

COMMENTARY

Cloud Hovers Over Basketball Program

As the winter months take the leaves off the trees and push cold air under my door, I find myself compelled to don an obnoxious looking hat and shirt and head off for Chambers Gymnasium. What is this strange urge which seems to take over my being? IT'S BASKETBALL SEASON!!! At last the excess energy I've built up inside me over the year will have a chance to escape when I yell for the Basketball Teams.

Before I am able to thoroughly enjoy myself though, I must get off my chest an issue that has been pressing my temples for some weeks now. It seems that a few faculty members are a little upset or unsupportive of the men's basketball program so far this season. Apparently the grievance has to do with the amount of money spent on the nice accommodations and accessories the players receive during the season. These people feel that the coaching staff is living extravagantly while on away trips. I would like to clear up a few details which will hopefully enlighten these few members of our faculty as well as any member of the student body as to how the coaching staff has used their budget.

The team stayed in the Marriott while at a tournament in Charleston. This raised the eyebrows of a few people because of the cost of such a hotel. After careful negotiating and shopping around, the coaches were able to accommodate the team for less than half the normal price. This amount proved to be less than the price paid by another team participating in the same tournament who stayed at the Days Inn. The chartered bus which carried and will carry the team to most of the away games, is not only safer (because of the experienced driver), but eliminates the problem of finding drivers to take the two or three vans to the games. The players themselves are able to concentrate better on the task ahead of them, and there is room for the cheerleaders as well. As far as the classy programs, pocket schedules, and team picture calendar, they paid for themselves with the advertising revenue.

Since Bob Ronai has been here, he has shown continuous concern for the development of the basketball program. He has cut corners and personally absorbed certain costs which could have been taken out of the budget so that there will be more money for the program. The program itself is one of the classiest and well disciplined around. It is time for the Mars Hill community to respond now by supporting the efforts of the team and attending the games. This year is going to be more exciting than any before. The Mars Hill Lions are truly a team that are "OFF AND RUNNING."

Chip Kiley

Letters to the Editor

To whom it may concern: with trays, plates, and glasses can be a

As a cafeteria worker, I would like to make a few suggestions. It would make my job a lot easier if you would just clean up after yourselves. In other words, it doesn't take much energy for you to send your trays down the chute. For just a few workers, a table stacked

regular nightmare. And another thing; if you feel artistic, please use paper and pencil to express yourself. The designs made by spilling salt and pepper on the tables are really cute, but a mess to clean up.

Thank you for your time,
Dawn Clifton

THE HILLTOP
Serving Mars Hill College Since 1926

Chip Kiley & David Wachter
Editors in Chief

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High Prices Bar Faculty and Staff from Athletic Events

One of the main goals of every varsity athletic program here at Mars Hill is to generate fan support.

Nevertheless, one group of would-be supporters are virtually excluded from supporting the teams at athletic events. They are excluded through the barrier of steep admission charges at the gate or door.

At present, no faculty or staff discount exists for admission to MHC athletic events. These would-be fans are forced to pay full adult prices. At present, for adult admission are as follows:

- FOOTBALL - \$6 gate
\$5 advance
- BASKETBALL - \$4 (this is men's and women's)
- VOLLEYBALL - \$3

Are salaries at MHC so good that these prices would not make a dent in and staff pocketbooks? I think not. These prices are an outrageous amount expected from anyone who works here at the school. These prices, in effect, deny recognition to faculty and staff for their contributions to campus life. If these prices are an insult to faculty and staff members, because it puts them in the same category as outside adults who have nothing to do with the daily administration and running of the college.

Some faculty and staff members, however, can be seen at every sporting event here at MHC. . . Why? Are these individuals independently wealthy and able to afford the luxury of attending games? No, the answer is not quite so far-fetched according to Dr. Walker, Athletic Director, these individuals are proud basketball season passes. These passes give the bearer admission to all MHC sporting events at a modest price.

Season passes are great, but what about the majority of faculty and staff who would not hold season passes because they are unable to attend enough games to justify their investment? Once again, we are back to our original problem: a group of potential supporters shut out due to the high price of admission.

What solution is to be found to this problem? In this writer's opinion, a simple one exists. Like MHC students, MHC faculty and staff should be admitted of charge to all sporting events. The amount of revenue currently earned from faculty and staff ticket sales is so small that it borders on non-existence.

The gains to be had from this new policy, however, are far from non-existent. First, faculty and staff would provide a new and fresh support to MHC athletic programs (especially at a time when the teams are trying to rally support around growing programs).

Secondly, faculty and staff would be further integrated into campus life and would gain an "after hours" view of the student population.

Thirdly, faculty and staff would be treated to an exciting athletic match as MHC athletes give their best against opposing players.

Finally, but by no means completely, faculty members would get a glimpse of the work put forward by those students who are athletes. Faculty members might be better able to understand why a student-athlete is perhaps a bit behind in class, has to miss class more than other students when traveling with the team, and see the hard work and dedication these players must put forth in their respective sports.

Dawn Clifton

