

Editorial

An Invasion Of Privacy

With the spectre of monthly room inspection continually haunting students at Mars Hill one wonders what will come next: twenty-mile hikes to the mess hall, precision drills on the athletic field, taps and reverie? The health crusade necessitated by typically absurd state laws and carried out by Mary Jo Byrd, et. al. has reinforced the suspicion that some administrators think of students here as socially irresponsible children. Of course those in charge deemed the search for perpetrators of filth and corruption a resounding success; some people cleaned up their rooms for a change, and a little money was made on the side from those who didn't. We wouldn't deny that the idea of cleaner rooms for better health is a noble one. The search of individual rooms, however, violates still other ideals, such as privacy--just as much a right for students as for other adults. Police do not search individual homes or apartments for cleanliness; it is logically assumed that people know how much trash they can tolerate. Why should it be different for students? Granted, the closeness of dorm life presents unique problems. Yet, extreme cases of uncleanliness which affect other rooms can surely be handled without questioning the maturity or violating the privacy of others.

Though the blame for the inconveniences caused by room inspection can and should not be placed on a single individual or group of individuals, the inequities it creates cannot be ignored. Students too are citizens with the same rights as those outside college. It is time that both the state and the college acknowledge this fact.

The Hilltop

Rex Best, *Co-editor*

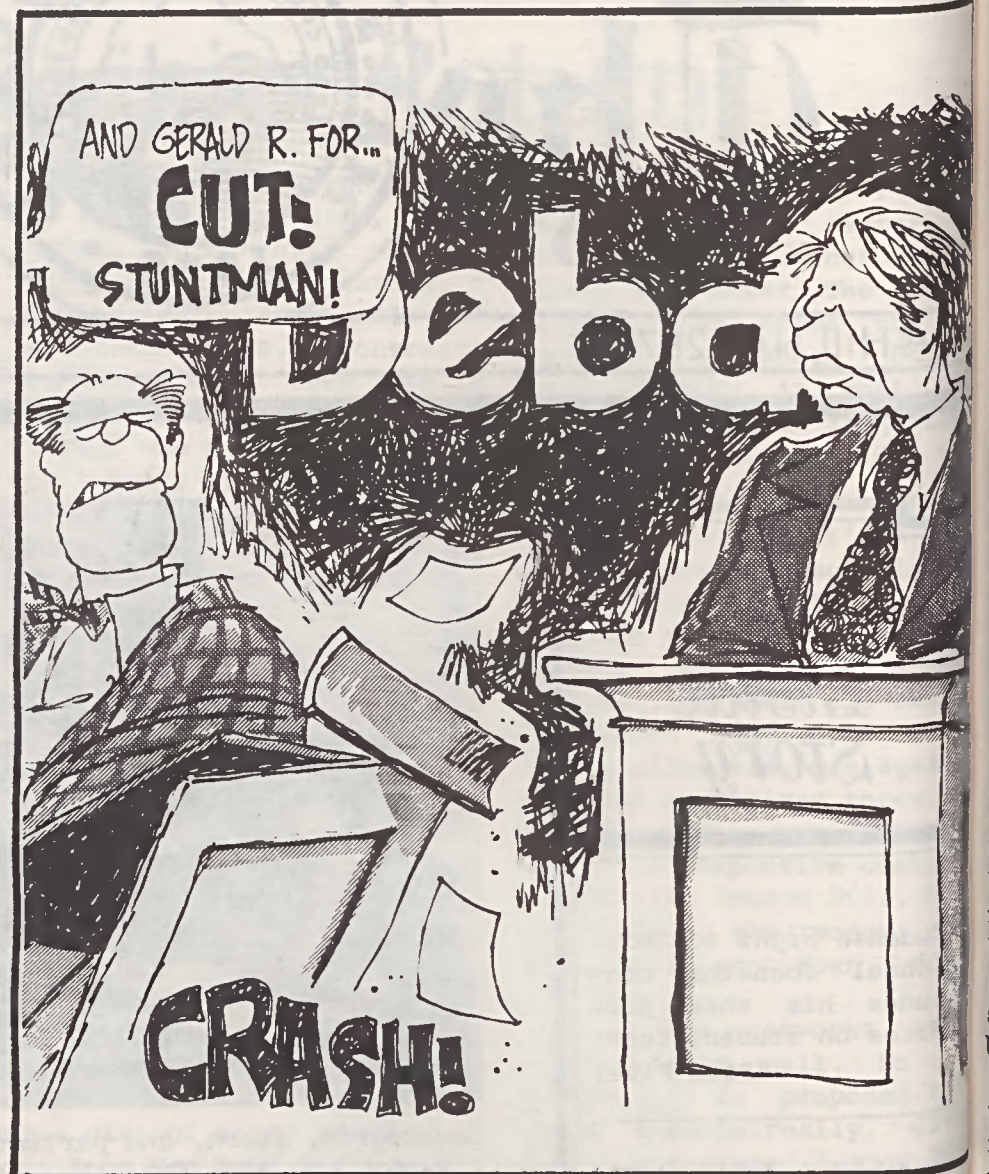
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... And the Winner Is?

Editors' Note:

Reactions to the Carter-Ford debate are being run in lieu of our regular letters to the editor column, *Feedback*.

By election day on November 2, all the talking will be done. Either a southern peanut farmer will upset an incumbent or a less than agile ex-football player will score a 4-year touchdown in the White House. But from now until the last ballots are cast, political bickering will be tossed back and forth between the party camps like an unwanted cannon ball. Recently, the two major contenders for the presidency, donned their political mystiques and appeared in a debate on nationwide television. Quite different from the Nixon-Kennedy debates of 1960, no clear "winner" emerged from the sparring match. Just as the political experts differed in their opinions as to who came out on top after the tête-à-tête, so, too were campus comments varied:

"I don't see how anybody could say that Gerald Ford

was more prepared than Carter. I'm still going to vote Democratic in November."

"Carter's nervousness at the beginning of the debate surprised me a little. I always thought of him as poised and confident."

"The format of the debate was way too stilted and did not allow the debaters enough time to respond to issues."

"After watching the debate, I feel much more comfortable with somebody like Ford who is experienced and knows the ropes in Washington."

"I think the differences between the candidates are clear. Jimmy Carter cares for people."

"Betty and Rosalynn would have been a lot more exciting."

"My reaction? Boring, boring, boring. . . ."

"Ford was the better speaker, but Carter was the better thinker."

"The best part of the debate to me was when the audio portion went off and all you could see were two ridiculous mugs."

Mark

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