

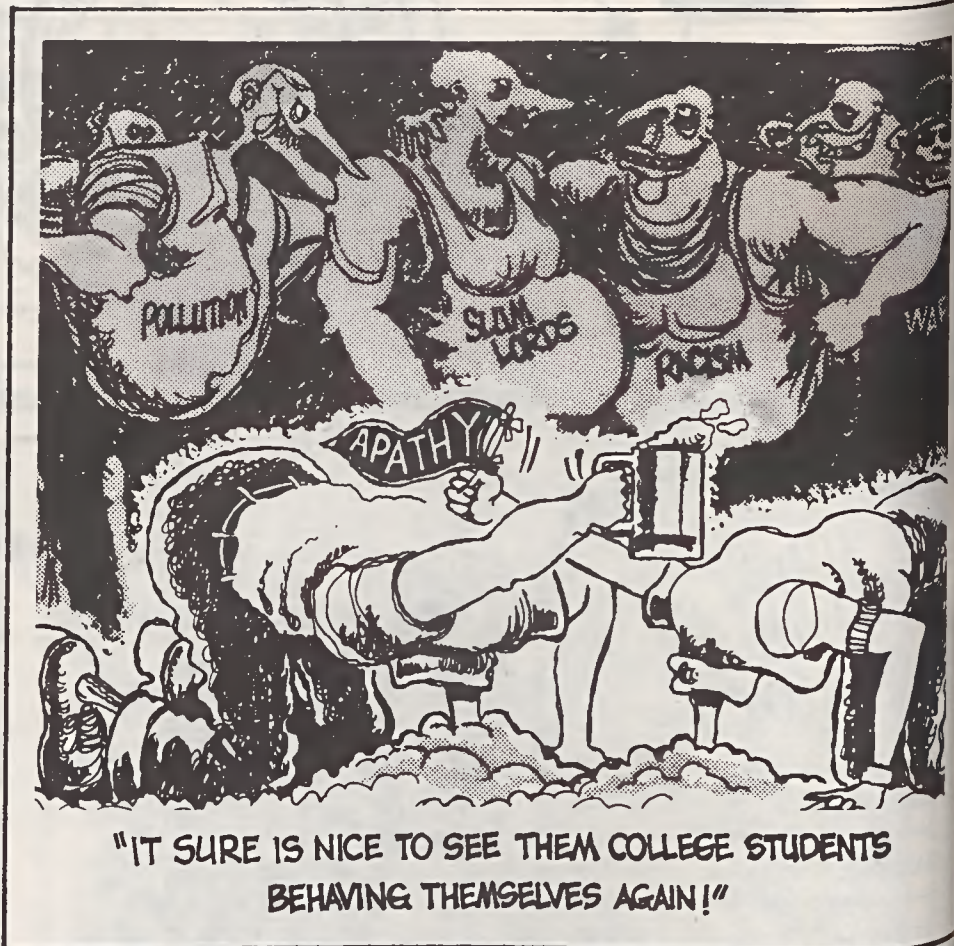
Editorial

"What's Wrong With Apathy?"

When shown the possible effects of non-government on the political awareness of the American citizenry (such as it is), one supporter of the national Republican ticket retorted, "What's wrong with apathy?" After all, is it not better for people to give passive consent to the way things are than to be in the streets causing trouble over the way things could be? Or, is it not better for students to spend their spare time partying than to be demonstrating over local and national issues? They're at least minding their own business, you know.

Of course we strenuously object to such an attitude which we think has been far too prevalent throughout the country and especially on college campuses the last few years. People just don't get excited about the issues anymore. Perhaps watching television all the time has distorted their sense of reality; what they see on the six o'clock news may blend in all too well with the world of sitcoms and detective stories that follows. Or, perhaps they are so alienated from those in authority that they feel their voices are unimportant in the decision-making process.

But people do get upset sometimes, especially when they are told the regular patterns of their lives will be altered. Political propaganda which focuses on personalities to the expense of issues always spurs even the most politically apathetic to dutifully don their political buttons for a week. No matter what the outcome, however, they soon retreat to their private lives; for they have done their duty-- they have been citizens for a day. What a pity that even many Mars Hill students could do no better.



Letters to the Editor

Feedback

Dear Editor,

I have heard complaints regarding student voice in housing matters. Apparently, some students genuinely believe that their complaints or ideas are never heard. Perhaps this is sometimes true. If a student comes storming into my office, swearing at the top of his/her lungs, I certainly may not hear all of what the student is saying at that time. I interpret such behavior as improper for the setting. However, there are several ways that students may communicate their needs and concerns to the housing office. Here are a few routes you can follow: (1) A rational conversation with me directly. If you wish to talk with me in the office, please make an appointment. (2) A word to one of the residence hall staff members in your building. (3) A rap session with your hall council president. This could prove to be very beneficial. Hall council presidents partially comprise what I call the Housing Committee, whose primary function is to make recommenda-

tions concerning present and future housing policies. (4) A written complaint with a solution included dropped in the Solution Box. This is a new addition to your list of options. The box is located just inside the Wren College Union at the Information Center inside the lobby. All solutions will be examined by the Housing Committee who will in turn recommend those ideas which merit further consideration and research. (5) An agreement to serve if you are one of the five students randomly selected from the student body to serve as personal advisors to me. This group will serve as antennae in a feedback process on how housing policies are accepted. This list does not exhaust the possibilities of communication which can help effect new directions for housing. The components for responsible student voice are available. Our communication can be good...or it can be poor. You will make the difference.

Mary Jo Byrne
Director of Housing

The Hilltop

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Letters to the editor (Feedback) are always welcome. Responses should be addressed to P.O. Box 1148-C.