

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Breaking News: Apathy Runs Rampant in Our Community, Wreaks Listless Havoc

Gessi Boyd

After being at Montreat for three years now, I have heard my fair share of complaints about the school. A few weeks ago, I decided to hand out a survey that gave everyone a chance to speak their piece on the subject of community here at Montreat. So one day after chapel, a few buddies and I handed out two hundred surveys, and later I got a student-wide email sent out to make sure anyone who wanted to could weigh in. I left the collection box in Belk for four days to give people time to drop it off.

Honestly, guys? I'm pretty shocked by our apathy. I got back seventeen out of the two hundred handed back. Only seventeen people

out of all 470+ of us made the choice to stop just complaining and actually give some feedback. The funny thing is that throughout the three Q&A sections of the survey, the responses were similar to the things I hear people bring up all the time at school. Here's a few of them:

Comments regarding the strengths and weaknesses of our community: *Strengths:* Desire for community, strong friendships, "the presence of God on campus," that we are awesome, that students as a whole look out for each other, Pan Day, great professors, "don't know".

Weaknesses: too judgmental, people are too cliquey between majors and especially between

the athlete/ nonathletic communities (one person even pointed out that we are like two separate schools on one campus), not enough options of places to eat, administration doesn't listen to us, religious presumption, chapel credits, complacency, prevailing apathy, lack of participation.

Like I said earlier, when people are given the option they will say more of the bad and less of the good. However, if you look at those responses, there is something very telling. The strengths are very vague and the weaknesses are very specific, and I assure you that I've been unbiased in my relating them to you. So why are we all still here? If we, the student body,

aren't satisfied with the product they are selling us then why don't we go find another company? Ever since I collected these surveys I've been asking myself that same question, trying to find a reasonable explanation. I think for one, most of us really respect and like our professors, but more than that—I think all of us see the potential that there is here at Montreat. There is a totally unique opportunity for community at this school and all of us seem to be sticking it out to see if that opportunity becomes a reality.

If we want the community that all of us believe is possible at Montreat, we have to stop laying around complaining and not taking action. We have to take

the bull by the horns and create the change that we all want. We can't let our apathy destroy what kind of community this school could have. To succeed we have to pull together, we have to organize, talk amongst ourselves, figure out what we want, figure out how to get it and *mobilize*. If the administration is honest in their desire to be "Student Focused," then they will listen to us if we go about it the right way. It's totally and completely up to us. This being said, I've started a Facebook Group focused on doing just that, it's called *Nostrum Res*. Please join and get your voice out there. Together we can change our community.

Are They Just Good for Your Vision?...You Decide

Direna Cousins

The Fashion industry for the longest while has been headed by the glitz and glamorous ones in our society. Those that dictate the colors for fall, what cuts are popular on the red carpets and what are the must-have outfits if you want to be considered a Diva or a fashionista. One of the newest of these trends is the 24 hours "hater Blocker," more commonly known as sun glasses. These accessories are paired with anything and not only are they just worn in the day-

time to casual events, they can be spotted on the faces of stars in the night clubs, during jogging, parading the streets after dark and even while having lunch in an indoor restaurant.

However, the shades are not the only new eye trend for this season. Open your fashion pupils because the chunky geek glasses of the late 80s and 90s have swindled their way in today's fashion and oh yes! They are hot. These thick frame nerd glasses have become

quite fashion forward and is defiantly a must-have. The stars and the fashion hipsters again shift the cultural paradigm of fashion and no longer are these frame viewed as too "chunky" or "nerdy" in fact, the chunkier and nerdier they are, the more "cool factor effect" you send off. They are worn by both male and female, the smart and not so smart. So throw on a pair with whatever outfit, they can be worn casually or for a touch of elegance. However you wear them,

as soon as one is thrown on your face, your look will suddenly transformed.

With major fashion statements being written in bold colors, the shades and chunky geek yet chic, glasses are very much there in the mix. If you are unsure about dots, large stripes or plaid, throw your shades or geek chunks on and instantly you are transported to planet cool. So for this season if you don't have your shades or chunky geek eye wear, your outfit is incomplete.

However, I have yet to see a hot pair of Chanel shades or chic geek chunks grace the face of an Angelina Jolie in a Couture gown, and only at that point I will say it is fashion, not just a fad.

Fashion Tip

Shades you can hardly go wrong with, but if you are not sure about the aesthetics of these retro frames, think Woody Allen, Lisa Loeb, modern day Johnny Depp or Justin Timberlake.