

# HILLTOP

Vol. 61, No. 4

Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, North Carolina

Friday, October 30, 1987

## Syllabusters: A Real World Experience

Two weeks ago the relative quiet of a Friday morning was disrupted by a group of disgruntled students who staged a strike in front of Marsh Hall. Protesting signs reading "Syllabusters Aren't Afraid of No Teacher's 'Trash First Test'"; and "Management is Slack," members of the Mars Hill Labor Relations were protesting what they felt was an unfair syllabus. Components of this syllabus included quizzes with 50 multiple choice questions, 10 short answer questions (paragraph), and five take-home essays to be answered with an average of approximately 1000 words; 20-page term papers; and a final exam of 200 multiple choice, 20 short answer, and ten 1000-word essay questions. A five-point grading scale was given. Students were further required to attend an extra three-hour class each Thursday night and to adhere to a strict dress code: men sport coat and tie for men and jacket for women. An absence from class meeting would lower the course grade one letter. In the midst of the melee, Dr. McKenzie stood on the steps of Marsh Hall with a smile on his face. "We're protesting unfair demands," said striker Pam Stafford. "We're not

They've redeemed themselves from the lousy strike Wednesday," he said. Explaining that the strike was a "real world exercise" for the class, Dr. McKenzie said he gave the class an impossible syllabus on purpose, with the provision that it was negotiable.

being unreasonable. We expect an education, but what he's doing is ridiculous. We're willing to work and give our fair share, but he has to do his part."

"It's unfair," fellow striker Dee Dee Guiles added. "Management got a twelve-point curve (on the first test),

ty car. Meanwhile, management and labor were busily negotiating in a basement classroom in Marshbanks. Two days earlier, an agreement had been discussed by labor and management representatives. This compromise called for a ten-point grading scale; four quizzes instead of three, without the take-home essays; one term paper; an end to the extra Thursday meeting; a reasonable absence policy; and the abolishment of the dress code.

After discussion, members of the union (who by this time had bailed themselves out of jail) were called in to vote on the agreement. In order to pursue the exercise further, the new agreement was out-voted 10 to 3. At this point, management informed the union that the contract was binding regardless of the vote.

Dr. McKenzie explained that Wednesday, a mediator worked with management and labor representatives to reach an agreement. But, he said, since the union failed to approve the contract, an arbitrator would be called in to decide the issue.

Naming himself arbitrator to illustrate the point, Dr. McKenzie declared the agreement binding and said any further strike would be wildcat — and subject the participants to dismissal. As a further bonus, he said the first test, graded under the old syllabus' five-point scale, would be reevaluated using a ten-point system.

**"We're not being unreasonable. We expect an education, but what he's doing is ridiculous."**

"Some things (on the syllabus) were illegal, some were contrary to school regulations, some were contrary to my regular practice. The class had a basis for legitimate argument," Dr. McKenzie said.

In preparation for bargaining, the class was divided into two sections, management and labor. Students had to "dig out" of the book the correct way to organize a union. Judging from the strike, they took their roles seriously.

"We're protesting unfair demands," said striker Pam Stafford. "We're not

not us. We've tried fair collective bargaining for two or three weeks, but he turns down everything we say. We'll strike until we get our point across."

The strike was further given a real-life feel when Chief of Security Steve Woodson arrived to enforce a ruling for the strikers to disperse by acting "judge" Charles Pressley. Unfortunately, two of the strikers, Ken Orsilo and Mike Davoren, were arrested for trespassing. And in a show of unity, the rest of the strikers went with them, everyone piling into the securi-



Strikers protest McKenzie's class.

## The Hope of A Tree

Smithwick  
Writer

that I shall never see  
a lovely as a tree,  
whose hungry mouth is prest  
t the earth's sweet flowing  
the humeast;  
e and that looks at God all day,  
es, the Nets her leafy arms to pray;  
(NSF) pl that may in summer wear  
685 new of robins in her hair;  
wships whose bosom snow has lain;  
three-ventimately lives with rain.  
ellowsh are made by fools like me,  
y God can make a tree.  
— Joyce Kilmer



The infected elm was diagnosed by a "tree doctor" from Hendersonville, NC, who said it should be removed as soon as possible and either burned or buried to prevent the disease from spreading to two other elms nearby.

James Garland, of Garland Brothers Tree Service in Bakersville, NC, said his firm would haul the tree's leaves and limbs to the county dump to be covered, and another firm would come to remove its stump.

Garland's second cousin, senior Kathy Burleson, lamented, "I guess all things must end, even beautiful

things," as she watched the workers saw the branches.

From the infirmary door, Mrs. Coomer looked on and commented that the tree was "an old friend. I've been here fourteen years, and I've watched kids sitting under it and seen the birds build their nests in it. The only positive thing I can say is I can see Mount Bailey now."

Junior Scott McKinney said of the tree's removal, "I hate it!" and senior Wendy Collins said, "It's been my tree."

Although many students felt saddened with the loss of the elm, freshman Mike Free remarked, "Mars Hill is cutting away the old, diseased part to make way for the new."

Walter Smith, Director of Public Information for the college, commented on the background of the tree. He explained that Dr. Robert Lee Moore, the first president of Mars Hill College, moved to the campus from his Caldwell County home in the summer of 1897. There were no paved streets or sidewalks and few buildings, and one of Moore's priorities for the school was beautification. At that time, plants were ordered by mail from nursery stock companies, so Moore ordered shrubbery from a company in Tennessee.

The author of the Mars Hill College history book *From These Stones*, J.A. McLeod, related to Smith that there was a sprig of elm in the soil with the shrubbery when it arrived. Moore planted the sprig, and it grew into the beautiful elm Mars Hill had enjoyed for generations.

