

US withdrawal from the Olympic Games

Pro: Con:

For many years, the Olympic games have been the symbol of world peace and goodwill. The ancient Greeks' idea of the Olympic games was such that wars would cease for the duration of the event, but would resume afterwards.

To such a warlike culture, the games assured peace for a time, but twentieth century countries, for the most part, want to keep this aura of friendship and good natured rivalry. Unfortunately, there are powers in the world that would rather not participate in the cause of world peace, and many people believe that a substantial retaliatory measure could be the United States' boycott of the Olympic games this year.

The decision to do this has been questioned by the athletes and other people involved with the games, but I really wonder if such an attitude is not a bit selfish when one considers the logic behind the move. If enough countries, say Canada, China and other allies choose to boycott the games with the US, Russia may be faced with a responsibility, if not a hollow victory. Many allies of the Soviet Union, along with her people, would question the motives of the Russian leaders and the effect on the worldwide attitude toward the USSR.

Russia is a country that is very careful to keep a good image, and if her allies have the opportunity to see this image marred, then measures to restore peace in Afghanistan may be the result.

Why can't the true spirit of the Olympics override the attitude of wasted money and training and go instead toward an even bigger victory — world peace?

Student Exchange Program Big Hit

Imagine wood-burning stoves, a two-seater outhouse, an amorous small town cop, a "high" mountain at an elevation of 5,000 feet, listening to blue grass music by a fire, nauseating rides on endless dirt roads, a five-day experience in health food starvation, tennisplaying hillbillies, and guinea farmers. How about being televised on the 6:00 Charleston news, playing uninhibited games like "Johnny Brown", waking up with the dreaded task of conjuring up an "I learned" statement, and besides all this, a college with a two-story dining hall with music piped-in and good food Sounds pretty amazing! Let us tell you how the experience went much deeper than that . . .

Sixteen students from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, involved in a January term exchange program met with sixteen similar students from Mars Hill College for five days of orientation and getting acquainted at Highlander Center in New Market, Tennessee. The remaining two weeks were left for each student to plan his or her own experiences according to their individual interests. Using Mars Hill as home base, we lived in mountain homes, visited day care, medical, educational, and law-enforcement facilities, local artisans, historical sites, and enjoyed plenty of entertainment and hospitality from the mountain people.

We were challenged and stretched in more ways than one. Probably the most interesting factor for us was experiencing the culture and values of the mountain people firsthand. Both of us had the opportunity to live with mountain families for four days. This gave us a chance to develop a deeper understanding of the mountain lifestyle that we find difficult to reduce to written words. We were deeply affected by the importance land had in personal and family identity; material wealth and houses do not carry near the signifi-

ficance as they do for us. It was refreshing to experience life from such a natural, honest, and peaceful perspective.

Days spent with the group were enlightening in a different way. We visited people involved in unique activities beyond day-to-day living. Peter and Polly Gott's hand-hewn log cabin and Polly's beautiful watercolors gave us a healthy respect for hard work, human ingenuity, and skill. Drew Langsner demonstrated his craft of making chairs and his wife, Louise's talent of making baskets. Flashy quilts were Bea Cutshall's pasttime. Having time to sit and visit Ruby and Lowell Johnson, Fushia Rice, Don and Nancy Durrell, and Theresa Zimmerman gave us a flavor for what people were interested in. Homecooked dinners brought beans, creamed corn, potatoes, chicken, and soup, not to mention homemade bread and butter, milk straight from the cow, and home-brewed beer.

The most surprising aspect of the trip was the very special friendships that we made with the Mars Hill students in such a short time. We never expect to feel so at home or have so much fun! Some of the memories we will always carry with us include long talks till all hours of the morning, playing cards and stuffing pizzas in the student coffeehouse, taking excursions and enjoying the long drives together as much as the sites, invigorating hikes, side trips to Northeast Georgia and Charleston, and just good ol' teasing between "hillbillies" and "beach bums." These friendships have left imprints on our lives that we hope we will never lose.

In looking over these three weeks, we come to realize that this learning and experiencing will not come to an end as we return to Westmont, but will continue to affect the way we view our lives.

Susan Stover and Julie White
Westmont College students

Rec-Info Center

The Mars Hill College recreation department will be offering a "recreation-information center" for spring semester. This service will consist of assisting students in new and different activities and enabling these individuals to identify, locate, and use resources in the Mars Hill and Asheville areas.

