



The "protest" two weeks ago was, to us, a healthy indication that students at Mars Hill can get stirred up over issues that concern them without resorting to violence that marked the protests of a few years ago. Contrary to what many people outside the campus community feel, we do not feel that the protesters should be roundly damned for their actions.

We feel that the issue was well handled by both sides. The administration was patient and the protesters made their view known without a disruption of campus life. However, there is a note here that we feel should not go unnoticed. That is, the leaders of the protest were woefully unprepared to go against the administration.

The administration of a college community is based on the governmental system of our nation and state. There is little if any, regulation or administrative procedure that has not already been proven in a court of law. This is known as legal precedence, and it is a powerful weapon in establishing an administration in which human rights are involved.

The students seemed unaware of this, as indeed they seemed unaware of many of the regulating principles of the college. In fact, it seemed that the students were almost naive in this matter. A careful examination of an establishment is mandatory when protesting that establishment.

To begin, the college is not governed by the Student Government Association. The college is an independent corporation chartered and ratified by the State of North Carolina. It is governed by its Board of Trustees who have complete legal authority for the operation of the college.

The president is elected by the trustees and is the chief educational and administrative officer of the college. He is responsible to the trustees for the management, supervision, and government of the college and for interpreting and carrying out the policies of the Board of Trustees.

We feel that it should be understood that President Bentley was acting in accordance with his position and within the boundaries established when he suspended Robin Harvey. The students were also within their rights to protest the action.

We feel the foregoing was necessary because we feel that the students involved did not understand how this college (and others) are governed. We think that for them to assume that the college and its administrators are governed by the student Government Association was a mistake that a well informed student would not make.

However, the SGA has made inroads in making students' desires known to policy making administrators.

Inasmuch as our state and national government works through its legislative body so should the students of this college. After all, students are here to learn and to prepare themselves for life in the society we live in and this is an important part of life as any other.

Yet the student leaders did not know the names of their student representatives. To admit this was, in our opinion, a serious

mistake. It showed that they were not concerned with the way we are governed except when it directly affected them.

This is not the purpose of an education. While we admire the students for coming to the aid of a fellow student in trouble, we think that they should have taken the time to prepare themselves more thoroughly.

It would have been more effective if the students involved could have presented not only a petition protesting the suspension, but a document to be presented to the SGA which would in turn present it to the policy making officials of the college. If the students are vitally concerned, this is still a viable avenue. If they were just emotionally taken up with their friend's troubles, then we suspect the issue will wither and die.

The protest has raised issues beyond the suspension of Robin Harvey. Every student on campus should know the rules which govern him or her not only on this campus but in the society which he or she will enter upon graduation. A copy of the charter and bylaws of the college can be obtained as can student handbooks which outline the operation of the SGA as well as other rules and regulations concerning student activities.

SGA elections will be held soon. The time couldn't be riper for a thorough examination of how the system works. It is also an excellent time to find out which candidate best represents your own point of view. Question each candidate to your own satisfaction. Then make sure your vote goes to the one which best represents you.

John H. Campbell

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor:

I would like to address this article to anyone on or around this campus who has even the slightest touch of love and sympathy towards the innocent and unprotected.

Anyone who heard of or saw "Mr." Faries rounding up the numerous dogs on the campus should certainly have felt nauseated, angry and

somewhat rebellious at the cruel and inhumane way in which these helpless animals were abducted. I personally witnessed our "beloved upholder of truth, justice and the Mars Hill Way" capture one of these animals. Our "protector" weighing in at well over 200 lbs. courageously took on his adversary, a small flop-eared mutt weighting all of 15 lbs., by picking him

up by one ear. The dog screamed in obvious pain but our "protector" just smiled and said "I'm not going to hurt you."

The other dogs around campus and he were corralled in the old tennis courts. They were then dragged and half choked in process with a loop around their necks to a small box where they were all crammed in like so many sardines. They were then all taken off to who knows what fate.

I tried to have something done about it but no one had enough time to listen, after all, they're "just dogs". Well, I hope some of you who own dogs have a bit of trouble sleeping as you think of your own beloved pet being treated in such a manner.

It's too late now. By the time you read this letter those dogs who everyone enjoyed petting and playing with at one time or another, who for many were reminders of a pet at home that is seldom seen now, are more than likely dead.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the "concerned students" at Mars Hill College for standing by and doing nothing. Some of you were heard to say: "Somebody should do something." That "somebody" should have been YOU!!!

Jeff Wood

Dear Editor

Tonight, as I slugged my way

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