Mrs. Pat Smith, Assistant to the Associate Dean/Registrar, was especially sad to see the tree go. The view from her office in Blackwell had always included the spreading elm. She said, "I'm happy for the memories of the tree and of Dr. Moore, both of whom contributed significant beauty to the Mars Hill College campus. Let's look forward now to replacing the tree and making new memories."

Plans for a tree to replace the elm are being considered, according to Walter Smith, and the community can have hope of a tree.

"For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease [Job 14:7, KJV]."

## Homecoming 1987

Lisa Ramsey  
Staff Writer

This year's Homecoming theme, "And now for something completely different," is one organizers hope will help spark the creative spirits of MHC students. Chip Scott, Director of Student Activities said that he hopes this theme will help those entering the contest for best parade project think of new, interesting ideas.

Several "Spirit Week" activities were planned by the Special Interests Committee of the Union Board to initiate Homecoming. Students showed their homecoming spirit by participating in a week of spirit-raising activities prior to Homecoming week-end.

Monday, the Lion Growl, including a pep rally, skits, and more spirit activities was held in McConnell Gym. Tuesday was Tacky Tuesday on which students were to wear their worst. Wednesday was Time to get Cool Day — students wore hats and shades. Thursday was Beach Day on which participants were to wear jams and tees. Beach movies were shown in the Timberline. Friday was dubbed Blue and Gold Day.

Festivities continue Friday with the Costume Ball-Monster Mash from 8 p.m. to 12 midnight with music by S & L Sounds in McConnell Gym. A costume contest, prizes, and refreshments are planned.

Homecoming at MHC is a wonderful time for alumni and current students. Director of Alumni Activities Marsha Walker said. It gives them a chance to reflect on the changes that have been made at MHC and a special time to recall memories of their past school experiences. The '87 Homecoming has something for all MHC students, Walker said, but its primary purpose is to celebrate the alumni who have come home for reunions, entertainment, and other special events.

Homecoming officially gets underway October 30, with registration of alumni and guests from 1 to 5 p.m. in the lobby of Blackwell Hall. At 8 p.m. Friday night in Owen Theatre, the "1940s Radio Hour" will begin featuring the MHC Jazz Band. It will be an evening of theatre set in New York at a live radio variety show broadcast on Dec. 21, 1942. Admission to this performance will be by reservation only because seats are limited.

October 31 the activities will continue with the Athletes' "Hall of Fame" Breakfast in the Gold Room of Coyte Bridges Dining Hall at 9 a.m. This, too, is by reservation and is for former Lion Athletes and guests. The inauguration of Mars Hill's Hall of Fame will be done at this breakfast.

Walter Smith, Director of Public Information, wrote in *Emphasis*, Mars Hill's alumni magazine, "(The hall will) recognize and perpetuate the noteworthy athletic tradition of the college by honoring and memorializing individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to this tradition."

Another registration of alumni and guests will take place from 8 a.m. to 5

p.m. in the lobby of Blackwell Hall. Refreshments will be served in Peterson Center from 9 to 11 a.m.

Other Homecoming activities scheduled are as follows:

An alumni art exhibit will be shown from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Peterson Center by J. Craig Greene, Class of 1966.

At 10:30 a.m. the class reunions for the classes of 1942, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, and 1982 will meet in their designated places across campus. The class of 1937 will celebrate its 50th "Golden" Reunion and the former students in classes prior to 1937 will celebrate the "Golden Years." It will be a time of mixed emotions as the members of these classes meet again to reminisce and see their alma mater. They will remember how MHC was and discover the changes that have been made since they've been away. Each class has a reunion every five years.

The Homecoming Parade on Main Street will begin at 1:30 p.m. with participation by about half of MHC clubs and organizations who will ride floats, march, or participate in other projects to help celebrate our best homecoming ever. Anyone can participate in this event and is encouraged to do so.

The Homecoming Football Game, Lions vs. Wingate, will start at 2:30 p.m. in Meares Stadium. The ticket window will open at 10:30 a.m. The 1987 Homecoming Queen will be crowned during half-time.

At 5:30 p.m. or immediately following the football game, the groundbreaking ceremony for the college chapel will take place. The site for the event will be on the Marshall Highway adjacent to the Media Center.

A reception honoring the Broyhill and English families will take place from 6 to 6:30 p.m. in Harris Media

**"And now for something completely different."**

At noon, on the main floor of Coyte Bridges Dining Hall, an alumni luncheon and alumni of the year presentations will take place. Each year one man and one woman are cited as the alumni of the year of MHC. Mrs. Rudy Thompson Hooper of Raleigh, deputy secretary of the Dept. of Human Resources in North Carolina Governor James Martin's administration, will be cited as "Alumna of the Year" for 1987. She is from the class of 1943. Bruce P. Ellen of Augusta, GA, a chemical engineer who has been successful in a wide range of business enterprises, will be saluted as "Alumnus of the Year" for 1987. He is from the class of 1934. This event is also by reservation only.

Center. Admission will be by invitation from the President to Trustees, Advisors, Alumni Association Officers, and members of the Founders' Club and Heritage Club.

The Founders' Club Dinner in the President's Dining Room will be from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

At 8:00 p.m. in Moore Auditorium, "A Night at the Opry" will begin featuring Grand Ol' Opry performer George Hamilton IV, Carlton Moody and the Moody Brothers, and Gamble Rodgers plus the college's own Bailey Mountain Cloggers. As with other events of homecoming, reservations are required.

Continued on page 4

### INSIDE

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