

# The Opinions Page

## POLICY

The Opinions Page is a forum for any member of the Mars Hill community to express their ideas, problems or thoughts. The Hilltop does not discriminate against anyone who wishes to submit a letter. All letters must be signed, but the editor can withhold the name if requested. Send all letters to THE HILLTOP, PO BOX 6148, MARS HILL, NC 28754. The views presented on this page are not necessarily those of the Hilltop or of Mars Hill College.

Amy Webb's

## Spider's Webb: "A Christmas to Remember"

I like to think of Christmas as a time of joy, peace, love, and miracles. And it should be that way. I would like to share a story that I think embraces Christmas and its lost meaning.

A few years ago Henry and his family returned to his mountain home. He was the youngest of seven children and had had a humble upbringing. Now he was a father, and it was going to be a wonderful Christmas. All of Henry's brothers and sisters were going to be together again for a real family gathering.

His mother and father greeted them and the grandchildren. Everyone had warmed themselves by the fire and told stories while others showed pictures. It was getting late and the children were rubbing their eyes, trying to fight the sleepiness. As the parents began to put them all to bed, Henry's five-year-old son said he wanted to stay up to see Santa Clause.

"You are such a baby!" one of his cousins snapped. "There is no such thing as Santa Clause."

The five-year-old dropped his head and tears swelled in his eyes.

"Son, as long as you believe," Henry said, "there is always a Santa Clause." The five-year-old smiled and gave his Daddy a big hug.

"Now off to bed!" his mother said.

Henry and the other adults went to their cars and retrieved the bags of presents. They had picked out each gift with care. Henry thought about how blessed his family was. Each Christmas the presents were bigger and better than the year before. It was unlike his own childhood. They were lucky if they received a

hand-made toy that sometimes took hours to make. They loved the toys as much as if they had been store bought.

Henry knocked the snow off his boots and stepped inside the house. His wife gave him a kiss on the cheek and went to bed. Everyone else had settled down for the night, but Henry was assembling a bike he had purchased for his eldest child. The night hours were passing, and Henry slipped off to sleep.

He was awakened by a loud clanging outside. He dropped the handle bars to the bike and ran to the door. When he opened the door, he saw the biggest sleigh he had ever seen! And eight reindeer were strapped in a line and connected to the sleigh.

He went out to investigate. "This can't be real!" he thought as he patted the back of one of the reindeer. He decided to go in and tell the others. He went back into the house and heard a clanging behind him. The sleigh was gone as magically as it had come.

The rest of the family was awakened and wondered what was going on. Then the five-year-old yelled, "Look! It's Santa Clause!"

The family turned and looked toward the crystal clear sky and they could see a red sleigh with reindeer pulling it toward the north. "See there is a Santa Clause!" screamed the five-year-old.

"As long as you believe," Henry smiled.

It took the faith of a small child to help a family remember that Christmas was about miracles and believing. What would have become of us if Christ didn't believe in being born and dying for us?

Mike Wachtendorf's

## Babble On: Recapping A Semester of Learning

As the long, way too eventful, semester draws to an abrupt stop, look back and wonder what happened these last few months...

Shazam! Back at school! Who knew it would come so soon? August 18, 1993. A new crop of would-be acquaintances (freshmen) show up a few days later. Fireworks fill the sky. I'm back in LA LA LAND.

Home was great, but nowhere in America can a person find the opposite sex as easily as he can on a college campus. I did, big whoop; nothing to tell the grandkids about! (At the rate I'm going now, future grandkids aren't all that probable!)

I've learned quite a bit lately. (Wow, learning things at college... how odd!)

I've been taken on some great scholarly pursuits and some not so great but no less scholarly.

All the theories and formulas that have come my way somehow seem to disappear at least for now, but the many things I've learned about myself and about other people will last for a while.

I've contemplated a thing or two:

Why am I here? Why is anybody here? Am I doing the right thing? Am I treating people right? Is Rush Limbaugh a god?

The answer to the first two questions is: we are here doing what we are doing because without college degrees our lives would likely be dull and unfulfilling. I take the classes I'm taking and do the work I'm doing because it is the conventional thing to do, and who would dare to be unconventional?

A short time ago, I would have said that I learn for the sake of knowledge: knowledge is power. Well, I've changed my mind: knowing the right people is power. Don't let anybody try to convince you differently.

No. Rush is not a god. He's not even an angel.

The other two questions are universal to all

of us. Doing the right thing is not an easy choice. Sometimes, it's real hard to see consequences when choices must be made. But consequences when choices must be made. But consequences must be dealt with anyway. I've learned that there are even consequences of who I choose as friends - sometimes good, sometimes not so good.

I'd like to think that I treat people fairly, but sometimes when treated as you've been treated you realize the true significance of your actions.

One thing I've learned and am committed to is treating people right. Mom used to say, "You can't go wrong when you're doing right." Mom, she was right. I've definitely ended up in some painfully embarrassing and sticky situations when I wasn't treating people right.

I started the year out searching for friends. Mine seemed to have graduated last May. I wasn't really depressed, but I did feel a deep void in my life where special people had previously been.

