



As a result of the mini-term course, Was God an Astronaut?, an interest group called "Soup and Saucer" has been formed. Soup stands for Study of Unusual Phenomena, and Saucer stands for Study of Aerial Unknowns by the Committee for Extraterrestrial Research. We will be meeting one Wednesday a month during the second semester and will be discussing such things as Tarot card readings, palm readings, flying saucers, ESP, etc. The meetings will be open to all who are interested. Meeting dates and times will be placed in the Announcer in advance. This group will have no dues, officers, or constitution--just a common interest in the strange and unusual.

Bob Kramer

We are writing out of concern for the welfare of our women's athletic programs. To date, these programs have suffered because of lack of funds. We realize that the Physical Education Department has contributed as much as is possible and sometimes extra, yet this is not the point. The Varsity program should be included and funded by the Athletic Department just as all of the men's programs are funded.

The Varsity Women's Basketball team must limit their number of games to thirteen because "we just don't have any more money." Donning old men's warm-ups, old uniforms, and using old basketballs, the team performs very well in representing our school. Think about it: 24 new basketballs, 2 sets of new practice uniforms

for each player, new travel shirts for each player, new shoes for each player. Just think--all of this for our men's team within a few month's time and what do the women get? Nothing, except the \$800 provided for the few away games they have.

REMEMBER, these women represent your school--is it worth it???

Concerned Women Athletes of MHC

In a time when the Federal government and its citizens are having to pause and re-evaluate a number of our priorities, I feel it is imperative that the students of Mars Hill College do likewise.

Just where are we headed? Are we to continue to allow the administration to render football the top financial priority while academics lags a distant second? While football wallows in a series of losing seasons, other departments continue to struggle against mediocrity. The Music Department, the school's largest, is striving to make ends meet with a lack of practice rooms (which are not ventilated), a shortage of professors, and a subsequent schedule which is often impossible to keep.

The Audio-Visuals Department is but another segment of the college which certainly has its share of problems. Anyone who has tried to use some of their materials knows that they do not have a sufficient supply of materials. This is due basically to a simple shortage of money. A list of further shortcomings is formidable. One cannot receive ETV or PBS stations on this campus. The videotape machine is outdated

# FUEL CRISIS:

# HOAX or REALITY

by John Campbell

Much information has surfaced recently which indicates that the fuel shortage this past summer was really "orchestrated for political and economic benefit by the oil industry." That comment was made by John S. Knight, chairman of Knight newspapers, in a column which appeared on November 18, 1973. It is available for a stamped, self-addressed envelope from the Promotion Department, Detroit Free Press, 321 West Lafayette, Detroit, Michigan 48231.

Parade magazine offers this comment: "The federal government and the major oil companies are responsible for this country's oil crisis." They ask doubters to send for the 40,000 word report

"Staff Study of the Oversight and Efficiency of Executive Agencies With Respect to the Petroleum Industry, Especially as It Relates to Recent Fuel Shortages." It is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 and costs \$1.00. When ordering ask for report Y-4. G74/6:P44/3.

Parade also notes that a three part report entitled "Oil--The Created Crisis," is available for 25¢ from the Philadelphia Inquirer, Box 8380, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101. It was written by reporters Don Barlett and James Steele and was originally published in July, 1973.

Time magazine reports growing suspicion that the Arab world never cut pro-

duction as much as they said they had, and also has reportedly uncovered evidence that Arab petroleum had been leaking into the U.S., despite a supposedly total embargo.

All of these reports and more point to the fact that the U.S. consumer is bearing the brunt of yet another tactic by large industries to increase their profits. Exxon, the largest oil producer in the U.S., increased its profits during the third quarter of 1973 by 80%. During the first nine months of 1973, while we were supposedly undergoing a fuel shortage, the oil industry exported 1.5 million barrels of distillate fuel to foreign countries. According to Barlett and Steele, the five

*Continued on page 3*

and in constant need of repair. The reason for these and deficiencies are again simple; the departments suffer from a critical lack of funds.

In addition to the departments, Moore Auditorium is in very poor condition. The Light Board is in a ridiculous state. The counterweight system has been in need of repair and reconditioning for at least three years. Moreover, the sound room is in need of extensive repair. Why? You guessed it!

Why doesn't the Art Department have a place to display their works in the Student Union Building? Why is the heating system in Owen Theatre, which is the original system, allowed to continue to break down and on some occasions smoke up the interior of a refurbished theatre, when the press box at Meares Stadium is air-conditioned?

The choice for the future of Mars Hill College appears simple. Either drop the football program and have an excellent college, or drop the college and have an excellent football

team.

There is a great need to examine our priorities. Are we to continue to place "Emphasis on Excellence" in football and settle for a "Decline in Excellence" in academics? Are we "competent" in allowing the problems mentioned above to exist?

The "college" has adopted an education program which they wish to refer to as "progressive" rather than "liberal." I realize that for progress to occur something must be torn down, but when it is the academics which are being "torn down" the very foundation on which Mars Hill

College was built is weakened.

C. Bryan Rice

*The HILLTOP provides the opportunity to students and faculty of Mars Hill College to express their opinions through letters to the editor. The HILLTOP staff reserves the right to edit all letters for libelous statements and good taste. All letters should be limited to 250 words and must be signed by the author. All letters can be delivered to the HILLTOP office in the Publications Area of Wren College Union or placed in the mail for Box 1148-C.*

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