

The Opinions Page

POLICY

The Opinions Page is a forum for any member of the Mars Hill community to express their ideas, problems or thoughts. The Hilltop does not discriminate against anyone who wishes to submit a letter. All letters must be signed, but the editor can withhold the name if requested. Send all letters to THE HILLTOP, PO BOX 6148, MARS HILL, NC 28754. The views presented on this page are not necessarily those of the Hilltop or of Mars Hill College.

Hilltop Columnist Amy Webb's

Spider's Webb

Problems with the "Straight Road"

What exactly is the "straight road"?

We hear this "straight road method" most of our lives. We hear that the "straight road" is the right way to go. Don't stray. Your life will be better and fulfilling if you choose this path.

How many people take the "straight road"? You may begin there, but you fall and get off track. Eventually most people come back.

Life would be boring and too simple if we followed this "road" our whole lives. No matter if we are talking about the religious road or the road of life we take, we never seem to stay on the "straight road."

My theory to this is that when we take detours we make mistakes and encounter new things. We learn and grow.

Although we always know that we should stay on the "straight road" it's hard to do.

But in the long run it will make us stronger in faith and beliefs. Because when we see what's on the other path we realize that everything we needed was right down the "straight road."

Hilltop Columnist Mike Wachtendorf's

BabbleOn Halloween - Boo!

Scared? I didn't think you would be.

Every year on October 31, we stop and celebrate ghosts and goblins (what's a goblin?) and things that go bump in the night. Basically, Halloween is just a crazy celebration of our fears.

As I thought about the contents of this article, I asked myself, "What is it that I'm afraid of?" The wolfman and that dude with unnaturally long fangs and a cape are pretty scary, but they're not real - so why should I or anyone else be afraid of something that's not real?

Honestly, the thing that scares me the most is the uncertainty of a good future.

If someone snatches my magic carpet out from under me, will I go crashing to the ground or will I learn how to fly?

Sometimes when facing our greatest fears, we boldly deal with situations and find that we should have never been afraid in the first place. Other times, we cower and refuse to face our fears; we tremble and are defeated.

If the boogy man was real, would hiding under several layers of blankets actually help?

No, he'd pull the blankets off and tear his victim to shreds anyway.

We might as well boldly face our fears instead of hiding from them.



Growing up, the people who influenced me the most fully encouraged my optimism towards life. I somehow knew I would succeed, I ignored those who tried to convince me that there was a chance that I might not. For some reason (some optimism which burns deep inside me), I still try to ignore those who prognosticate anything but success for my life, but this is not easy to do.

Writers, professors, and peers keep telling us what to fear. They preach that the American dream is dead. That hard work and saving won't assure us a good future like it did for our parents. They say that the

economy is much different now. They've taken away our hopes and replaced them with fears.

I wish these folks would stop it...I'm not buying it...I'm not afraid!

It disgusts me to realize that many of our generation are listening to all the talk about the future. They're scared, they give up, they hide from the uncertainty and will certainly fail.

Well, let me encourage you not to be afraid, but boldly face the future. Be willing to work and fight for your success, and you'll have nothing to be afraid of.

What are you doing here?

By Coco Brion
Hilltop Special Writer

That is a question I have been asked repeatedly since I arrived in Mars Hill. As a 21 year old French student who has traveled to Germany, Switzerland, England, and Poland, I realize that such a question is understandable when

people learn of my background.

My parents always encouraged education, and participation in music, art, and sports. They also encouraged sports as education, not used as a physical development. Tennis was the sport I chose, and tennis is the key to why I am here in America, and in Mars Hill.

In France we have to choose school or sports. We cannot do both at once. But in America it is possible and that made a childhood dream come true.

I have been here for almost a year, and I am able to tell more of the differences between France and the States. Now don't get me wrong. I'd like to

emphasize the fact that I love it here.

I find everything here. I feel free and also people are kind and helpful. The most important thing is the possibility to study and play tennis every day. It is unbelievable!

Next Issue: More About The Differences Between America and France.

