

GUEST EDITORIALIST - Chet Cantrell

Ten years ago, the highly toxic chemical Dioxin was dumped into the lives of a small Missouri town. Today these residents fear for their land and health; they cannot help but wonder how much of the unseen poison has seeped into their lives. In North Carolina, Warren County residents protest because their land is being used as a waste site for PCB illegally dumped along our roads years ago. Since the Three-Mile Island incident, five major plants that housed our government's hopes for a new, taxable energy source have closed down due to malfunctions. Residents nearest TMI voice fears of another possible, more major leak - the last one was considered minor although completion of the complicated multi-million dollar clean-up is finally foreseeable.

In the midst of Thanksgiving holidays, 36 Ku Klux Klan members rallied in Washington to broadcast their prejudices in the ears of our politicians. Because of the violent response from anti-Klan protestors, the KKK cause received more media attention than other public demonstrations, such as the one hundred thousand plus people who marched a few years ago in opposition to nuclear armament. Since then, computer mistakes have started the preliminary process for all out nuclear exchange three times.

Besides the fact that for every man, woman, and child on earth there is a nuclear equivalent of 25 tons of TNT; that minimum results of a nuclear exchange using half of the warheads now existing could potentially destroy our earth's ecosystem. Even with all the knowledge of what one nuclear bomb could do to any one of our cities, government spending supporting the arms race has increased. We spend more feeding our war machine than we do feeding our nation's poor.

Recent figures tell us that in our major cities unemployment and soup lines are almost record-breaking. And whatever happened to Ralph Nader? Laws for pollution control have been lax; the Indian no longer cries on our T.V. screen and we laugh at Arnold Palmer who tells us over WVMH that Woodsy Owl is his friend.

You have heard it all before. The comics and Erma Bombeck usually are the only bright spot in our newspaper, but even the satirical expression in some of these makes us uncomfortable.

Charlene and Stevie Wonder sing to us about how it "Used to Be." A powerfully speaking social comment, but it too eludes to the fact that someone else other than ourselves are to blame for societies' ills.

For three years now, "future" meant returning to Mars Hill College. Now, the future lies in the nebulous "out there in the real world" whatever that means. The point is that we realize that the problems often labeled as "out there" - those that confront us in the daily newspaper - are the same problems whose seeds are found right here on our campus. We are the future lawyers, politicians, ministers, businessmen, homemakers - whatever we do, we are the ones who shape and create the atmosphere of society.

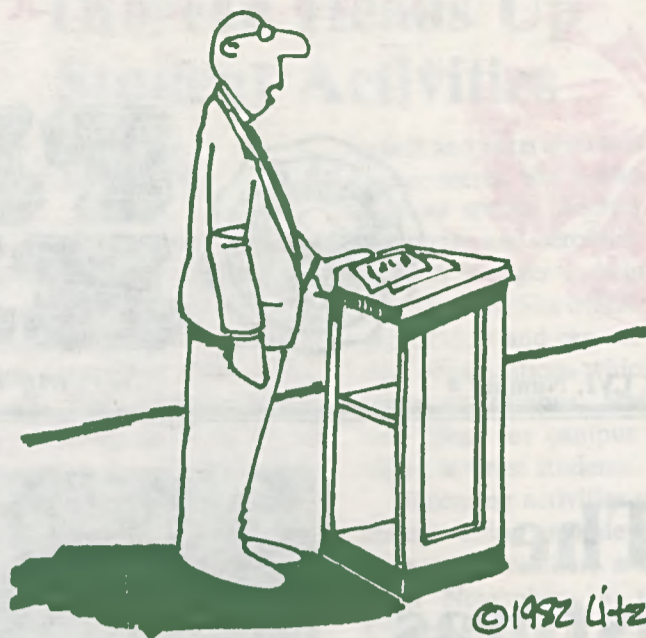
Yet, there are those of us who shoplift from the College Bookstore, because "they charge too much anyway." We find it easier to make cheat notes or copy someone else's test paper because our priorities the night before were those that avoided the disciplines of study.

It is easier to make fun of the guy next door rather than trying to understand him. Our decisions are based more on what will socially or economically benefit us most rather than thinking through how our decision may affect others.

The trash that lines our highways finds some of its chief contributors here on our campus, those who drop debris on the ground rather than walking five extra feet to a trash can. Besides, trash detail is the physical plant's job anyway.

We curse the ballgame officials and laugh at someone on the other team who gets hurt because they are "opposition," not people. We establish relationships primary on the basis of those who dress closest to our tastes or who act most like the self we wish to portray. We separate ourselves from others because of our claims to be religious, or because of our disclaiming any religious affiliation. There are even those of us who disregard other students because of skin color or cultural background unless they prove their worth as a person by conforming to our image of what is acceptable. Etc., etc., etc.....

Here is the bottom line. Let us not pretend to be students preparing to make a difference "out there" and ignore our opportunities now. Our community life here is a training ground and a stepping stone for the type of life we will live the greatest amount of our personal history. If we pursue the line of least resistance now, it is doubtful we will change our life patterns after college. If we deny ourselves the opportunity to take responsibility for our physical, mental, social and spiritual lives now, then it is doubtful we will discipline ourselves later. A new semester is before us, the last for many; the second for others. What can we do? The answer is your responsibility.



"REFER TO THE SYLLABUS. IN WEEK ONE I ASSIGNED THE 20-PAGE REPORT WHICH IS DUE IN WEEK TEN. YOU CAN DROP THE COURSE THROUGH WEEK EIGHT IF YOU PANIC."

WVMH-FM Top Ten

These are the top 10 songs on the WVMH-FM playlist for the survey period November 20-23 and November 29-December 1, 1982:

1. *Dirty Laundry* - Don Henley
2. *Mickey* - Toni Basil
3. *Down Under* - Men At Work
4. *Truly* - Lionel Richie
5. *Maneater* - Daryl Hall & John Oates
6. *The Girl Is Mine* - Michael Jackson & Paul McCartney

7. *The Look of Love* - ABC
8. *It's Raining Again* - Supertramp
9. *Africa* - Toto
10. *Shock The Monkey* - Peter Gallagher

The WVMH-FM top 10 featured a return to the Hilltop next semester staff & management of WVMH would like to thank everyone for making "your college radio station" what it has become, a positive part of your college life. With your help, we'll be back better than ever in the spring of '83.

THE HILLTOP

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