I looked around and saw few possibilities. Who is gonna want to be my friend? I considered moving on and transferring if things didn't pan me up, but somehow they did.

I remember some very meaningful conversations with folks I had never spoken with before. Will, Matt, Dean, and I have all given me words to live by at one time or another. These words have changed me. They have made me calm and patient and not so idealistic as I've previously been. For those words I am very thankful.

To sum up what they have said is simple:

1. You can't hurry love and
2. Friendships just kind of happen.

I know what they mean, and I think I've made some new friends because of it.

# At-Ris

By Freda Bantl  
Hilltop Staff Writer

This semester the Mars Hill Service and Internships Program has been a busy one. Hill college student volunteers and middle grades in Mars Hill.

Laura Henderson, a Mars Hill student, was tutored this fall by Amy Webb. "The tutoring helped her make the A's," she said. "Being tutored helped her realize the true significance of your actions."

The program was designed to help the president of the college's Center for Community Service who want to become tutors during a three-week period, after v

# Tips On Shopping College

By Peter Alexander  
Hilltop Guest Writer

Long lines. The hustle and bustle. Congested parking lots. Fitting rooms. Layaway. Charge?

Christmas shopping has begun! Out to get the bargain, never missing a sale, search endlessly for the perfect gift. Often that is the problem with our shopping experience. We have to realize that the "perfect gift" isn't always available at the "perfect price" because there are so many alternatives.

**Guys:** When buying that special someone, the most important thing to remember is that the meaning and purpose behind the gift you buy is just as important as the actual gift. The gift to the lady in your life should be practical yet meaningful. Just because a gift is inexpensive does not mean it has to be trivial.

**Girls:** When considering that special man in your life, think of the time spent in buying the gift in relation to how much the gift will actually be used. Again, practical is a key word. Also consider "the fun" derived from your gift. Most great gifts are new toys, ready to be played with now and discarded later. Give him something that will last and

Dwayne A. Kennedy's

## Eye On The Storm: Health Care Update

November 29, I attended the Health Care Forum at Pack Place in Asheville that was sponsored by Interim Health Care and had Congressman Charles Taylor present to address concerns relating to the Clinton Health Security plan. During this forum, Congressman Taylor stated his position and had a member of his staff explain the Clinton plan to those in attendance. At the conclusion there was a brief question and answer period when Congressman Taylor asked members in the audience about their concerns and questions in regard to health care.

First of all, this forum seemed to be not very informative and was heavily biased with Republican rhetoric. Congressman Taylor stated "We have the best health care system in place in regard to quality and affordability." This in the face of an ever-increasing number of people that cannot afford health care and health insurance.

Let me give you some figures directly from a pamphlet Taylor provided during his forum. It states that in 1989, 33.4 million Americans were without any form of health insurance. Well it is 1993 now, and believably, that figure has risen significantly to 37 million. Seventeen million of the uninsured are job holders in 1989; these folks tend to be small business, self-employed, part-time, or seasonal workers. Unfortunately, 40% are under the age of 25.

Over 3 million have family incomes of \$50,000 or more each year and 6.2 million have family incomes between \$30,000 and \$50,000. If you add up the figures provided, you don't even get 33.4 million. His proposal for improving health care was to possibly expand the eligibility requirements for those people receiving Medicare or Medicaid benefits. Of course he never mentioned where the funding for such an expansion of these programs would come from.

We need some type of basic health care insurance for all

Instead of attacking the Clinton plan, try to come up with a better alternative. Let us attempt to get beyond our own selfishness and truly try to help those in need. The era of greed, selfishness, and power is dead.

citizens to help control costs. It is when people do not have that type of insurance and then get ill that costs us so much through shifting to those of us that do have health insurance. That is why aspirin in a hospital may cost \$6. Another misleading fact in the pamphlet is that it states, "Not having insurance is a temporary situation for most people: 51% are uninsured for less than 6 months; 72% are uninsured for less than a year. If this were true, who gave the figures? Everyday you pick up a paper and read about more layoffs coming. Yesterday, Boeing said it would lay off an additional 3,000 people in addition to 17,000 previously laid off employees. No, Congressman Taylor, this problem is not going away any time soon and something needs to be done to protect honest, hardworking people with some type of basic health insurance coverage. This is the only way we can truly control costs and make health care more accessible and affordable to all.

Instead of attacking the Clinton plan, try to come up with a better alternative. Let us attempt to get beyond our own selfishness and truly try to help those in need. The era of greed, selfishness and power is dead. It would be refreshing if our Congressmen had a grasp of the facts that surround this complex issue of health care and not just a bunch of meaningless rhetoric. We deserve a better than that from our elected officials.



# Publication Schedule for Spring 1994

Issue #	Deadline	Distribution
8	1/21/94	1/27/94
9	2/4/94	2/10/94
10	2/18/94	2/24/94
11	3/4/94	3/10/94
12	4/1/94	4/7/94
13	4/15/94	4/21/94
14	4/29/94	5/5/94

All submissions are due by NOON on deadline days and are to go under The Hilltop office door or to PO Box 6148 by Noon on that day.