

# editorials



My first and still pertaining reaction to THE UNDERGROUND is one of astonishment. I suppose an overwhelming prejudice of mine, corresponding with that of THE UNDERGROUND staff, is the complacent attitude I believe many students of M.H.C. hold. As a result of my preconception I was surprised someone had enough gumption to get the UNDERGROUND underway.

I like the idea of it. I was recently talking to Brad Tilley, president of S.G.A. and Richard Heaton, vice-president, and they reacted positively also, although Brad did comment on the poor structure, spelling, and grammar of the paper. Other reactions I have noted stem around amusement (Maybe this amusement is a "cover-up" for a bullseye.).

As I stated, I do like the concept of the UNDERGROUND, but I also personally resent its implications. I am a student of Mars Hill College. Therefore, according to the underground paper, I am "easily pacified by the administration's explanations (of what?) and infantile programs provided for my personal development." I feel this throws me in the middle of a herd of sheep. We all merrily follow the administration to school each day. Mary's little lamb I'm NOT! If something upsets me, I will not be soothed with an unfair pacifier from the administration. As for my participation in "infantile programs", I would like specific examples of these. Do they refer to campus dances, football games, Fall Follies, etc.? Some of the participants in these events might act immaturly, but I would not call the events infantile themselves.

I am, in a way, pleading for my individual innocences to the UNDERGROUND innuendos. I would like to broaden this to include the majority of Mars Hill College students.

I often read books written on and during the turbulent sixties. I sometimes wish I had a cause to protest, be it racial injustments, the Viet-Nam war, the draft, drugs, whatever. But the days of Berkeley protests and riots are over with. Maybe the UNDERGROUND staff does not realize this. Is content a crime? I don't know about the rest of the college students, but if I had a unjust reasonable cause, nation-wide or in the school, to act upon, I would.

I look forward to future UNDERGROUND papers. The first one promised in the opening paragraph to "present thought provoking information and views of issues that are essential for a productive campus life and intellectual growth." Maybe the next issue will follow through.

By Sara LeFever

What is Mars Hill College? It is a Christian institution. What is Christian? Having the qualities taught by Jesus, as love, kindness, etc. (Websters).

What is Christianity to Mars Hill College? It is someone/something to whom/which a plethora of asinine rules and regulations are attributed, and nothing more. I can take no more of it.

What is God? Love, mercy, judgement, salvation, retribution, and more. What is man's relation to God? It is man's choice to either follow the commandments of God and achieve salvation, or engage in the ways of sin and incur retribution at the hand of God. Righteousness can neither be legislated, nor enforced beyond the will of God.

Laws for the protection of the public good and promotion of order have been effected by the state. Such is the right and domain of the state. From where does Mars Hill College receive its authority to legislate and interpret the will of God? Southern Baptists will not generally acknowledge the Pope as sovereign ambassador to God, much less the general clergy. So Who Has the Authority to Designate what is Moral and What is Not, beyond the boundaries of the Bible? The Southern Baptist Convention? That representative body of perhaps the most infamous group of hypocrites in the entire nation? I can take no more of it.

It is the duty of the state to judge and punish those who violate the laws of the state. It should be the duty of Mars Hill College, as a Christian institution, to promote understanding of, and adherence to the laws of God as prescribed by the Bible, with love and kindness and mercy.

I could not say this if I did not love and care for this place and its people so deeply. But I can take no more of it. It would be better to inhabit a place, which makes no pretense of caring, than Mars Hill, which makes such a pretense of caring.



# letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

The job of an editor is complex and demanding. It requires a number of personal and diplomatic skills that are beyond the ken of most. One must entice folks to write, call them off the streets to contribute to the paper. At the same time that editor has to be an incredible bastard or shrew, depending on the gender, asking folks whose work is ambiguous or does not measure up syntactically to rewrite the pieces they submit. The last four issues of the Hilltop indicate you have done the former better than the latter.

Dwayne Davis' lead editorial in the last issue is a case in point. Regulation and concern for off-

campus behavior are pivotal questions on campus this semester. It is important they be aired in the paper. Unfortunately the typos, spelling errors and unclear constructions in it will cause it to be read in some faculty and administration circles not as a pertinent comment about one of the major issues confronting MHC students but as another example in the deterioration of writing skill.

I am unaware of the process through which Mr. Davis' piece was written, edited and proofed. I am convinced a much firmer editorial hand would have strengthened it.

George Peery

## Response

Dear Mr. Peery,

I would like to thank you for your response to my plea in the October 25th issue of the HILLTOP for suggestions, criticisms, compliments, or comments. Your letter was the ONLY one I received from either faculty or students.

Yes, the job as editor is complex and demanding. Sometimes I wish I hadn't jumped at the chance. I have learned much as a rookie editor. With each issue behind me, I add more to this knowledge (Luckily, I am able to learn from my mistakes.) One item that surprised me from the beginning is the lack of student interest in the newspaper. I have a grand total of six writers on the staff.

That is why, when someone not on the staff submits an article I jump on it! Yes - I am at fault. I could have re-worked Dwayne Davis' editorial to make it firmer and more coherent. (The fact that he handed it to me one-half hour before deadline is my meager excuse.) Through my eyes, I found an important thesis in it, nonetheless. I thank Dwayne for his submission and encourage more from him.

Spelling errors are a problem of the HILLTOP that I am embarrassingly aware of. Taken on a panoramic view, spelling errors are a school-wide problem that I believe need immediate action.

My mother (good grief!) is an English teacher back home. On weekend visit, she put her talents to use. Besides circling in red spelling errors from the HILLTOP, she pointed out several other things: 1.) three spelling errors in THE UNDERGROUND, 2.) a "mandatory" cheerleading practice sign, 3.) a sheet sent to our home address from the school advertising laundry service (a spelling mistake), and 4.) even a letter President Bentley sent me this past summer (I'm sure it was his secretary) congratulating me on editorship with a spelling error in it.

These examples are almost frightening but point out that it is not just the students whos writing skills are deteriorating. I intend to wear out my trusty Collins Gem Word Speller and Divider and look up each and every word of the fifth HILLTOP issue.

Thank you again for responding. If you have something on your mind, I challenge you to submit an editorial to the paper. I am sure we could all benefit from a prime example.

Sara LeFever

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