

Editorial: Commentary

PROBLEMS PROBLEMS

We thought we'd take up all the old MAC gripes in this column. Here it is traditional to editorialize about them. Complaints become cherished as they gain the respectability of age. In order that each student may see his or her favorite beef in print, I deal with the chief ones in this week's package deal.

Let's begin with the cause of last year's only student rebellion, the famous 6:30 insurrection. It happened in May just as the Sorbonne students were fomenting revolution across the ocean. What was the cause of the Montreat uprising? The war? The draft? Defense contracts? Lack of student-faculty communication? Protest over a controversial speaker?

No, it was none of these. The action was a demonstration against (shudder) poor food service. Perhaps we should elaborate for those students who are new to Montreat-Anderson. Believing in the old dictum "a healthy mind in a healthy body," many students decided they were fed up. They objected to violation of their meals by foreign particles.

Strenuous protests were also directed at too small glasses of milk. Who wants rickets? Further, short breakfast hours increased bitterness. Irritated by these and other offenses, students took the only possible course of action.

Rather than fast, since many of them were already emaciated from improper diets, the rebels decided to march to supper at 6:30, the cafeteria's normal closing hour. The angry militants were orderly enough. Luckily, no NACE or other police controls were needed. Finally, the approximately 200 agitators sat down to cold suppers. But, the moral victory was theirs. How will the Establishment figures who ate at 6 o'clock be able to face their children in later years?

No one knows. But any Montreat-Anderson alumnus can point with pride to his Sundays at this school. Every student is in church from about 11 to 12 o'clock. Is he motivated by piety? No, overcuts are the spur that goad him out of a warm bed.

Church attendance is required at Montreat-Anderson. It makes no difference whether you're an unclean infidel or a Franciscan friar, you're expected to be there. The points for and against required church and chapel have been batted back and forth many times before. We'll spare you any further discussion.

Permit us to add this reminder, "be in church or transfer." And John Calvin will bless you real fine.

If he doesn't, Carrie Nation will. Standard Argument Number three -- The fifty-mile drinking rule. That's how far the school has authority over the consumption of spirits. This rule bothers rum-swilling, licentious, degenerate types.

It obviously wouldn't phase a member of the Elect. He accepts it as a matter of course. It is of no moment to him. However, this same fledgling saint delights in playing sermon and gospel music tapes at 7:30 in the morning. This tends to upset the pagan next door who has been up until 3:30 preparing for a Bible test.

The sleeper may not even care for John G. Whittier's hymns. What's wrong with his life that he won't let the light in?

Probably, he's just confused. MAC didn't do this. Some folks are just bent on self-destruction.

Memo: Carl Sandburg on Billy Sunday: "I distrust anyone who never works anything but his mouth."

READERS WRITE

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter about the recent decision to enforce the rule which requires a student to have an overall 2.0 average in order to have a car on campus. I can understand the rule which keeps freshmen from having a car on campus, but it hardly seems fair to ask a person who has been attending Montreat for three or four semesters perviously to take his car off campus because his overall average doesn't measure up to a certain standard. Some people tell us that college is the place where we are on our own and we have to make our own decisions. Having a car on campus should be the student's own responsibility if he feels he can handle it and still keep up his grades.

I advocate a change of the rule so that a person with a previous semester grade of 2.0 or over can have a car. Several students have had one bad semester which has lowered their overall average while the preceeding semester they had a 2.0. These students either had to take their cars home or park them in Black Mountain.

Again it hardly seems fair for a person who has worked all summer for several summers and has made enough money to buy a car, to be told that he is not allowed to drive his car on campus.

I also realize that students are coming to Montreat-Anderson College for an education, but I believe each student should be allowed to answer the car problem for himself. Having a car makes it so convenient to get around and get home on holidays.

I hope much consideration is given to changing the rule. This matter should not be taken lightly.

John Mullins.

Dear Editor:

Pray for "Rosemary's Baby!" A thanks to Harvey Davis for his splendid review of the movie in last week's "Cavalier."