The Clinton Rx: VooDoo Medicine

By Dwayne A. Kennedy
Hilltop Columnist

The Health Care plan that the Clinton Administration unveiled on September 22, 1993 is yet another liberal social welfare policy. The plan may have originated from good intentions, but is destined for failure since it is rife with miscalculations and erroneous data. This will ultimately increase the tax burden already imposed upon all hard-working, tax-paying citizens. Do you really believe that the federal government can bring you better and less expensive health care? Remember this is the same government that gave us the \$500 billion plus S & L bailout, while they had members profit as a result. This elite group has sold out our generation by means of a \$4.3 trillion dollar debt that will only get worse as the "Baby Boomer" generation begins collecting social security in the 21st century. Let me show you in true dollars and cents how \$4.3 trillion looks; \$4,300,000,000,000!

The most persuasive argument is the idea of universal coverage for all citizens and legal residents. Right now there is estimated to be some 37 million people that have no insurance or are under-insured. I thought Medicare and Medicaid was the solution to this problem. Well, guess what? It didn't work so now we need more federal government programs to fix the problem. It seems that there is a pattern emerging here where the government is gaining an increasing amount of influence in very important aspects of our daily lives. The problem is that everyone wants something for next to nothing, which in reality is impossible. The bottom line is you get what you pay for or didn't pay for as in the \$4.3 trillion federal deficit.

When President Clinton addressed the nation concerning his health care reform plan he spoke about how health care costs needed to be controlled in order for the deficit to be reduced and economic recovery to become robust once again. As opposition

has intensified concerning the true "price tag" of his plan, the emphasis has been switched to the idea of health "security" for everyone. No longer is there any talk about potential savings and how the plan will stimulate economic growth. It sounds like the old "bait & switch" scheme that used car salesmen so fondly embrace. Let me tell you Mr. President you truly are one "Slick Willy"!

Here are some figures that you may find useful in your analysis of the Clinton health care reform plan: Fed. Gov't spending = 24% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product), Avg. family spends 12% of their income on health care. If the Clinton plan were adopted, the federal gov't would control in excess of 33% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) which ultimately means government would become bigger. Do we really need a bigger federal bureaucracy than we already have? If you say yes, then you can foot the bill. Until the federal government has regained my confidence,

and the confidence of millions of young Americans, I say less is better than more!

The debate over health care reform raged on for nearly a century without a viable proposal being passed into law. Is the current political climate right to bring about much needed reform in our health care system? The 103rd Congress will ultimately have the task of shaping what type of health care reform package eventually becomes passed into law. I urge you to stay informed. Write your Senator, Representative, and others to express your views. Don't stand on the sidelines and let pharmaceutical companies, PAC's (Political Action Committees), lobbyists, and congressmen make decisions for you concerning what is ultimately the cost and quality of your health care that you can receive in the future. It's your choice, so make it, otherwise someone else will make it for you!

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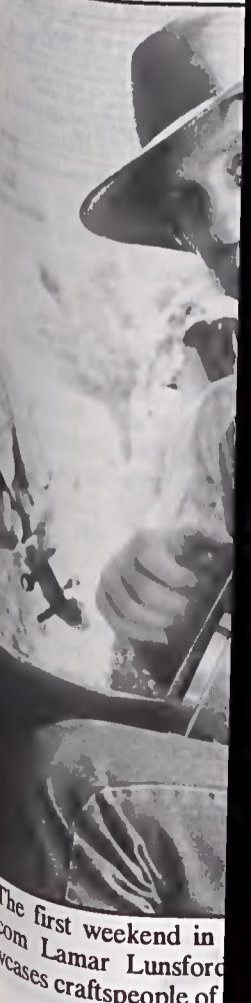
The L Moore

By Rhonda Baitty
Hilltop Staff Writer

Imagine that your friend are still approaching the attic door of the Edna M dormitory. You reach for the door knob, but it will not move. Your friend reaches for the door knob, and it opens. You question and why.

For the past two years, strange things have been occurring in Edna Moore. Students have reported cries of a being coming from the corner staircase of Edna Moore. Alarm clocks have been known to go off in the middle of the afternoon not even go off at all. Clocks and fallen mirrors selected rooms have inhabitants. In many dorm rooms, broken, dripping sinks have mysteriously fixed themselves. Students who have waited

MHC R
stations and associated hardware. In Year Three, the department of Merchandising, Modern Furniture receive an upgrade.



The first weekend in Bascom Lamar Lunsford showcases craftspeople of