

HILLTOP

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President Launches Development Campaign

by **Ma Starnes**
Editor

A five-year, \$10 million development campaign designed to propel Mars Hill College into the twenty-first century was officially launched Sept. 1 at the President's Convocation in Moore Auditorium.

In a slide presentation, President Bentley outlined the 15 projects of the campaign, the first phase of which is the construction of a new chapel next to the Harris Media Center.

Ground breaking for the new chapel will be October 31, during the coming year, with construction slated to begin April 1. During the presentation, Dr. Bentley announced that the Broyhill Foundation has donated \$370,000 to cover materials for the new building, and the Baptist Men of North Carolina have volunteered their labor for the project.

The second phase of the plan involves the construction of a new cafeteria behind the library. After exploring the possibility of renovating the existing dining hall, it was determined that a new facility could be built for \$1,750,000, significantly less than the cost of renovation.

Dr. Bentley said construction was projected to begin next summer, dependent on the availability of funding. So far, \$350,000 has been committed to the project by approximately half of the college's trustees and a quarter of its advisors.

The present cafeteria will be converted into a new library with double the capacity of the existing one, Dr. Bentley continued. Cost for the renovation, including a 10,000 square foot addition, is estimated at \$1,750,000.

In addition, Dr. Bentley said that the college wishes to establish a permanent endowment fund of \$1,000,000 to enrich library resources. Included in the present campaign is \$500,000

toward this goal.

The present library will be converted into a Continuing Education Center which will provide adult education students with an on-campus experience as well as house the Division of Education. The cost of the renovations is estimated at \$800,000.

Other projects of the plan are:

- The renovation of Marshbanks Hall at a cost of \$250,000. When refurbished, the building will house the Division of Business Administration and Economics.
- A \$150,000 parking deck behind Huffman Dormitory.
- The conversion of three large music studios in Moore into a permanent art exhibit area at a cost of \$15,000. The construction of the gallery should start next summer, Bentley said, due to \$25,000 received for the project from the Wisenblatt Foundation of Asheville.
- A goal of \$200,000 for the purchase of equipment for each academic department.

Repairs for health, physical education, recreation, and athletic (HPERA) facilities, Wren College Union, and Cornwell Hall at a total cost of \$175,000.

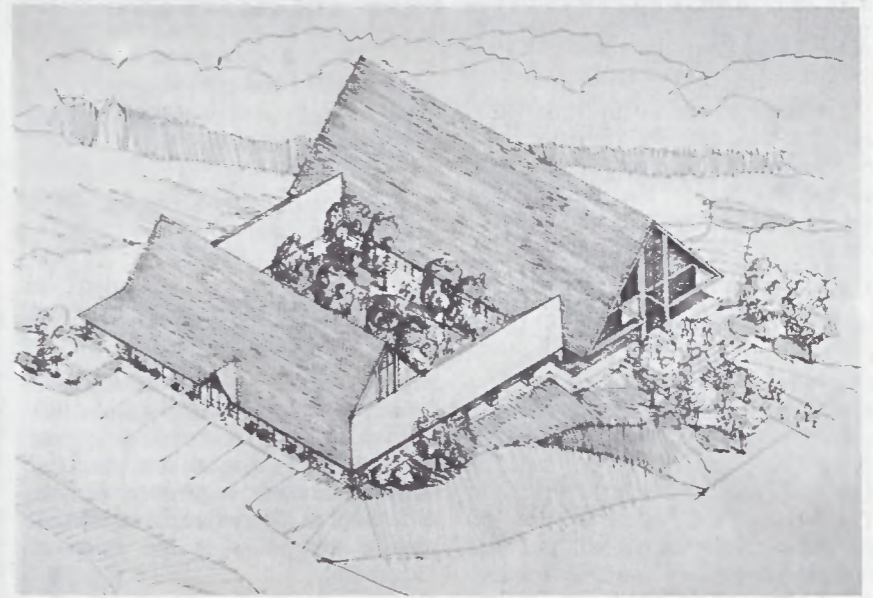
— A yearly goal of \$200,000 from the Annual Fund, the alumni fund drive, needed to meet the college's \$175,000 capital debt.

— An addition of \$3,000,000 in scholarship money. Dr. Bentley announced during the convocation that his money was already "in place" through a contribution from an anonymous donor.

— The completion of the computer center in Wall Science building at a cost of \$40,000.

In an interview prior to the convocation, President Bentley said the five-year campaign marks a new focus for the college.

From 1982 to 1986, the college was in a maintenance position due to a



Drawings by Architect John Rodgers of the proposed new chapel.

decline in enrollment, Dr. Bentley said. During this period, the financial picture of the college was stabilized, the curriculum organization was changed from departments to divisions, and a new Vice President was hired who instituted the new General Studies Curriculum.

Now that these changes are in place, the college will move ahead in

a new direction with the five-year development campaign.

On a personal note, Dr. Bentley said he wanted his remaining years at Mars Hill College to be progressive ones.

"I did not want to sit on my thumbs for the next ten years. I want my successor to inherit a terrifically fine school," he said.

