

OPINION HILLTOP

A Word With You

JUDY SMITH
Co-Editor

JOHN ANDERSON
Co-Editor

We the editors, as concerned citizens, chose to deal in this issue with the current nuclear waste debate going on in Western North Carolina. It is something which we are sincerely concerned with. Neither of us wish to see a dumpsite placed in this area, it has too much to lose. We hoped to present the subject in an informative and helpful way. The future of this college and this area may be influenc-

ed dramatically by the final decision as whether or not to locate a dump in the area. It is our wish to educate the student body so that they may make their own decisions about the issue and take a stand.

We have worked long and hard as has our staff in bringing this information to you. Personal thanks should go to Mr. and Mrs. Bobbi Tousey, local citizens who contributed much information of value. We would also like to thank our regular columnists and staff who also focused on this issue. Special thanks should go to The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Channel 13 WLOS, The Department of Energy, and the Asheville Citizen.

To the readers, we invite your response and criticisms.

Nuclear Waste - Is it safe and are there Advantages?

ED HIX
Staff Writer

A major issue now at hand in Western N.C. is the nuclear waste proposal sites in Haywood, Buncombe, and Madison counties. When many Western North Carolinians hear this, they immediately object and say it is too dangerous and give it to someone else. There minds conjure up pictures of leaking chemicals that cause you to glow in the dark and they fail to look at the possible advantages and safeness the sites offer.

economically the sites bring in jobs and also brings in revenue for the state. There is also an environmental advantage in that there are many landfills with ponds of chemicals sitting around that are better off underground. There are in fact 378,000 such landfills in need of correction. Other sites have toxic wastes in steel drums that are buried and rust causing leaks. The sites in Western N.C. have the Crystalline rock which reinforces the nuclear waste in steel shipping casks.

One could go on and on and argue the pro's and con's without actually achieving anything. No one wants nuclear waste in their

The three county sights are actually secondary sights...

To understand the safeness and advantages you have to ask the question of why Haywood, Buncombe, and Madison counties are potential waste sites. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) determines this through the sites environmental and geological setting. The three county sites are actually secondary repository sites which will not be constructed until the year 2000 and emplacement of waste will begin 6 years after. They are considered because they consist of Crystalline rock which has potential for isolating nuclear waste. They also do not have a high population density for the square mileage.

One advantage is that area and they they want to give it to someone else. True a nuclear waste dump is scary and fatal if leaked but no one cares to propose other alternatives. Either we leave the mess we have now or have safer sites that are made safe through the geographical and environmental setting. We have to pick on having a site in our area or leave the chemical ponds and leaking barrels. We can no longer avoid the issue but we have to choose the lesser of evils.

The information provided by the writer does not necessarily reflect his complete opinion concerning the issue but has provided the reader an opposing view so he may make his own decision.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editors,

First of all, we would like to congratulate you on certain things in Volume LIX, Number 7 which we liked. New additions to the paper such as the "Insider" box and the "Coming next issue" box are good ideas as is the enlarged quote in John Anderson's front page article. Your layout seems to make better use of space and thus makes the HILLTOP more "professional" than other recent editions. But other than that, we find little more than S.G.A. propaganda and garbage.

A certain item that really got under our skins was the self-centeredness of DeeAnn Peterson in her article and Owen Robertsons' "humorous" way of handling the space shuttle incident...one of the worst disasters of the 20th century. Miss Peterson, if her brother is affiliated with NASA, should be able to see the gravity of the situation when this one incident has brought the space program to almost a standstill. Granted that the media took advantage of the situation by taking certain liberties with the privacy of the shuttle families, but it seemed like you turned the entire issue into a push for the Red Cross and could not even express your condolences to the families. Robertson, in all of his oddness, must have a really sick sense of humor toward the incident and also in the way President Reagan handled the matter. Of course I can understand since he was commissioned to play "devils advocate" and if Reagan would have went on with his State of the Union address, Mr. Robertson

would have condemned him for not having more feelings toward the families involved.

Now, as far as the supreme god and right-hand to administration, Mr. Scott Barron and his S.G.A. is concerned, we see nothing wrong with keeping the students up-to-date on the S.G.A. but feel they attend to frivolous matters such as the student weight room. Things such as the HOT water in the men's dorms, or lack there of should be addressed. We haven't had hot water after 8 am since we've been back. Problems like these should be on top of the list of priorities for S.G.A. involvement. If the "jocks" want to prove their "manliness", let them take cold showers after a work-out in one of their two weightrooms. Most students pay as much as (if not more than) these Mars Hill Hemen for this schools' facilities and that includes a warm shower in the morning. Hopefully, his weight-room modernization will fall dead as did the way Barrons' "No Smoking" bill did.

Also, a potentially good feature such as "Uncle Huey Reports", has fallen victim to mediocrity as has S.G.A. Batter the students in Myers Dorm for parking and slap the hand of Physical Plant for letting men break their necks on the ice they so conveniently left. We think that all Security Personnel should be required to give out tickets rather than leaving it all to R. Sauer. On a randomly selected night last week, we followed Security around campus on their 12 AM rounds during which they drove by 4 unticketed, illegally

parked cars in front of Myers Dorm, not to mention 2 in Gibson parking lot, and 6 in Huffman/Stroup lot including one non-staff car in STAFF parking which had been there all day. What's wrong old men, too cold out there for you to do your job? We mean, how can MHC students feel safe when you can't even do a menial job such as this?

