

Music Department Gets a GRAND Awakening.

By Eric R. Satter

Christmas will arrive a few months early at Montreat College. Very soon, the college will be getting brand new pianos ranging from grand and upright pianos to the latest electronic digital MIDI keyboards from the Kawai Company's piano loan program.

"The Kawai Company's piano loan program has been a great advantage for small liberal arts colleges, such as Montreat," expressed Dr. Mark Johnson.

The Kawai Company is the only major Japanese piano manufacture that still remains family owned and operated. The company's piano loan program allows Kawai to donate pianos to small colleges as a business and advertisement tool. Once the donated pianos are used for an extended period of time, the pianos are then auctioned off to buyers and investors at a rate that is substantially under retail value.

"These pianos are really a blessing from God, because they allow the college the opportunity to open a door which we've been working to get open for the past two years," Johnson said.

Thirty years ago, music was a signature program, being placed as one of the top three majors of Montreat College. By 1959, when Montreat became a two-year junior college, that strong tradition deminished and became overlooked. Today, interest has grown again to a 25 member choir and a 6 member Celebration singing group.

With this interest, a brand new music department and major was born this year, as well as, a new music/language computer lab containing the latest generation technology. All of this has been a dream of the administration since President Hurt came to Montreat College five years ago.

The Kawai Company will be donat-

ing a total of 19 musical instruments which include: 2 large upright grand pianos, one to be placed in the choir room, the other for Ms. Tregre's studio; 4 smaller upright pianos, three will be placed in the new practice rooms, while the other will be placed in the new music/language computer lab; 4 grand pianos, to be placed in Gather Fellowship Hall, Assembly Inn lobby, Dr. Stackhouse's studio, and one of the new practice rooms; and 9 electronic digital MIDI keyboards for the new music/language computer lab.

Kawai will also be donating a controller system, which will link up all of the 9 new MIDI digital keyboards with headphones for piano class, as well as 2 digital tone generators which allow students to use over 300 digital sounds for writing music with a computer.

The Power to Change a Life

By Jennifer Mobley

We've all heard that old axiom that says, if you want to change the world, do it one life at a time. What if I told you it is possible to do just that — by playing basketball? In that simple act, there is the power to touch a child's life. (And you don't even have to be good at it!)

Sometimes the best way to reach kids and to build open, trusting relationships with them is as easy as spending time with them, doing the things they love to do. We are all surrounded with opportunities for involvement, from church nurseries and Sunday school classes to the kids in our own neighborhoods. Here at Montreat, one of our "next-door" neighbors is Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministries, or ABCCM.

ABCCM has been operating in the Asheville area for well over two decades, and Montreat students became involved with them in a volunteer capacity during the spring semester of last year. Our partnership is one that benefits both the people of our community and Montreat students alike.

ABCCM operates, among other things, a temporary shelter that stays open around the clock. It provides more than just an interim place to live for its residents, who may stay for up to ninety days if need be. It also provides a placement service to assist its residents in finding jobs and permanent housing. It can refer them to drug or alcohol rehabilitation programs when necessary, and it has a basketball court for the kids.

ABCCM is a private, non-profit organization that depends on its volunteers to get its vital work done. In addition to the shelter, ABCCM also runs a Crisis Center which houses a soup kitchen, and a warehouse of donated clothing that must be sorted before they can be distributed to those in need. They need volunteers to help with meal preparation, light office work, sorting and organizing of donated clothing and food items, and playing a few rounds of basketball! If you have a heart for kids and families in need, please contact Joy Bennett at ext. 4510 or Charlie Wilson at ext. 6202 for information about the children's ministries, and Chet Landaker at ext. 6302 for information about either the soup kitchen or the warehouse.

Editor's Mailbox

Dear Editor,

Homecoming 1996 has come and gone and now it seems that fall is encroaching upon us. Cool weather, rain, beautiful leaves and Mike Sonnenberg's biology classes looking at leaves all indicate that soon, fall break will be here. I have met many students during my past four weeks here at Montreat. I am a graduate of the class of '93 and have recently been appointed as Peggy Leis' replacement in the alumni office. I was hired one month to the day before homecoming and have stayed pretty busy putting together that event. Homecoming would have been impossible to organize without the wonderful support of the many student volunteers, faculty and staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who helped to make homecoming possible.

The alumni and students that participated in homecoming seem to have really enjoyed themselves. The threat of rain cancelled the first annual Homecoming parade, but we'll try again next year. The square dance on Friday

night with the Stony Creek Boys and Dean Wilson was a great time for alumni and students to visit, as well as for the students who came dressed for the occasion (with straw hats, overalls etc.). Saturday's soccer games were hampered by the rain, but the Montreat women's soccer team was still ahead 4-1 with 37 minutes to go when the game was cancelled due to rain. Saturday night, the Big Band was moved into Belk Campus Center and many students, alumni and others really seemed to enjoy the music. The big event was the 70's and 80's retro dance on Saturday night. Howerton Cafeteria was jammed with students and alumni dancing to the hits from yesteryear, as well as the Electric slide and the Macarena! Many students came dressed for the occasion, so polyester and tie dyes seemed to be the rule.

Again, I thank all those who helped with this homecoming weekend. If you missed homecoming this year, I hope that you will be able to attend next. Sincerely,
Bob Graham

Weekend Activities

Friday, 10/4

7:00 PM - Volleyball at Bryan

8:00 PM - Movie in the Grill - "Hunt For Red October"

Saturday, 10/5

2:00 PM - Women's Soccer at Oglethorpe

4:00 PM - Men's Soccer at Oglethorpe

8:00 PM - Pool and Pinball Tournament - Game Room

The Aletheia

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