

The Hilltop



Mars Hill, N.C. 28754

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McLain Family Band to Play at Moore

The world-renowned McLain Family Band is presenting a concert of bluegrass music in Moore Auditorium on March 24, 1980, at 8:00 p.m. "Bluegrass music, first and last, is fun," say the McLains, and their family band's growth shows it. The McLain Family Band got its start when Raymond W. McLain was fourteen years old and wanted to learn to play the banjo. His father, Raymond K., thought it would be more fun if they learned together. Eventually, though, Raymond W. proved to be more adept at the banjo than his father, and Raymond K. switched to guitar and accordian. Raymond W. also learned to play the fiddle, mandolin, and guitar. Daughter Ruth, who plays bass and madolin, and Raymond W.'s wife, Beverly, who plays bass, mandolin, guitar, and banjo, added their strengths to the tight bluegrass sound of the McLain Family Band.

This family band has been traveling and performing nationally for over eleven years. During eight foreign tours in the last nine years, the McLains have performed in sixty-one countries, from Afghanistan to Zambia. They have just returned from a five-week tour of Africa, representing the United States with their music in Rwanda, Zaire, Central African Empire, Congo, Benin, Liberia, and Morocco. They have delighted audiences for arts councils, universities, bluegrass festivals, jamborees, conventions, and fairs in forty-three states from New York to Hawaii and from Alaska to Florida.

The band has carried its exciting bluegrass music to places as varied as the Kennedy Center, The Grand Ole Opry, and N.B.C.'s **Today** show. The McLain Family Band has even been featured forty-eight times with symphony orchestras, including those of Cleveland, Louisville, Asheville, Kingsport, and Cincinnati. They have recorded seven albums for Country Life records.

According to Raymond W. McLain, "Bluegrass music is a genuine American folklore which inherited the vigor of its many origins — the sincerity of the Anglo-Saxon ballad, the hoopla of the minstrel show, the sociability of the singing game and square dance, the loneliness of cowboy life, the sass of ragtime, the fervor of the camp meeting, and the pathos of the blues. Bluegrass music embraces all of these components with the warmth of a family reunion." The **Deseret News** says, "When the McLain Family Band comes to town, it's like having your favorite uncle arrive all the way from Berea, Kentucky, with your very best cousins."

The entire program is sponsored by the Visiting Artists and Lectures Committee - chairman Bob Kramer - as a part of their continuing Lyceum Series. Assisting the Visiting Artists and Lectures Committee are the Appalachian Scholars who will give a dinner for the band at 5:30, March 24. At 3:30 on March 24, the band will be at the Country Boutique presenting lectures and various jam sessions with their different instruments. All students are urged to stop by and participate in the festivities.

Following the 5:30 dinner will be the 8:00 program in Moore Auditorium in which the Bailey Mountain Cloggers will be featured. The clogging team has recently returned from a tour of Florida during January term where they gave sixteen lively performances to high school and college audiences. The group consists of Kelly Vaughn, Cheryl Hall, Mark Moore, Dean Dalrymple, Ron Andrews, David Glover, Brenda Snyder, Roger Ball, James Anderson, Faela Maney, Carolyn Guinn, Mark Harris, Stormy Honeycutt, Sherry Beck, James Wagner, and Jane Criminger.

Tickets for the McLain Family Band concert are \$3 for the general public, \$2 for the faculty, \$1 for MHC students, and \$1 for children under 12.

Anita Keller



Raymond W. Beverly Ruth Raymond K.

Rock 'n' Roll January

This past January term a new class was offered on campus, "Psychology of Rock 'n' Roll", under Dr. Hal Hergog. The class explored the beginning of popular music starting with Blues and working up to present day Disco. Outside activities were also carried out by the class such as films on Janis Joplin and Jimmy Hendrix, lectures on Bob Dylan, and the history of jazz; a radio show for WVMH and a popular music survey presented to various students on campus. One purpose for these activities was to enable persons outside of the class to share in our experiences. The response to these activities was fairly successful and it was felt that the results of the survey would be of interest and possibly useful to some of the committees on campus.

The survey was designed to ask students opinions about music preference, college concerts & dances, the college radio station - WVMH, parents attitude toward the type of music they listen to, and what type(s) of musical components they owned. It was found that the majority that responded to the survey chose rock (46%) as their first musical preference followed by pop (21%) and disco (14.9%). As for the music they prefer to listen to least, classical (28.2%) lead the way followed by religious (21%) and country (17.3%). An overwhelming majority expressed the fact that they felt the college did not have enough concerts (88%) or dances (64.5%). If left with a choice most would prefer more smaller concerts throughout the year instead of one large concert per year. Criticisms by most students of the concerts were that there were too many unknown groups, too much hard rock,

the sound system was not good enough and the audience was too wild and unruly. Major criticisms of the college dances were that there were not enough live bands, dances are not publicized enough, they end too early and they should be in nicer places.

Also discovered in the survey was that of those polled the majority of the respondents either did not listen to the college radio station (35.9%) or only on occasion (28.5%). Reasons given for this were that the DJ's were not professional enough and played more of the music they preferred to hear instead of what the campus as a whole would enjoy. It was also expressed that too much disco and hard rock was played, but not enough religious and classical. Some of the improvements suggested by students were that the DJ's should be given some training, the sound system be improved and play more music that the majority would listen to. It was also found that when asked if their parents objected to the music they listen to, 89.9% of the respondents replied that they did not. The survey also asked each respondent to check which musical components they own. The findings were: AM radio - 91%, FM radio - 93%, Turntable - 70%, 8 track tape player - 63%, Cassette player - 49% and Reel-to-Reel - 6%.

It is hoped that this information can be of help to campus committees involved in these areas and that this survey has helped the students express their desires for change and if nothing else improvements that can be made. We wish to thank all of those who participated in this survey and hope that they feel their opinions have been expressed.

Dianne Pell

Barrash to Speak at MHC

Dr. Tom Barrash, Professor of Zoology and Psychology at the University of Washington in Seattle, is the leader in a new controversial field — sociobiology — that believes in genetic and evolutionary bases to human social behavior. He will be at Mars Hill College Tuesday, March 25, for a public lecture at 8 p.m. in Belk Auditorium as well as meeting with biology, zoology, and psychology students during the day.

Dr. Barrash, a native of New York City, earned his bachelor's degree from Harpur College in Binghamton, N. Y., and his master's and Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin. At the very young age of 33, he has published over 80 scientific papers in this new field, as well as authored the books "Whisperings Within" and "Sociobiology and Behavior" which have become standards in this new field. He has been invited to study at the Center for Advanced Studies of Behavioral Science at Stanford University, and has received numerous grants and fellowships from the National Science Foundation as well as other agencies.

Sociobiologists postulate that there are genetic and evolutionary reasons for human as well as animal behavior. Among other facets of behavior this includes roles, the psychological differences between males and females, parent-child interactions, and even aggression and racism are rooted in genetic and evolutionary history.

Dr. Barrash's appearance at Mars Hill is sponsored by the Mellon Scholars lecture series. This program of outstanding speakers is funded by a \$140,000 grant received from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York to provide new learning experiences and enrichment for the entire community. Dr. Barrash's lecture at 8 p.m. is open to the public at no admission charge and will feature time for questions and answers and discussion of his lecture.