

# EDITORIAL

In this first issue of the HILLTOP, we had planned to give our readers a basic summary of the policies of this newspaper. Yet, in review of the recent furor caused by the dismissal of head coach and athletic director Claude Gibson, we have decided to confront this issue and do so as objectively as possible.

The HILLTOP should not be considered anti-athletic because we strongly support all collegiate athletics, including the football program. We feel that the protest by candlelight was constructive. The football players and other students had a right to ask questions of President Bentley. The football players felt loyalty to their coach and wanted to express their disagreement with the decision and their confusion over the matter. They demonstrated this in an orderly, constructive, and conservative manner. The players' request for a conference with President Bentley was also a reasonable one, and they conducted themselves in like manner.

However, we cannot condone the players' refusal to participate in the Newberry game. Their protest was obviously a tribute to Coach Gibson, but even he advised them to play. One does not pay tribute to a favorite author by burning his book; neither should one pay tribute to his football coach by boycotting a football game.

The player boycott was not a simple act which only involved the players' feelings about Coach Gibson's dismissal. The boycott touched students at Newberry as well as Mars Hill. It also may have affected Mars Hill's chances at future NAIA championships, and a considerable settlement will have to be made to Newberry for its losses in revenue.

Players who joined the team did not sign a contract to play for a specific college. They agreed to play for Mars Hill College. The players' actions did nothing to change the status of Gibson's dismissal. Perhaps a more appropriate measure would have been a formal petition or simply to wait and let the appeals process decide the issue. Since the Newberry boycott, Gibson has filed an appeal; therefore, his dismissal is not final until the appeals procedure has been completed.

We support the administrative decision to release Gibson from his duties. The administration has repeatedly stressed that Gibson's discharge was not caused by one incident but a series of incidents over several years. Bentley cited three incidents in returning home on weekends to find, each time, another conflict between Gibson and other administrators. This decision was not a rush decision as many would claim.

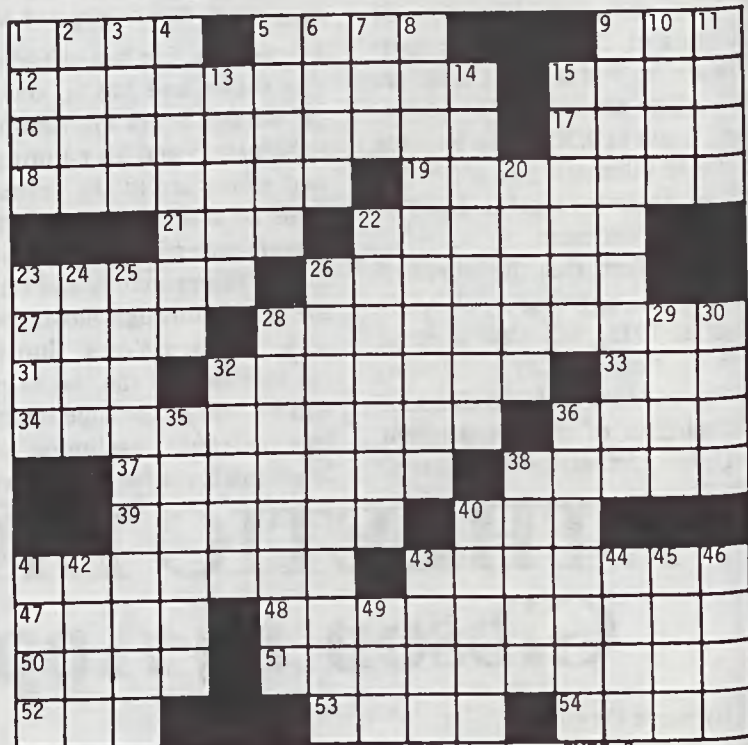
Under questioning by students, Bentley stated that he took into consideration the welfare of Mars Hill's athletic program as well as problems faced by the Gibson family. In speaking with the editor of a local publication Gibson said the friction between himself and other administrators had occurred over a period of years. From our point of view, this dismissal decision was not a split-second one.

The job termination of any individual is unfortunate. We regret the situation required such action, but we feel the administration's actions were both reasonable and justifiable.

A final note: The opinions of this paper are just that - opinions. As editors we will - and always will - state our opinions as clearly and constructively as possible. We invite you, our fellow students, to do the same. Your opinions and viewpoints are always be welcomed, but they must be signed. If requested to do so, we shall consider withholding the name from publication.



## collegiate crossword



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The Hilltop  
MARS HILL COLLEGE

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- |                                 |                                   |                                  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                   | 37 Type of music                  | 10 Regretful one                 |
| 1 Movie mogul Marcus            | 38 Doesn't eat                    | 11 Vanderbilt and Lowell         |
| 5 Heroic tale                   | 39 The Sunflower State            | 13 Acquit                        |
| 9 Song syllable                 | 40 Part of APB, to police         | 14 "The Lord is My ..."          |
| 12 The state of being undamaged | 41 All-too common excuse (2 wds.) | 15 Veal                          |
| 15 Pal                          | 43 Short opera solo               | 20 Extends across                |
| 16 Its capital is Dacca         | 47 Grotto                         | 22 Turkic tribesmen              |
| 17 Nobel chemist                | 48 Part of the hand               | 23 Mr. Guinness                  |
| 18 The art of putting on plays  | 50 Made do                        | 24 Spanish for wolf              |
| 19 Pearson and Maddox           | 51 Prevents                       | 25 Retrace (3 wds.)              |
| 21 Vegas                        | 52 Alte                           | 26 Disproof                      |
| 22 Drink to excess              | 53 U.S. caricaturist              | 28 Ends, as a broadcast (2 wds.) |
| 23 Hiss                         | 54 Farm storage place             | 29 Like Felix Unger              |
| 26 Italian painter              |                                   | 30 Head inventory                |
| 27 Screenwriter Anita           |                                   | 32 Hurt or cheated               |
|                                 | <b>DOWN</b>                       | 35 Glided                        |
| 28 Devilishly sly               | 1 Conservatives' foes for short   | 36 Lead minerals                 |
| 31 Decline                      | 2 Go length (ramble)              | 38 Coquette                      |
| 32 Devices for refining flour   | 3 Famous volcano                  | 40 Take (pause)                  |
| 33 Teachers organization        | 4 Moves jerkily                   | 41 Finished a cake               |
| 34 Shore protectors (2 wds.)    | 5 Hollywood populace              | 42 Football trick                |
| 36 Machine part                 | 6 Sheriff Taylor                  | 43 "Rock of ..."                 |
|                                 | 7 "Golly"                         | 44 Anklebones                    |
|                                 | 8 as an eel                       | 45 Work with soil                |
|                                 | 9 Size of some want-ads (2 wds.)  | 46 Too                           |
|                                 |                                   | 49 New Deal organization         |

