

The Montreat College Student Voice

WHETSTONE

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Montreat Dam Safe

-Press Release

"The dam is safe," said environmental technician Steve Parrott who is with the Division of Land Resources of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"As soon as the failure occurred, the people here in Montreat put their Lake Susan emergency plan into action. The problem is a localized slope failure. This problem is not serious and the structure of the dam is still intact. There is no seepage down stream."

Montreat Conference Center implemented its Lake Susan Emergency Response Plan just after 9:00 am Tuesday, May 4. A

portion of the earthen dam near the Moore Center on the south side of Lake Susan collapsed into the lake. Patrick T. Dunn, an engineer with Calloway Johnson Moore & West, was called to the site to begin the investigation of the damage. Marvin Dillingham of Schnabel Engineering arrived to evaluate the extent of the damage.

Montreat Police barricaded portions of Montreat streets below the dam and evacuated some residents from houses that might be affected should the problem worsen. The retail shops at the Moore Center in

Continued on Page 3



D. Stewart

Board Meeting Targets Retention and Expansion

by Lyndsay Mayer

The Montreat College Board of Trustees met on April 22-23, convening in several sub-committees on Thursday and as a whole on Friday. The 25 members are charged with the important duties of fundraising, promoting, recognizing the vision of the college and setting policy which governs the college.

Trustees volunteer their time and money to help the college prosper. Chairman of the Board Bob Wynne reports that the executive committee, "just a handful of people," pledged \$350,000 for a land purchase that will greatly benefit the College. This demonstrates the trustees' "love for the college and their dedication to

[its] mission," affirms Wynne.

The projected land purchase is for 17 acres that will join the Black Mountain Campus with the intersection of Interstate 70 and Blue Ridge Road. The state is planning the installation of an additional interchange off I-40 at that intersection, creating an opportunity for the College to receive much more visual exposure to the general public.

In addition to the expansion of the college campus, the Board has been involved in negotiations with Black Mountain Mayor Mike Begley, who met with the Board on Friday afternoon at the site of the new land purchase. Anticipated joint ventures

include collaboration with a new YMCA, performing arts center, ball fields, and a health facility in Black Mountain.

The Black Mountain community has been increasingly supportive of the efforts of Montreat College's expansion. Joe Tyson, of Tyson Furniture in downtown Black Mountain, donated \$100,000, with a pledge of an additional \$150,000 raised by the community. The money for land purchases by the college comes solely from outside fundraising and does not affect the operational budget of the college.

Mayor Begley is working with senior advancement associate for the college, Jerry Bobilya, to secure a possible \$500,000 grant from the state, under the Clean Water Act. The state would potentially buy back a margin of the land that borders the Swannanoa River to ensure the survival of the plants and animals dependent upon the health of the river.

During the Board's sessions Dr.. Dan Struble stepped in as

full-time president of the college, relieving Dr.. Don King of his interim position as president on Friday, April 23, Dr.. King plans to take a semester-long sabbatical in the fall to concentrate on his writing.

With Dr.. Struble securely stationed in his new position, Chairman Wynne announced Struble's intention of beginning the yearlong process of conducting a comprehensive plan for the future of the college, which has not been done in ten years. Interviews, starting in the fall, of faculty, staff, students, board members, community members, and "every possible constituency," says Wynne, will be used to deduce what changes need to be done for improved retention, what majors should be added, and which facilities could use renovations. "Planning is second nature to Dr... Struble, thanks to his military experience," adds Wynne.

Looming issues on the board's agenda included the addition of a

Continued on Page 2

VERSE of the WEEK

"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

- Hebrews 13:15,16 NIV

109-4
What's Inside
Thomas Accepted into Music Program