

News In Brief

## Soap Scene

(CPS) Students at Monmouth College, New Jersey will have a chance to explore reasons why 30 to 40 million people a day are glued to their television sets watching soap operas.

The college has decided to offer a course exploring the psychology of soaps in an attempt to help the students come to grips with why people become addicted to watching Mary Hartman's marital difficulties and cringing at the pain and problems in *As the World Turns*.

The instructors of the course are Monmouth professor Kenneth Haun and his wife, Julie. "People watch because they do not want to get involved in real life situations," Mrs. Haun said. "It's really an escape."

Mr. and Mrs. Haun began watching soap operas after their sixth child was born. "We would sit down to feed the baby, turn on the television set and discover ourselves involved in the soaps," she said. Her husband concluded that since 30 to 40 million people a day are glued to their tubes watching the soaps "there was something of interest to a psychologist here." He took his idea to the school and after a bit of apprehension, the school agreed to offer the course.

## How Swift!

(CPS) Hold that course on Swift! A book, recently discovered in an Irish attic, has been proven to be a copy of Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, which the author himself marked up with 75 corrections which have never been added to the actual text.

That will change later this fall, however, when an English publishing firm brings out a new version of the work just as Swift wrote it.

The changes occurred when Swift's printer, one Ben Motte, got willies over the tart criticisms the author had aimed at a few powerful royal targets. Although *Gulliver's Travels* seems fairly tame to

twentieth century readers, it was hot stuff back in 1726. At one point, Motte dropped five entire paragraphs from the text.

Swift himself did some deleting as well, according to the British scholar who examined the newly discovered edition. In a list of vices which Swift wrote would appear if the Houyhnhnms gained power, Motte added "whoring." Swift dropped that one from his corrected version. "That was one particular vice which Swift hoped would not disappear from the court," wrote the scholar.

## Graffiti, Girls?

(CPS) Scientists have seen the writing on the walls and have concluded girls are now scribbling more graffiti than boys.

Psychologists crawled through the bathrooms at four large midwestern schools and discovered that female graffiti artists are penning four times the amount of graffiti as their male counterparts.

The girls wrote mainly romantic inscriptions, the *Journal of Social Psychology* reports, except in upper income areas where the writing became more erotic.

## Electric Frat

(CPS) Swallowing goldfish and cramming telephone booths may seem ridiculous, but to some University of Texas fraternity members, electric cattle prods are sublime.

Phi Delta Theta, a social fraternity at Austin, recently had its activities suspended for one year by the university after it was determined that cattle prods were being used to initiate pledges. Police who had detained a truck that had been weaving across a highway north of the campus found in the back of the U-Haul twenty-seven pledges who were naked except for a coating of corn flakes, eggs, and tabasco sauce. Welts were found on many of the pledges, and were derived from "limited use" of a cattle prod, according to police. No charges were filed.

## Feedback

### 'Mr. Clean' Enraged

Dear Editors,

There seems to be a problem common to all Mars Hill College students: what to do with spare time. Well, I'm pleased to announce the development of a new pastime, and guess who sponsors it — "The Physical Plant." The name of the game is "Gamble Your Laundry Money Away." I know that at the very mention of it you are wild with anticipation and tingling all over with excitement. But, just hold on, and I'll give you the details.

The game can be played in any residence hall. (How thoughtful of them.) Here is how you begin. First, gather the change you've been saving from the summer. (For the less prudent gambler the game has an added dimension. He must go in search of the elusive quarter and ever-crafty dime. This search may take the student to the far reaches of the campus to search out these vital creatures. If he is especially lucky, he'll get to cash a check for the proper amount.)

Now armed with change, weighty laundry bag, detergent, and additives

proceed up and down the steps to the nearest laundry casino. After carefully separating your clothing, search through the lint for the washing machine opening. As the tension builds, load those valuable clothes. Now pour in soap powders. All set. You've reached the point of no return. Now you must part with that change you struggled to attain. Insert the quarters in the proper slot and "push 'em" in . . . Well, sorry. You lose, ha, ha! After all, what did you expect from "Gamble Your Laundry Money Away"? Take your clothes out and shake the detergent on the floor and head for the laundry mat up town. (Don't be disappointed. It will only cost you twice as much.) Hey, I know there are a few of you who beat the odds and won the washer — but don't get cocky. The dryer is sure to burn you and not your clothes.

Yes we owe the Physical Plant our deepest gratitude for this exciting new pastime. I'm sure many of us will enjoy a thrilling Saturday morning with "Gamble Your Laundry Money way." Name withheld by request.

## Editorials

# A Second Look

Since the *Hilltop* is committed to be as objective as possible about campus developments, we feel it necessary to follow up on an editorial from the November 19, 1976 issue of the paper. There we severely criticized the cafeteria for rather blatant lapses in sanitation, cooking, and menu variety. We are pleased to report that since our article many improvements have been initiated that have once again made eating in the cafeteria a relatively enjoyable experience. The silverware is clean, tables are wiped off, pork is cooked, and the routine of meals is not as predictable. We compliment Dennis Hyatt and the cafeteria staff for making these improvements.

Also, in the spirit of goodwill, we applaud the efforts of all those involved in the spring semester registration process. The thought of being able to go through the lines in ten minutes would have been beyond conception last fall. Whatever the staff did to alter the situation they have for once succeeded splendidly in easing the hassles of registration. Bravo!

## Thank You, Patti!

It is with a great deal of sadness that we view the resignation of SGA President Patti Mills. Not only has she been a very close personal friend but also, we think, a very capable chief executive. Her three and one-half year political career at Mars Hill has spanned a very important period in the development of student government, where elected representatives gained a handle on the more substantive issues of student rights and responsibilities as opposed to dwelling on those issues that could only illicit the most emotional responses. Things like the legal service, the work with Title IX on sex discrimination, and the Student Book Exchange exemplify this change. It is hard to say good-bye to Patti because she has played such an integral part in the process. Always open to student input and always contagiously optimistic about the possibilities of genuine student involvement in the governing process, Patti has embodied that new spirit of quiet accomplishment and service.

But, as much as we would like to, we cannot dwell on the accomplishments of the past. The changing of the guard has already come to pass, and there is work to be done. New Student Government President Steve Webb realizes this and is committed to moving on to greater things. The method of quiet accomplishment and cooperation with the administration, proven relatively successful in the past, will probably still stay the rule of thumb, and we wish Steve luck as he uses that method. But, at this most crucial stage of the college's history, when the very touchy subject of finances is being discussed, we feel that it is Student Government's responsibility along with the *Hilltop* to play the part of the skeptic — to ask questions that students haven't been bold enough to ask before. It would indeed be a cop-out for the students' elected representatives to try to escape this responsibility or be so politically motivated to sell out those they represent. The question of finances may not even come up again this year, but we urge the SGA and its leaders to be ready, if it does, to use the clout they have gained through years of quiet cooperation.

## 1977 Hilltop

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With Volume L, Number 8, the *Hilltop* begins its spring semester's coverage of campus events. In the first semester, the *Hilltop* expanded three-fold over previous years. With this issue, the paper takes on yet another new look. Now the paper is being typeset by a printer instead of having to be manually typed by the staff. Therefore, with a smaller typeface, the pages can hold twice as much copy as in previous, non-typeset issue. For example, what normally took eight pages to handle the news and features of last semester can now be compacted into four pages. Thus, although the paper appears smaller in length, the same amount of material is still being covered. This new size is more compact, cleaner-cut, and easier to read.