

Several Comments

(Editor's note: This was the editorial presented Dec. 11 on WLOS-TV by Arthur Whiteside. Mr. Whiteside was commenting on an editorial in THE RIDGERUNNER, UNC-A's campus newspaper.)

GIVE, DON'T GRIPE

We have just experienced the displeasure of reading the December 5th issue of "The Ridgerunner"—UNC-Asheville's student newspaper.

Its lead editorial berates Asheville for being, as the editor puts it, "apathetic," and a "clunky town" with "illusions of grandeur." Seemingly to imply that the "establishment," and all over 30, are quite content to sit back and let their town suffer from physical, moral and social decay.

We could say it isn't so and we could, furthermore, document it. But instead, we'll say that if some students at UNC-Asheville don't like what they see, let them roll up their sleeves and get involved. The best way to get change is to make it. And having inserted that knife, we'll proceed to twist it.

Up in Madison County there's a very square college called Mars Hill, with an equally square student body culled from the rural and urban South. But they don't sit on the sidelines and gripe. They get out to effect change.

We'll cite just a few examples: About 80 Mars Hill College students are involved in tutoring an equal number of elementary and high school students in Asheville and Madison County. They spend as much as 3 to 4 hours a week with the student in his home. Without pay. With the hope that the young people they help today will be better equipped to serve their fellowmen tomorrow.

Last summer the college had about 15 Vista Volunteers working in several Madison County communities. And, if we're not boring you, the college also offers an internship program in community development. After 6 to 10 weeks in the classroom, discussing political science, community organization, the power structure and economics, the students move out into the field for actual work with various public agencies such as police, fire, health, welfare, OEO or the Redevelopment Commission.

The college has the only Upward Bound program in all of Western North Carolina. It's year-round. It serves about 65 tenth and eleventh grade students from Buncombe and Madison counties. These are young people who are judged to be underprivileged economically, socially, culturally and academically. There's a personal contact once a week. Then, they live on the Mars Hill College campus for 8 weeks in the summer. For many it has been their first real chance to mingle with those who care, to see plays, to go to concerts, to travel outside of the state, and to discover that they can do better academically. They have seen doors open to a better world.

We could tell you more. But what we've told you should demonstrate that more good can be accomplished by giving than griping. Apathy, like obscenity, is in the mind of the beholder.

The following cartoon is a reply to UNC-A's **Ridgerunner**, which, in its Jan. 30 issue, bestowed upon Mars Hill College its own cartoon personality, Prudence F. The cartoon mocked both Mr. Whiteside's editorial praise of this school (see above editorial) and slashed at this place with such cutting remarks as "follow the yellow brick cowpath to Mars Hill." Of course, the Hilltop can consider the source of such remarks and chalk it up to UNC-A's youth and relatively trivial journalism. As for Prudence, welcome.

— Linda Baldwin



LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"WILSON HAS PROVEN HIMSELF TO BE SUCH A CONSISTENTLY LOUSY TEACHER THAT I HAVE DECIDED TO MOVE HIM UP INTO ADMINISTRATION."

Sounds of the Times

Dear Editor,

It seems as if the two-week-long flu epidemic Mars Hill College has been experiencing is about to subside. Thank heavens it is finally over. Recent days have been filled with the glazed eyes of our stricken classmates, the hours of tortuous daytime television for those too weak to leave their beds, the sickening sound of the symtomatic, hacking cough ringing through the dorms and the ever-present question "How do you feel?" But now it seems to be over, and with the exception of a few who are critically ill, things will soon be back to normal at old Mars Hill. Or will they?

On the surface the epidemic does not appear to have had catastrophic consequences, or does it? The student body responded well to the crisis; students helping their friends or roommates were a common sight. For the most part the faculty took the situation into consideration and slowed their class assignment pace so as to make it possible for the sick to catch up when they were able to return. There were, however, those who reported "not much above the normal absentee level"

and pushed on irregardless of the wheezing breath and pale color of most of their students. These professors were the ones that students feared to cut for they knew the inevitable effect such an abuse, sickness or not, would have on their grade and such a lack of consideration has come to be expected from them. On the whole the faculty did the best they could considering their timidity and inherent lack of courage.

