

# The Montreat College Student Voice W H E T S T O N E

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## Garrett Terminated; Sullivan Resigns

By Kortney Blythe

Two personnel decisions mean major changes to the Athletic Department; April 11 President John Lindberg accepted athletic director Colonel John Sullivan's resignation, just one day after former volleyball and softball coach, Ed Garret clutched his termination letter.

Garret recalls, "I was handed a letter with no explanation that said my employment was terminated, effective immediately."

Lindberg admits, "the termination may have taken Coach Garret by surprise."

Garret met with Lindberg on Tuesday April 15 to discuss reasons for Garret's termination. The reasons remain unreleased and Lindberg had no comment: "In this case it would not help to disclose that," he says.

The volleyball and softball teams combined have 13 players; 5 overlap and play both sports. Lindberg and the three volleyball team seniors, Jennifer Jolley, LeAnn Lane, and Susan Burkholder, swapped questions and answers in a private meeting to clarify the situation.

Garret joined the Montreat coaching staff last year. He and his family moved from Colorado where he was head coach at Colorado Christian University in Denver. Montreat boasted Garret as its second coach affiliated with the Olympics. (Soccer's Desmond Armstrong played in '88; Garret coached a gold medal volleyball team in '96). Garret released a book entitled *Sport Scholarships: The Tricks of the Trade on Getting Paid to Play* in November 2001.

Every Montreat employee signs a

salary agreement with the knowledge that either party could terminate the relationship. "People come to Montreat and some hope that it will be for a lifetime, but I think everyone realizes that plans can change and that it might come to an end at anytime," notes Lindberg. Although Garret cleared his desk on Thursday, his pay continues for another thirty days.

Garret did not feel the reasons for his termination were just. "What concerns me also is that at no point was I consulted with questions, concerns, or info. This was the first time I've ever met with him," he says.

Garret's termination angered Jolley, "Colonel Sullivan gave us options for a coach [in a personnel search last year] and we chose Garret."

In contrast to Garret's termination and sudden exit, Sullivan resigned and will serve out the remainder of his contract, which ends in late June.

Sullivan remembers, "I turned in my resignation on Thursday April 10, and President Lindberg accepted it Friday April 11," the same day that salary agreements were sent out to all returning staff and faculty.

Along with the athletic director and volleyball/softball coach, the positions of golf coach and JV baseball coach sit vacant. The reasons for these openings range from financial to personal, according to Dave Walters, the current faculty athletic representative.

In a recent e-mail to staff and faculty, Lindberg announced that Walters will take over as acting athletic director beginning July 1, 2003. Lindberg continues, "To best prepare Dave

and serve the department, [he] will immediately begin working with the Athletic Department as he prepares for the transition."

Walters says of his future position, "John Sullivan and I are very close friends and I am not real comfortable attempting to follow in the shoes of a man that has poured out his life and heart into Montreat College for the past 8 or so years. When I think of people that have made contributions to Montreat College since 1994, he is right there at the top and will be difficult to replace."

When asked if resigning was his idea, Sullivan stated, "I respect [Lindberg's] decision. With a new

president comes new leadership and he has the right to choose his own team. It has been a great nine years."

Sullivan plans to stay in the Asheville area because his children and grandchildren call it home. He says, "I will miss all the staff and students. But I will go out with my head held high. It's just the way of business and I understand that."

"I think that the loss of Colonel Sullivan is a step backwards for the college," Garret confesses. Senior George White agrees, "Colonel Sullivan always listened to students."

Though Lindberg acknowledges that, "Sullivan's success is evident. He has established a great athletic

department," athletes and athletic staff now worry about the future of the department.

Jolley remembers, "we're supposed to start volleyball practice next Sunday but now we don't know if we'll have a team."

Lindberg assures that, "we anticipate the athletic department going forward. We will be doing a broad search for an athletic director and new volleyball and softball coaches. In fact, I just talked to some volleyball recruits from Oklahoma and Texas and I assured them that we are still planning on having a great volleyball team and coaching staff."

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## Davis & Howerton Card Scanners: A Little Off-Key

By Dustin Etheridge

New and returning Davis and Howerton residents were greeted with a surprise at the beginning of the spring semester. The typical way of

entering the buildings, via student ID card scanner, switched back to the old fashioned key lock.

The card scanners were instituted as one part of a series of renovations

be located at every entrance on all the dorms, however in some cases, they weren't.

Female students enter McGregor and Anderson through only one door. Davis & Howerton each have five doors. Two doors have installed card scanners in Davis, and three doors have installed card scanners in Howerton.

Lance asserted, "We dropped the card readers for two main reasons, one - to secure the buildings, and two - to allow residents of those buildings to maintain the freedom to come and go freely as they wish, efficiently."

Often times the scanners didn't work in Howerton at all and students would jerk or force the doors open.

Lance observed, "continued frustration in the doors not opening most probably contributed to students finding access to the dorm through means other than the card scanners."

The switch back to keys in Davis was actually a result of vandalism that left the building unsecured.

"Students were jamming pennies in the lock, hammering the locks in, taping the door shut, and leaving it propped open anyway they could" says Davis residence director Ken Sigler.

Vandalism in Davis became such a problem that in February, residents were required to sign a form that stated, "From this point forward,

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T. Tyson

## NAACP Considers Montreat Chapter

By April Heyward

John Hays, president of the Asheville Branch of the NAACP, hopes to launch a college chapter at Montreat.

President Hays' plan would mesh Montreat and Warren Wilson College into a joint chapter. He feels that having a joint chapter creates a good opportunity for the students of the colleges to work together.

Many students embrace the idea of a local chapter. Junior Sarah Kelly anticipates the chapter will, "promote a broader perspective" for some students' worldviews. While, freshman Rinicca Young views the NAACP as "trying to enhance the advancement of people in society in general, not just a particular race."

Others in the community hope the

prospect of the club will attract a more diverse student body. Athletic director, John Sullivan, "would like to see a lot more diversity on campus and if this will be a way to attract more minority students certainly I will be all in favor."

Sophomore Carizma Chapman sees the benefit, "to get people active not only in the school, but in the community."

A group of approximately 60 blacks and whites in New York City conceived the idea of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1906. Today, it boasts of being the largest and oldest civil rights organization in the nation.

The NAACP initiated the Youth and College Division in 1936 to

promote the younger generation's participation, and to inform them about public education. Currently, it branches to over 500 locations nationwide.

Hays believes that the chapter would give students better understanding of the purpose of the NAACP, and would like people to know that "it's not just a black organization but that it seeks to achieve the civil rights of all races."

In order to initiate a chapter, the members need to gather and create an organizational committee of at least eight people. Members in the committee must write a charter to send to the National NAACP for approval. The group will select a president.

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that took place during 1998 and 1999. This series of renovations included new furniture and various other fixtures in the dorms.

An exact price for the card scanners alone could not be determined. However, assistant dean of residence life, Tom Oxenreider described the overall process, as "costly."

The switch left many wondering about the efficiency of the change and the security of the dorms.

Dean of Students, Charlie Lance added, "the assumption at the time of purchase was that a scanner would

### Verse of the Week:

Then a voice came from the throne, saying:  
"Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!"

Revelations 19:5  
-NIV