We found little of anything else in the paper that had any substance and if you editors are honest with yourselves, you see our point. By the way Miss Judy Smith, how much did you have to twist your boyfriend's arm (Jim Parks) to get him "to agree to fill the position of Lay-Out Editor"? It seems more honest to say "I was stuck with all these empty editorships so I threw my leadership problems to those I can control easier such as my boyfriend and other friends." However, Mr. Parks has done more already for the HILLTOP layout than John Anderson, the previous layout editor, and we do not question his qualifications. And also, why did all of the Laurel photographers get into your staff box? Must have been a typo-error, huh?

Let us leave you with this one thought, is it not the quality of the content you print that makes a newspaper? We're sorry if our editorial "steps on some toes" but it is something we feel strongly about and in our observations, something others feel also. Thank God for freedom of speech!

Sincerely,
Aunt Huey
Emma and Toto

I am shocked at the response candidate Jamie gave to the request for partisan cooperation in the nuclear waste dump. February 8th issue of the Clarke said such cooperation "just not worth the energy." Perhaps he devoted his time and energy toward his own political ambitions. Clarke obviously make a political football of this vital issue.

Well, if that is what is fine, but the people should that Mr. Clarke was in of W.N.C. [Western North Carolina] was put on this list. What then? Nothing!! I am Clarke's inaction and leadership have shortchanged us. If he had acted he wouldn't be in the fix now!

Mr. Clarke needs to do a political "chip" off his and put that shoulder to the public bandwagon of the dump instead of obstacles in its path. He that he cannot back responsibility and the blame others. The W.N.C. should not allow political slight-of-hand. We have to fight together. Thank good our Congressman has leadership on this issue.

Matthe

Campus Candid's On Nuclear Waste

KRISTY CROW
Staff Writer

In the last issue of the HILLTOP, we introduced the column "Campus Candid's" by Kristy Crow. As we explained in the editorial of that same issue, this column will be a forum for student opinion. Kristy's assignment is to go with tape recorder in hand and compile student response to questions dealing with issues which may be of concern to them.

We hope that through this column Mars Hill students will express their concerns to the student body and administration as a whole. We appreciate the response thus far and look forward to a successful semester.

The Editors
How do you feel about North Carolina having nuclear waste dump sites?

I am against North Carolina having Nuclear Waste dump sites. Because of the waste in the mountains and wildlife. I think they

should put it in the deserts. There is not as much traffic in the desert, and they should not transport it on I-40 because so many people travel the highway. There is also more localized people here in North Carolina.

Tammy Lindsay-sophomore

I don't think we should have it. I don't think it is environmentally safe. I think they should suspend the program of Nuclear Energy.

Tom Cabaniss-sophomore

I don't think it is a very good idea because geologists have already decided it is not safe.

Chris Hollefield-Sophomore

I think it is very bad for the plant life and people. Heck, who knows what else.

Tommy Cook -Senior

I think it would ruin the tourism, and that having sites would junk up the state.

Peggy Crilly-Senior

I really don't think it is a good idea because North Carolina Mountains are some of the most beautiful mountains I have ever seen. They say it won't mess them up, but this idea of having something that later could come back and haunt us is hard to understand.

Nelson McDaniel-freshmem

I feel that it is really not necessary for them to dump nuclear waste in this area. I feel there are other suitable areas with less of a population.

Greg Goodwin-freshmen

I am very much against it because I feel that there are more suitable places in the country. I feel they could put it in Wyoming where it is mostly desert. This is a growing area with greater expectations, and a nuclear waste dumpsite could hurt that.

Scott McNeil-freshmen

Help keep America looking good.

ALUMINUM CANS

Use your head. Smart people recycle.

Give a hand. Don't pollute.

Forest Service, U.S.

HILLTOP

Serving Mars Hill College Since 1926

Judy Smith & John Anderson
Co-Editors

- Managing Editor.....Deeann Peterson
- Sports Editors.....Stuart Jolley
Robby Parham
- Copy Editor.....Keith Kimble
- Layout Editor.....Jim Parks
- Staff Writers.....Terrie Boisvenue
Kristy Crowe
Jeff Fitzgerald
Amy Gaskin
Georgia Harrington
Trina Hollister
Joy James
David Meier
Brenda Smith
- Cartoonist.....Owen Robertson
- Photographers....."Corndog"
John Edwards
Greg Googer
"Gumby"
Ronnie Hayes
Cynthia King
Pam Megathlin
- Advisor....."Dad"

The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the administration or members of the HILLTOP staff.

SPACED-OUT: 2001.4 by OWEN ROBERTSON

Is it called off yet??

No!

Is it called off yet??!!

No!!!

Well, which way is Cornwell??!!

AACHOOO

You sound sick. I've got the flu epidemic.

Did you hear about the "leak" at that new nuclear dump!!

That's terrible! And we're still having classes?

Oh well! Let's go to class!!

O.K.! Let's go