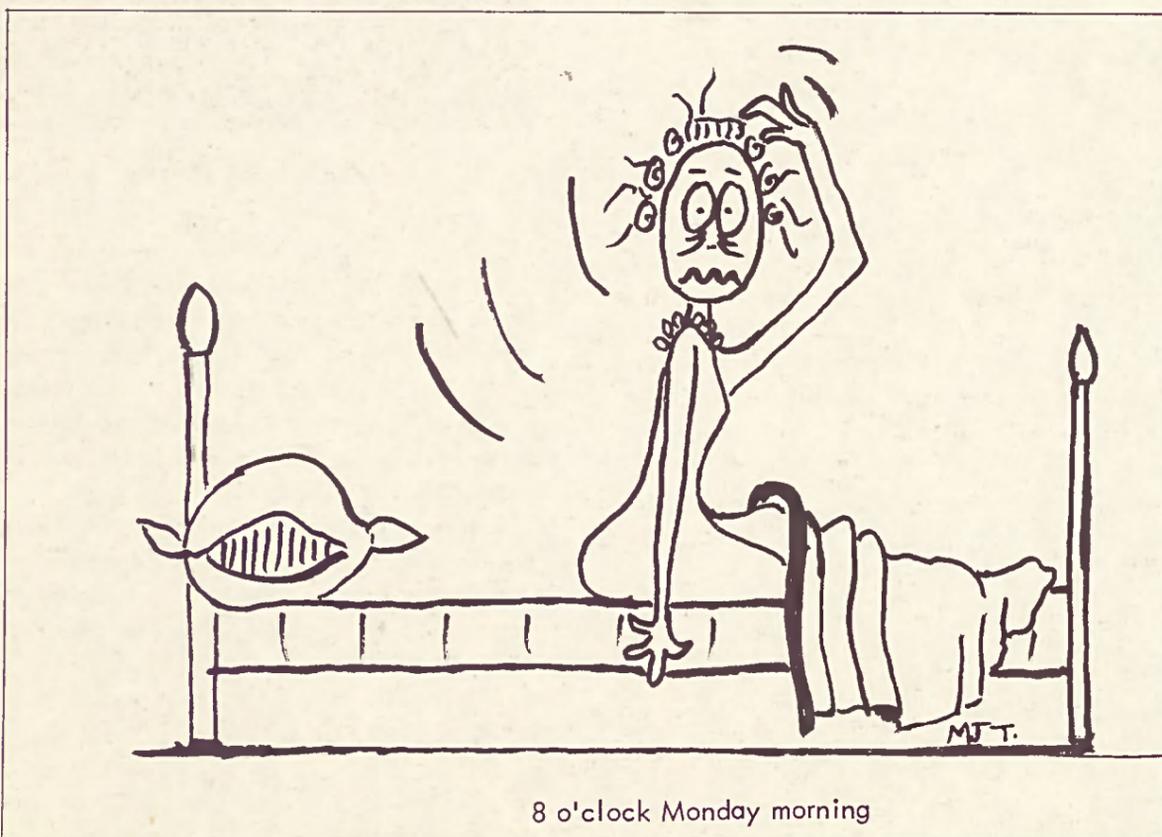
If Rosemary's baby is a personification of the Devil, as many interpret it to be, let that stand. At least, the pic recognizes the existence of a satanic force in the world, its insidious nature, and the zeal of its followers.

Revelatory history as it is recorded in the Bible does not answer the question, "Where did the Devil come from?" (unless you literalize some cryptic passages like Is. 14:12 citing one Lucifer or Day Star, probably a symbol borrowed from Baal myth to designate the evil King of Babylon.) The Bible does, however, affirm unequivocally the Devil's existence as a cosmic reality.

Sincer, therefore, our understanding of the origin of "that pitch-forked, horned creature" is almost altogether extra-biblically based (Persian dualism and Babylonian mythology), I see Rosemary's baby as one fascinating, though not plausible, alternative answer to "from whence the Devil?"

I say, pray for Rosemary's baby for in so doing we are praying for that monster with which we are all pregnant - our own distorted, evil-infused natures which need redeeming.

R. Paul Kercher
Professor of Bible



8 o'clock Monday morning