

Editorial: Commentary

CHANGE ?

On February 13, a meeting in Gaither marked a milestone in Montreat-Anderson's history. Dr. C. Grier Davis, eighteen student leaders, two deans, and two faculty members met to discuss differences. Dr. Davis began by saying such a meeting was overdue. He was impressed with the diligent work of Honor Court members, and the Deans, Miss Carole Tyler and Mr. Howard Kester. He also described the relationship between the Mountain Retreat Association and MAC, something that has always been a mystery to students.

David Walters asked if the President would give 100% of his time to MAC. Dr. Davis replied that he spent much of his time raising funds to support the college's program. There was, he continued, "no alternative" to this because of the lack of assets. All college presidents have problems finding time to devote strictly to students, Dr. Davis pointed out. He also said that he would try to take more time for students. This is fairly wonderful! So is the mere fact of this meeting.

We can not praise this rapprochement between students, faculty, and President too much. It is our hope that this is no mere token gesture. Contrary to popular opinion, two years at Montreat-Anderson is not an assignment to perdition. This school can improve and a continued dialogue between Dr. Davis and the students and faculty of Montreat may prove beneficial.

Youth does not always indicate an incapacity to reason, also contrary to a widely held belief. Nor does age mean that a person is incapable of accepting fresh ideas if they are valid. At least, we hope not. An interchange of ideas can produce an intelligent compromise that satisfies a majority.

After all, we can not deceive all of the people. It is our hope that Montreat-Anderson's total community will realize it is best to faithfully adhere to its motto, "Esse Zuam Videri." MAC must be. It is impossible for the school to only seem to be a place of total education as advertised.

It will be interesting to see how productive future discussions and tolerance of everyone's opinion (on both sides of the lake) can be.

LETTER

As a student at Montreat-Anderson College, I hear considerable conversation regarding required church and chapel attendance. Even though the student body, and maybe even (God help them) our beloved faculty, disagree with my views on this most pertinent subject, I still feel compelled to express them.

First, I want to state clearly that I am in full accord and agreement with M.A.C.'s policy of required church and chapel attendance. A change to a Laissez-Faire policy would be as sinful and absurd as a change in the U.S. constitution, as both lay a foundation for a working and proven institution. Also, although some may have the warped misconception that eliminating required church and chapel attendance would be the "thing to do", I feel that a break in this tradition would be a break in a most cherished and valuable social asset.

Secondly, students now attending M.A.C., unless they didn't bother to read the not-so-fine-print of their handbooks, I am sure were fully aware of this policy, and if in opposition to it, should have diverted their now exuberant zeal in opposing required church and chapel attendance, to successfully acquiring acceptance in another college.

Thirdly, I believe it safe to say, there are many here to acquire knowledge. To me, this does not mean the acquisition of many facts, but the acquisition of the means to learn and retain facts. I believe that responsibility plays an immense role in achieving the above, and what better way is there to acquire this responsibility than to surrender ourselves to a system of discipline? Required church and chapel attendance, I believe, is a good example of employing this principle.

Finally, I believe a slack attitude on the part of the administration regarding this policy, would be simple financial irresponsibility. Both alumni and parents contribute to the college, I imagine, not because some stones in Gaither have a cute sparkle to them, but because they believe the college has some principles.

In conclusion, may I suggest to all students who object to the policy of required church and chapel attendance and other policies related to discipline and responsibility, to pack your bags and find work in another institution. Those of you who hold this Laissez-Faire "don't give a damn" attitude, should leave M.A.C. just as you have found her--a college that dares to be different, one with the courage and backbone to uphold those principles and traditions for which it was originally founded.

David Brooke

P.S.--Since the above was written prior to our recent chapel walkout, I would like also to add some comments on that. It seems rather ironic to me that our "school leaders" walked out on President Davis, prior to his announcing the dismissal of our required church attendance policy. I must conclude that this act was not in protest of President Davis' announcement, but an attempt to balance personal grudges. A student is here to learn, not to dictate policy, and the ignorance of many was revealed by this act, which was done to create public embarrassment for President Davis. Whatever the faults of President Davis, discovered by Montreat's "whiz kids," they warrant no justification assinine display of juvenile emotion.

TYLER

by Kay Bacigalupo

A major problem on the college campus around the nation is the lack of youthful understanding. Montreat-Anderson College has solved a major portion of that problem in the selection of this year's new Associate Dean of Students. Our Associate Dean is young, understanding, and quite eager to assist the young adult students who attend this College.

A native of Eupora, Mississippi, Miss Carole Tyler is this year's new Associate Dean of Students. Miss Tyler obtained her Bachelor of Music degree from Mississippi State College for Women and her Masters in Music from Louisiana State University. Prior to becoming Associate Dean, Miss Tyler taught public school music, served as a director of youth activities, and as a director of music.

Miss Tyler has already formed definite opinions of MAC. She summed up her feelings when she stated, "I think Montreat has an outstanding potential for success, but I feel that it's potential is limited by a lack of communication between this side of the lake and Assembly Inn." A supporter of voluntary church attendance, she enjoys Montreat's small school situation where students and faculty get to know each other personally. She is convinced that our faculty and staff care about the students as individuals.

When asked for suggestions which would improve student life, Miss Tyler noted that daily commercial bus service from Montreat to Asheville would help remove some of Montreat's "isolation"--especially on weekends.

Miss Tyler might be called an enthusiast. She is enthused at the idea of helping young adults and equally as enthused about being successful in her job. She possesses exactly what this college needs--youthful enthusiasm and know-how.

Helga

Helga, the latest in modern educational films, will shock and at times bore the average movie goer. Its purpose of sex education is noble and its scenes are very "interesting" but the big question seems to be whether or not you can sit through it. The film supposedly geared to pre-teens, seems to be more for their parents. This means long boring intervals of basic sex education which does not last forever. Suddenly the film shifts to the newly married couples leaving parents and pre-teens lost forever.

Although "Helga" has its faults, it is a work of art in the educational film field. The movie actually has a plot. The plot evolves around Helga, a newlywed, who is pregnant. The viewer then does the rounds of lectures with the couple. These lectures answer all the minor problems of water gain, etc. The film at this point seems to border on the trivial. When the day finally comes, the viewer goes into the delivery room and gets an intern's eye view from labor to after birth. However, the film does not stop here. It still has twenty minutes to inform the viewer on everything from figure exercises to breast feeding.

Helga is certainly worth seeing but don't be surprised if the coming attraction proves more interesting.

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