Anyone interested should come by Tom Wood's office in Chamber's Gymnasium any Tuesday from 9 a.m. - noon.

The Olympic games in theory, are intended to bring together amateur athletes from all around the world to participate in a friendly, non-political atmosphere of competition. Unfortunately, at least the last three Olympics have been marred by political interventions of a decidedly unfriendly nature like demonstrations, boycotts, countries being barred from competition, and, as in the case of the 1980 Olympics, actual deaths. The 1980 Olympics seem doomed to suffer the same of political problems, problems which can only be aggravated by the withdrawal of the United States.

Another point to consider before pulling out of the games would have to be the amount of time that many of the potential Olympic contenders have invested in hopes of competing at Moscow in 1980. For many, a large percentage of their lives has been spent in grooming for this once-in-a-lifetime chance. To take away that opportunity from them without a good reason would be tragic. Of course, the difficulties in Afghanistan and Iran are serious, but the United States has previously failed to participate only during times of actual world warfare and still maintained the games during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Never before have there been political disagreements with other countries provoked such action.

But there seems to be yet another problem in our withdrawal from the Olympic games, and that is the very act of withdrawal itself. Running away from a problem is not going to make it go away. If the United States (and many other countries) do so, as is evidenced by the growing number of countries withdrawing) truly believe that the actions of the Russians and Iranians are deplorable and inexcusable, personally feel they are, then perhaps they should attempt to influence the Olympic committee to bar the offending countries from the competition, as was done in the case of South Africa and Rhodesia in 1976. I think this would serve to protect the prestige and honor of the Olympics instead of making it seem the more likely that something like a Free World Olympics would tend to cause. It wouldn't solve the problem of the Olympics being used as a political weapon, and it would probably end up being a Free World Olympics anyway; but it would at least spare the United States and other countries the indignity of having to back away from the issue and would preserve at least some shard of the Olympian ideal.

Darryl Gos

Appalachian Forum to be held, Feb. 13

will examine "Resources for Women's Studies in Appalachia;" and in an evening session at 7 p.m., she will lecture on "The Changing Roles of Women in the Family." A reception for Dr. Lord will be held immediately after the evening session in the main lounge of the college union. Dr. Lord earned her undergraduate degree from West Virginia University, where she was a Phi Beta Kappa scholar, and her master's and Ph.D. from Indiana University. In 1973, she was awarded the University of Tennessee's Alumni Association Teacher of the Year Award. Her articles have been widely published and she is the senior editor of **Appalachian Women and The Female Experience in America**, published by the Educational Development Center of Newton, Massachusetts. She is also co-author of **The Black Female Experience** and a book on sex role development.

Currently she consults with national and regional organizations in government, industry, and higher education on topics related to women in management, regional studies, and sex equity in edu-

cation and psychology. Dr. Lord served as spokesperson for the National Association for Women in Psychology. At the University of Tennessee she was formerly the director of the school's Appalachian Center, and served on the Chancellor's Task Force on Women, The Commission for Women and the Women's Studies Coordinating Council.

Dr. Lord will, in the first session, "Growing Up Female in Southern Appalachia," discuss the socialization process to which young Appalachian women are subjected both at home and school. The second session, "Resources for Women's Studies in Appalachia" will examine books, films, and other resources helpful to those interested in this area, including teachers who wish to offer courses on Appalachian women. The third session, "The Changing Roles of Women in the Appalachian Family" will consider the past and present roles of women in the family as well as related issues of child development, health care availability, and domestic violence.

It's Not Just a Job; It's an Adventure!

Are you the kind of person who wants to get involved with Mars Hill College? Do you enjoy responsibility and the chance to meet and work with lots of people? Would you like to belong to an organization of students who have fun and make money too? Well, your opportunity to have the kind of job that you want is here.

The Housing Office is looking for a few good men and women to fill advantageous positions, in the Residence Halls, for the 1980-1981 academic year. If you want to know more about these positions, you can talk with the staff in your Residence Hall. They will be glad to answer any questions that you may have.

Applications for Resident Director positions are available through February 22, 1980. Applications for Resident Assistant positions are available through February 29, 1980. Don't delay, come by the Housing Office TODAY and pick up an application. This could be your answer for an exciting and rewarding future!

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