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Peace Is Patriotic

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Guest Writers

On Saturday, Jan. 26, 18 Mars Hill College students joined approximately 1000 other people in Washington, D.C. in a walk for peace. The walkers included people from all over the country of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds. The one thing everybody had in common was the desire for peace in the Middle East. The students from Mars Hill went to Washington for many individual reasons including observation, learning, and participation. Not everyone who went had the same opinions about the war and several have stated that their opinions have changed since attending the walk. It is our intention to state our thoughts around the war and the anti-war movement that we attended. It must be

national debt, crime, and countless other problems. We recognize the servicemen and women for what they are: brave representatives of our country. But, as stated in a letter to the editor of the Asheville Citizen on Jan. 30, many of them are not sure what the issues are and what they are fighting for. We know that the troops are not the war, but victims in a conflict that has yet to be given a defined purpose. We simply want our folks home physically and mentally healthy.

In War, Truth is the First Casualty
It seems that we are experiencing similar patterns from the Bush administration as were seen during the early years of Vietnam. President Bush's bold statements of this war not being another Viet-

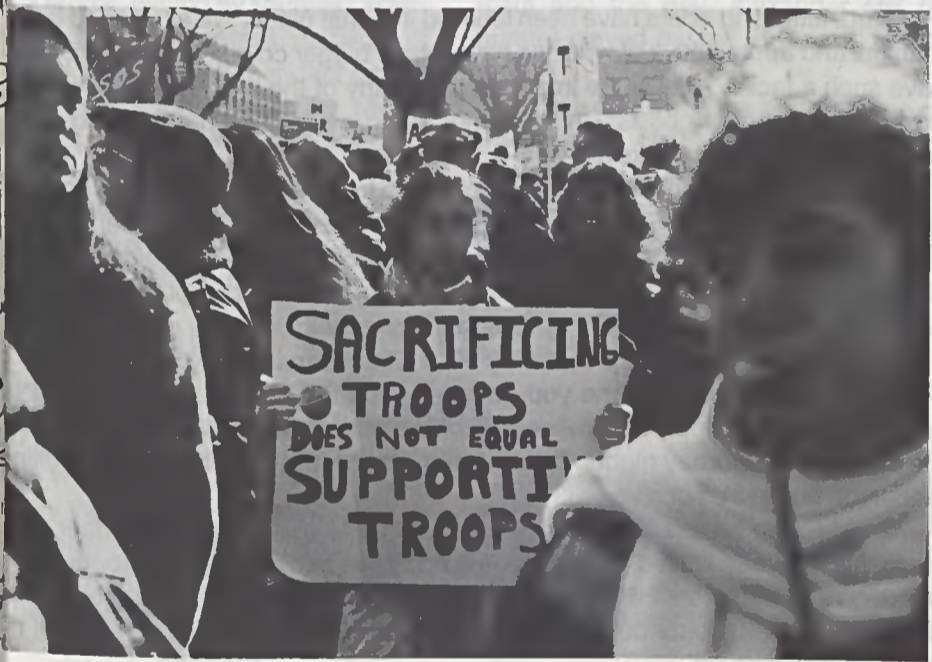


Photo by Tim Plaut

nam, of a quick and decisive victory, and relatively little risk to our troops are already proving false. In making statements like this, the administration was able to win popular support from the American people and Congress toward starting the war, but are we to believe that he so grossly underestimated the Iraqis that his estimates have "changed" from "a week" to a year? Contrary to what the government wished us to think, it was not the press coverage of Vietnam that turned the people against the war, but the blatant censorship and dishonesty of the Pentagon and the White House. We deserve to know the truths behind this war, why it is being fought and what is happening with our men and women in Saudi Arabia.

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1991 Graduation Plans Underway

Lisa Ramsey
Staff Writer

The 1991 graduation at Mars Hill College will be an event to remember. Graduating is always a memorable occasion, but this year will be exceptional. If "The Rain Man" doesn't show up, Meares Stadium will be the location of the 1991 Commencement, Mars Hill College's first outdoor graduation.

This event is not designated as a trial, but simply the college's compliance with the wishes of the senior class. It is hoped, however, that it will set a precedent for future graduation ceremonies.

Although there is some concern that an outdoor graduation will not be as formal or dignified as those held in the past, most of the people involved in the planning do not share in this feeling.

The President's Cabinet made the decision to have the ceremony in Meares at the beginning of January. The first meeting of the Student Affairs Council was held on Jan. 30 to begin planning for the occasion. Planning for the baccalaureate and commencement has been the responsibility of the President, the Academic Dean, and the Registrar. The council was added to help plan this new event.

The decision was made to have the May 12 event in Meares, primarily because it is what a number of students, faculty, staff members, and parents requested. Some of the reasons given for having it outdoors are as follows: it will allow more people to attend, it will be a "more joyous" celebration, it will highlight the natural beauty of the campus, and it will be cooler than the auditorium.

The baccalaureate will still be held in Moore at 11:00 on May 12. Graduation will be at 3:00 that afternoon.

Line-up for the processional is a crucial part of the ceremony. Approximately 200 students will be graduating this year and all of them must be in proper sequence in the line in order of their degrees and alphabetically. December and May graduates are given their diplomas first, then the August grads are given theirs. In order to limit confusion, line-up for both the baccalaureate and commencement is planned to be in Cornwell Hall. Seniors and approximately 85 faculty members will process across to Moore for the baccalaureate and down the center steps of the campus to the stadium for commencement.

In years past all seniors were allotted

seven seats for family and friends for the ceremony in Moore. This year because it will be in Meares, seats for the stadium are not limited, but it is planned to still give seniors their allotted number of tickets (seats) in Moore in case of inclement weather.

The set-up for the commencement is to have a podium with stage placed in the center of the football field with seats for the graduates in rows of 30 chairs facing the stage and faculty in rows to the right and left of the graduates on the field also facing the stage. Decorations are still in the planning, but it was suggested that the senior class or SGA help with them.

A meeting of the senior class to discuss graduation and other concerns is being planned. Announcement of this meeting (time, date, place, etc.) will be posted.

The color of the graduates' robes was also a consideration. Robes have always been black, but it was mentioned that the Mars Hill royal blue color might be nice.

Music for commencement will definitely be by students and/or faculty. Live music from the colleges' concert band is a strong possibility. Singing from part of the choir is also planned.

Speeches from President Bentley and Dr. Grayson will be part of the ceremony as is a tradition at Mars Hill; however, the last part of the ceremony will be the benediction in Meares (a recessional always takes place in Moore's ceremony).

Even though the 1991 graduation in Meares Stadium will be a break in the tradition of Mars Hill College, it will not detract from the joy, beauty, and overall sense of accomplishment and pride that have always been a part of that glorious Sunday afternoon on "The Hill."

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