A Look at Book Crooks

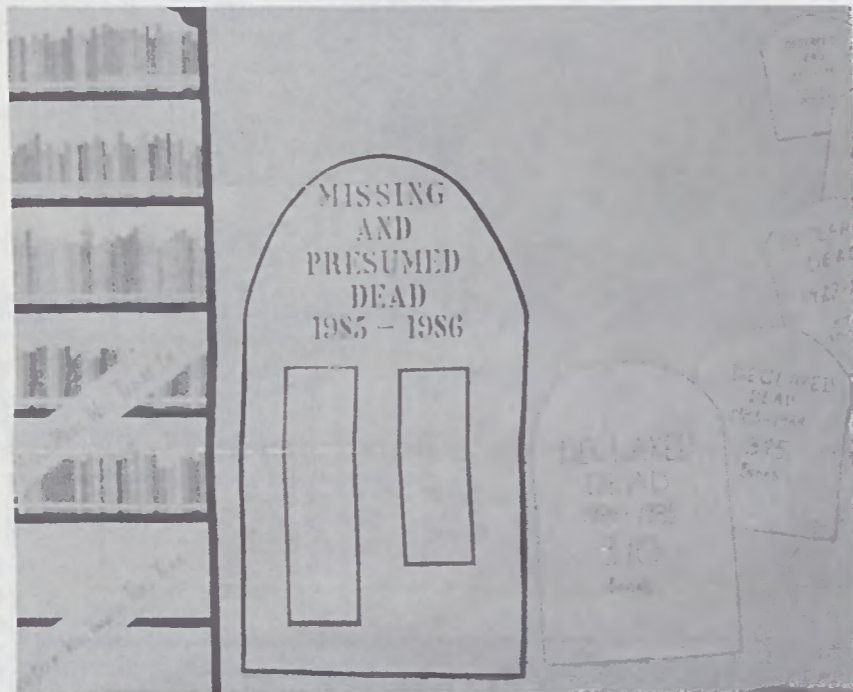
by **Laura Smithwick**
Staff Writer

"We have a book theft problem," says librarian Kelly McBride. Behind the door looms a shocking display representing hundreds of books which are missing in action and presumed dead. The problem of book-stealing is a costly one, and, McBride adds, something we don't expect to solve.

Numbers on tombstones in the library display show book casualties in recent years:

- 1978-1979: 578 books
- 1979-1980: 574 books
- 1980-1981: 578 books
- 1981-1982: 360 books
- 1982-1983: 572 books
- 1983-1984: 375 books
- 1984-1985: 310 books

Last year 412 books were missing, and 314 disappeared the year before. Missing books are only replaced at a rate of about five percent. Tuition doesn't directly suffer; book theft results in students' loss. Last year, over two thousand books were new to the library through purchases and gifts. That number is the highest yet in a year before having been thirteen (fourteen hundred), but McBride points out that taking missing books to account, last year's net gain was under sixteen hundred. Sometimes books are replaced two or three years in a row, but they disappear each



Memorial Library's "Dead" Book Display.

time. There is no system of replacement, so even classics may not be available. One sad example: Memorial Library has not had a copy of *Jane Eyre* for two or three years.

Ironically, religion books vanish more often and faster than any other kind of book. "You expect the religion majors to have more ethics," remarks

McBride. Books of all kinds disappear, however, and students of all majors take them.

Mars Hill is the only North Carolina Baptist college without an electronic library security system, but plans are made to have one here before the end of this school year. Vandalism may increase when the new system is installed, since it will be somewhat harder to steal entire books, but library officials hope the system will significantly lower book theft.

Vandalism is currently a particular problem with magazines and journals, which are the items most difficult to replace. Articles are ripped out instead of xeroxed, and sometimes whole magazines are stolen. McBride says of vandalism, "It's beyond logic," and "it shows an intrinsic lack of respect for fellow students."

A few missing magazines will show up again, and so will some "presumed dead" books, but most of the missing works are gone for good. Some are spotted in trashcans, and some are found in dorm rooms at semester's end and returned by housekeepers. Some are not missing at all — just covered by other books on the shelf. Then there are those that fall from the library windows for later secret retrieval.

Those books presumed dead are artfully listed in the colorful display, which is certainly worth a trip to the library. In addition to the attractive layout, a look at the titles of some dead books will prove quite interesting: *Introducing Christian Ethics, Behavior Modification, and Delinquent Behavior*, to name a few.

Community Life Program Underway

by **Allen Kromer**
Staff Writer

As Allan Bloom writes in "The Closing Of The American Mind," "Every educational system has a moral goal that it tries to attain and that informs its curriculum. It wants to produce a certain kind of human being."

The goal of producing "a certain kind of human being" has not been overlooked by the faculty and administration of Mars Hill College, and measures have been taken to instill desirable characteristics in the student body. One of the major changes in the college curriculum is the newly instituted Community Life Program.

According to Mars Hill's Vice President and Academic Dean Dr. Donald D. Schmeltekopf, "the faculty decided a year ago that we should institute what we came to call the Community Life Program." The program is designed to foster a sense of community awareness and "to get our students more actively involved in religious and cultural events" he added.

