses. When the student went to explain what the addresses were for, the student was told that any such letters would have to be okayed by the president first.

I do not understand why a student should not be allowed to write a letter to anyone concerning the college. I wonder what worries the college so much that it feels the need to screen letters written by honest students to those off the campus and outside the gate. I find it wrong to prevent anyone from voicing their opinion. I think that if someone has a problem or a concern they should be able to voice it to someone who might be able to change things. As students and as a citizens we have the right to write letters to whomever we choose. We have freedom of speech and of the press.

I have no doubt that the professors are focused on the students. I don't see that we, the students, are the main concern of some members of the administration. It seems to me they have turned this into a marketing issue, a business worried about how many numbers we have, and keeping up with other colleges. While numbers are necessary for the livelihood of the college, I wonder if Godly values and principles, and His high standards are being forgotten as we climb the business ladder of successful colleges.

These are just a few of my concerns and maybe they will not bother others as they have bothered me. Perhaps my concern is because I have been working in the admissions office the past two

semesters. Yet I find the standards, that I thought were so strong at Montreat College, to be lacking.

For the administration to have a good relationship with the students they need be trustworthy and open. From comments all over campus by students, this does not seem to be the present case. I am fearful in even writing this that I am jeopardizing my personal situation at this school. Others have the same fears. The fact that we must hide truth, or our opinions, out of fear, is to me a tragedy.

By Shayla Ghiotto

### Editor's Response:

In "The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock, T.S. Eliot questioned, "Do I dare disturb the universe?" *The Aletheia* printed Shayla's editorial because of her passion mixed with apprehension to do just that. Liberal arts education was designed to escape the shelter of our youth and learn to think for ourselves. For students like Shayla to continue repressing her ideas, would be perilous. Speaking her mind is also detrimental. However, I pray her point is taken with open heart and mind by those who read.

Have a great summer,  
Jeremy Isaac Witteveen

## *The Aletheia*

### *Editor*

Arianne Frain

### *Assistant Editor*

Jeremy Isaac Witteveen

### *Contributors*

Shellie Bowser, Daryl Bryant, Wes Caldwell, Lisa Griffin, Christian Malone, Queen Musengwa, Jamie Pate, Josh Schatzle

### *Advisor*

Dave Sperry

*The Aletheia* welcomes student editorials subject to standards of length and clarity. Signed submissions may be sent to Box 894 in the Document Center.