It is in the powerful administration division of the college that the real tragedy took place. All hopes of an approaching coalition between students and administration were dashed, perhaps forever, by the gravity of the campus situation. Negligence in understanding such a thing bespeaks of incompetence in and of itself. The almost total disregard for the students' welfare that was exhibited by our college officials during this past week from the President on down was nothing short of criminal.

From the outset of the epidemic there was a crying lack of percep-

(see sounding board, p. 3)

The Hilltop expresses deepest condolences to Bill Johnson in the loss of a brother in Viet Nam.

the Mars Hill College

hilltop

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File 34

by Sam Wallace

As the flu bug continues to lay siege upon Mars Hill College, File 34 asks the question "What can be done about this attacker of man, woman, and college student? Some students have found comfort in a bottle, Listerine. The only problem with using Listerine is that you are like a walking hospital. The most popular and recommended solution is to go the antibiotics trail. One goes to the infirmary and get a standing prescription from the visiting doctor or even stay in the infirmary if there is room (the infirmary only has room for a few patients and only one nurse is on duty on each shift. Other students have resorted to a remedy from the shelf of a drug store. Either way it usually means staying in the dorm until the bug passes.

Last week during the peak of the flu epidemic we confirmed that 300 to 400 students had flu. If you have your bug in your room it could mean missing a test or just completely missing a day or several days of homework. If you are a freshman it could mean bringing you closer to the magic number of six cuts. Last week there was a rumor that MHC would be closed because of the proportions of the flu epidemic. File 34 asks the question "Why wasn't MHC closed during the epidemic?"

By the way, whatever happened to the flicks that were shown during the early part of last semester? Raquel Welch and Bob Hope movies were very popular and tended to lend a hand to Mars Hill Cassanova. MHC had no greens. Part of the mass movement was MHC during the weekends could be solved with programs such as this.

Seniors interested in working for the Feds should check Feb. 24 on their calendar. On this date the Federal Service Entrance Examination (FSEE) will be conducted at 1:00 in Room 31 of the Administration Building. An examination is used to fill entrance-level positions in over 200 occupations ranging from data processing to general administration. About half of the positions in the Government in which a college education is necessary are filled through the FSEE. Any students interested in taking the test should contact Miss Bingham in Room 31 of the Administration Building.

There is a story told about a football player who was transferred from Carson-Newman to MHC during the last semester. He had already been enrolled by Mr. Chapman and had been assigned a room. Mrs. Alexander, his mother, introduced him to some of the students in the Brown Dormitory. During his conversation with the students the courses and teachers he was taking arose in conversation. When he told the group he had a certain History teacher, a well-known Biology teacher, and a certain English teacher, he was met with cries of awe and despair, everyone wishing him the best under the circumstances. Obviously this reaction affected this student. That night while his roommate was asleep, the football player packed his clothes and left MHC and has not been heard of since.

For you nature lovers who would like to see a glimpse of spring even in the dead of winter, the Biology Department has announced the donation of 21 plant plaques from Mrs. Bernice S. McKay, a former member of the MHC faculty. The plaques are made from exact impressions of the plants and are painted in oil. A permanent display case has been constructed in the foyer of Wall Science Building.

Congratulations go out to Dean and Mrs. Bill Seay on the new addition to their family, Stacy Rene, on Feb. 23.

There is a sign on the Marshall highway beside the Montague Building which, until two weeks ago, specified that Marshall was 11 miles away. It now specifies that Marshall is 12 miles hence. Either the earthquake last semester really shook up the mountains or celebrating Asheville has gone too far.

File 34 salutes Don McCaskill and the BSU for the superbly planned Christian Focus Week. Musical arrangements were outstanding and Grady was an amusing and inspirational speaker.

The NoDoz Service Award of this week goes to the nurses in the infirmary for their efforts during the epidemic.

File 34 will sponsor a Miss Valentine's Day Contest the day before Valentine's Day. All interested contestants should meet in the Hilltop Office at 2 p.m. Contestant rules will be announced at the contest. Judges will be male members of the Hilltop Editorial Board. Prizes will be announced at the contest.