One concern of American educators is the "overemphasis on the individual pursuit of interests being more important than the overall concern," Schmeltekopf said. "People are really just looking out for themselves" and colleges and universities, particularly church-affiliated schools, have an awareness and responsibility to work on this, he said.

"Since I've been here, I have heard many people say that we need to do something to get our students more actively involved in religious and cultural events," Schmeltekopf said that numerous cultural and intellectual events had been sponsored by Mars Hill College, but "the fact of the matter is, the students did not show up in very significant numbers."

To generate students' community awareness and attendance, the Community Life Program was conceived. Dr. Larry N. Stern, the coordinator of the program, said that the program resembles programs at Berea College and Meredith College but was modeled after the program at Furman University. Dr. Stern also provided a basic description of the program.

"It involves college academic credit of one semester hour for attendance at twenty cultural, religious, or intellectual events which have been

approved by the Curriculum Committee of the Faculty," he said.

Stern also added that "Major purposes of the program include intellectual enrichment outside of the classroom setting and a building of community here at the college by gathering a significant proportion of the faculty, staff, and student body at events of interest to the campus as a whole."

Students who graduate by December of 1988 will be exempt from the Community Life Program requirements, Stern said, but can gain an optional hour of credit for attending twenty events. Current sophomores and juniors must attend twenty events to obtain the one hour of Community Life Program credit necessary for graduation. "All students who entered as freshmen on or after June 1, 1987 will be required to earn two hours of credit through this program," he added. This means that freshmen will be required to attend forty events during their four years at Mars Hill College.

A significant rise in attendance at the first two chapel meetings indicates an initial success of the Community Life Program, but some students are critical of its implementation.

The heart of this criticism stems from the concept that the college handbook, "Emphasis," is a contract that the college should honor.

"I understand the perception that the catalog is a contract, but that is simply not the case," Dean Schmeltekopf said when confronted with the criticism. He explained that the college handbook serves to describe the college's programs, policies, and costs.

He also said that changes are necessary in the college handbook because if it were not changed, then the institution would be in a straight-jacket because of all of the different rules. He used changes concerning grading policies, attendance policies, and course and major requirements to illustrate his explanation.

While the controversy may continue among some factions on campus, the Community Life Program appears to have gotten off to a good start.

"I just hope they (critics) can at least see my point of view and that we really are thinking about their welfare in helping them become responsible members of society," Schmeltekopf said.

Featuring: Don Bradley

by **Ma Pardue**
Staff Writer

Although Mars Hill offers superb instruction in a classroom setting, much learning is done in the outside world. So many unique opportunities are available to students. And when opportunity knocked for the summer of 1987, Don Bradley, a senior sociology and religion major, answered.

Don spent his summer in Cincinnati, Ohio, living in a friary and working for Tender Mercies, a home for deinstitutionalized mentally ill. Each of these experiences left him with a new source of knowledge and personal power.

"When people come to Tender Mercies, they are most likely at the end of their rope. They can't take care of themselves. We had some residents that had been in jail, but jail is minimized for them. Jail is a warm place to sleep, food in their stomach, and it is free."

Don spent a lot of time working one-on-one with the residents, doing paperwork, and running errands. "Our

job was to provide the residents with a sense of community. Sometimes I worked on recreational activities. We went to the zoo one day. That was a lot of fun. At other times, I took the residents on personal errands. I just did whatever needed to be done."

But, the work was only half of Don's summer. His enthusiasm to learn left him with many new ideas and thoughts.

"Living with the friars and working

"I have learned that we have a great need for community and simplicity. You know, simplicity is a good thing."



Bradley discusses his summer experience.

in Tender Mercies changed my goals. I have learned that we have a great need for community and simplicity. You know, simplicity is a good thing. Life is more enjoyable when it is simplified. That gives you a chance to enjoy what is going on inside. We seldom get to do that. For example, the radio — everywhere you go there is a radio in the background. Why? We don't need that. It is because people are scared to listen to themselves. Sitting in a silent room is a difficult thing to do, but some amount of peace can be gained from it.

"I discovered the need to moderate. We don't need to lift up possessions as a good thing, because that implies that less is bad. Poverty is really frowned upon in the United States. We blame the poor for their own poverty. Because they cannot provide for themselves, we see them as losers and we expect them to fail. That strips away their dignity, and they begin to fit into our expectations."

By spending his summer with the suffering and the poor, Don found himself being drawn closer to God.

"Christ came to be among the poor. Today He is present in the suffering. Therefore, we as Christians should be associated with what the world calls weak. I tried to do that. Suffering is not a bad thing. Through suffering we find the grace of God. If I was able to make one person feel better about himself, then I have taken one more small step towards spreading the grace of God."

In spite of the injustice and corruption that Don saw this summer, he came back to school with a renewed attitude of love and a strengthened sense of grace. "The big thing for me now is Christian love. We aren't just a collection of individuals responsible only for the betterment of ourselves. We are a community of persons responsible for one another."

INSIDE

Editorials	p. 2
Just the Facts	p. 2
Reel Talk	p. 3
Football	p. 3
Crossword	p. 3