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Dorm Wars Ignite Violent Incident

By Kathryn Letterman

Fists replaced water balloons in a Howerton brawl last Saturday night. What started as playful competition between dorms took a turn for the worse when two students physically attacked another student and one staff member. In the aftermath of the fight a hearing was held by Student Services Director Charles Lance, and twenty people were interviewed.

The two students in question admitted guilt and action was taken by the college. Both students were charged with assault; one was additionally charged with property damage, and being under the influence of alcohol.

Differing opinions and interpretations of the event make determining its causes difficult.

Further clouding the analysis of the problem is reluctance by many students to discuss the outbreak. Some students interviewed feared that an article on the subject would encourage or even generate more violence in the future.

Commons Area Available for Student Use

By Sean Anderson

Hammers drive nails into planks of wood as a fence is constructed. This is only part of the rebuilding process going on near Howerton Hall.

A new Commons area, in which people can sit, relax, or study will be completed this week. However, it is expected that the lights will not be installed until sometime in October.

The Commons area will feature a wooden deck and boardwalk surrounded by a six foot high wooden fence. There will be trees in planters, benches, wrought-iron tables and chairs placed on the finished deck, that will be lighted for night use. There is a bulletin board for student use and announcements on the fence near the steps to the dining hall.

On the back of the deck there will be a stage for concerts, plays and speeches. The commons area will also improve the appearance of the unattractive roof area. It will also screen the kitchen trash, loading area, views of the roof of the dining hall and machinery that is located there.

The benches are being built by maintenance and should be completed in October. The tables, chairs, trees, and plants will be purchased when donations have been collected.

Neither the annual funds, nor the college operating budget will be effected by this project, as it is being funded by restrictive donations. President William Hurt and his staff have been collecting these donations, along with the Board of

Trustees. However, many students living on campus were anxious to share their opinions. Resident student Jason Robinson said it started out as a joke: "At the beginning it was harmless fun, but then things got out of hand. I think that dorm wars should stop if this kind of violence is going to happen."

Some people were furious about the incident. A student, one of several who wish to remain anonymous, exclaimed, "I was surprised that an R.D. [resident director] got hurt. I wouldn't have expected that kind of violence to happen at a Christian school. It really made me angry."

Although some feel that the violence that occurred could damage the Christ-centered image of Montreat-Anderson College, Derek Sims, another student, stated that it shouldn't: "I don't think that what happened reflects on the school. I think that people just let their emotions get the best of them."

The violence has affected more than just the people who live in the two opposing

dorms. Janie King expressed this concern: "What bothers me the most is that I've always felt safe walking around at night on campus, and now it makes me wonder how safe it really is."

King also went on to make a point about division between students, "I hope that we will not judge everyone else on campus based on the actions of a couple of people."

Other students saw no point in the conflict. "I don't have any bad feelings against anybody, but there was really no sense in all of the violence. I hope nothing else like that ever happens again," said freshman, Matt Porter.

Some negative feelings are brewing between the students and the administration. A student leader -- also wishing to remain anonymous -- stated, "There's a lot of unrest feelings going around. A lot of people are unhappy with the decision that the administration made. Some people don't think it was handled correctly."

Sex Discussions to be held on Campus

Marcy Buckner

Students talk about sex. The counseling center is sponsoring the annual group sessions dealing with sexuality issues, during Sexuality Awareness week, September 27-30.

Last year's sessions dealt with these issues on a much smaller scale. There was a large emphasis on sexually transmitted diseases, especially AIDS, and unwanted pregnancy, whereas this year's concentration area will be much broader.

The goal of sexual awareness week, according to counselor, Carmen Copenhaver, is to "place scientific, medical, and truthful information into the hands of students." This year's emphasis will be on the positive--what one can do to make mature choices, rather than what one should not do.

Copenhaver desires to have students presented with guidelines for healthy living, so that they may remain healthy. She comments, "Nobody ever reaches the point where they are away from temptation. Don't underestimate that power, or overestimate your own strength to resist."

Sandi Rice, director of Rape Crisis Center in Buncombe and Madison County,

will present Self Defense Part I (for women) Monday, September 27, at p.m. in Belk Center, room 304.

Julie Fontenot, assistant director of the Medical Institute for Sexual Health in Austin, Texas, will present a color slide "Safe Sex..." on Tuesday, September 28, at 10am during convocation.

Also on Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the Belk Center, room 304, Sandi Rice will conclude the Self Defense sessions with Part II.

Ed Bonner will conduct an informal talk for men at 8 p.m. in the game room of Davis Hall. The topic will be "Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know About Sex But Were Afraid to Ask."

Wednesday night, September 29, at 8 p.m. in the prayer room of Belk Center, there will be an informal meeting for the women with a student speaker.

Sexual Awareness week will conclude on Thursday, September 30. Ed Bonner will present "The Biblical Basis for Great Sex in chapel at 10am Ed Bonner and Carmen Copenhaver together will end the week with, "Finding the Love of Your Life" at 8 p.m. in Howerton Lobby.

Trustees.

Project Architect, Maury Hurt said, "Mark Barker Construction, the contractor and the college maintenance have each done an excellent job on their respective parts of the project. I hope that the students will use and enjoy it as much as possible. This is for them."

Armond Blevins, Doug Bradley and Don Hensley, part of the M-AC mainte-

nance staff, have donated their labor to build the benches, planters, and bulletin board.

The Stonecutter Foundation contributed the largest cash donation, also Mark. W. Barker Construction is building the deck and fence for a greatly reduced fee.

Henson Building Materials, along with Lox Treated Lumber products offered a significant discount on the cost of lumber.