

Need To Talk?

Chaplain Ernie Mills Is Always A Friend

by Makisha Gary
Clarion Staff Writer

If you are lost, and have nowhere to turn to, or seeking help from someone very understanding, or even have a problem on your hands and no one to talk to, you can always find a friend with Brevard College Chaplain Ernie Mills.

Born in Hendersonville, North Carolina, Ernie Mills arrived at Brevard College this past June, when he was hired as the Chaplain for the school. He wanted to leave the parish ministry for a while and try something different, so he came to Brevard and began to teach the survey course of the Old and New Testaments.

When asked why he became a teacher, Mills responded, "I like teaching subjects that have to do with the person, their spiritual growth, and things pertaining to a person's sense of meaning of life and their direction in life, and religion allows me to teach that."

Ernie has international students in his class as well as regular students who say they would not take religion if it was not required. He feels that if a person is not ready or willing to learn then it is useless. He quotes the phrase, "You can lead a horse to the water but you can't make him drink." There has to be a want.

On the other hand, he feels that maybe it doesn't mean anything to them now, but later on it will. It is important to learn the teachings of Christ. "To me that's universal, everyone can learn from that. No matter if you're Christian or not, you could learn that the way to live is to love yourself, love your neighbor, and love your enemies. That is what Jesus teaches," he said.

The purpose in teaching the course to international students is not to be evangelical. It is not meant to convert them. "The idea behind it is to help introduce them to Western culture, and that is what Western culture is based on: how the Bible perceives the world, reality, and life and the meaning of life," Ernie said.

Ernie is the most understanding person you can ever come across. Students have problems talking and relating to adults, because they feel that they do not understand or care. He identifies truly with our feelings, and he is not just another member of the faculty. He wants you to know that he is also a friend, someone to talk to or console in. He has a lot of compassion for students, and is always making time for them.

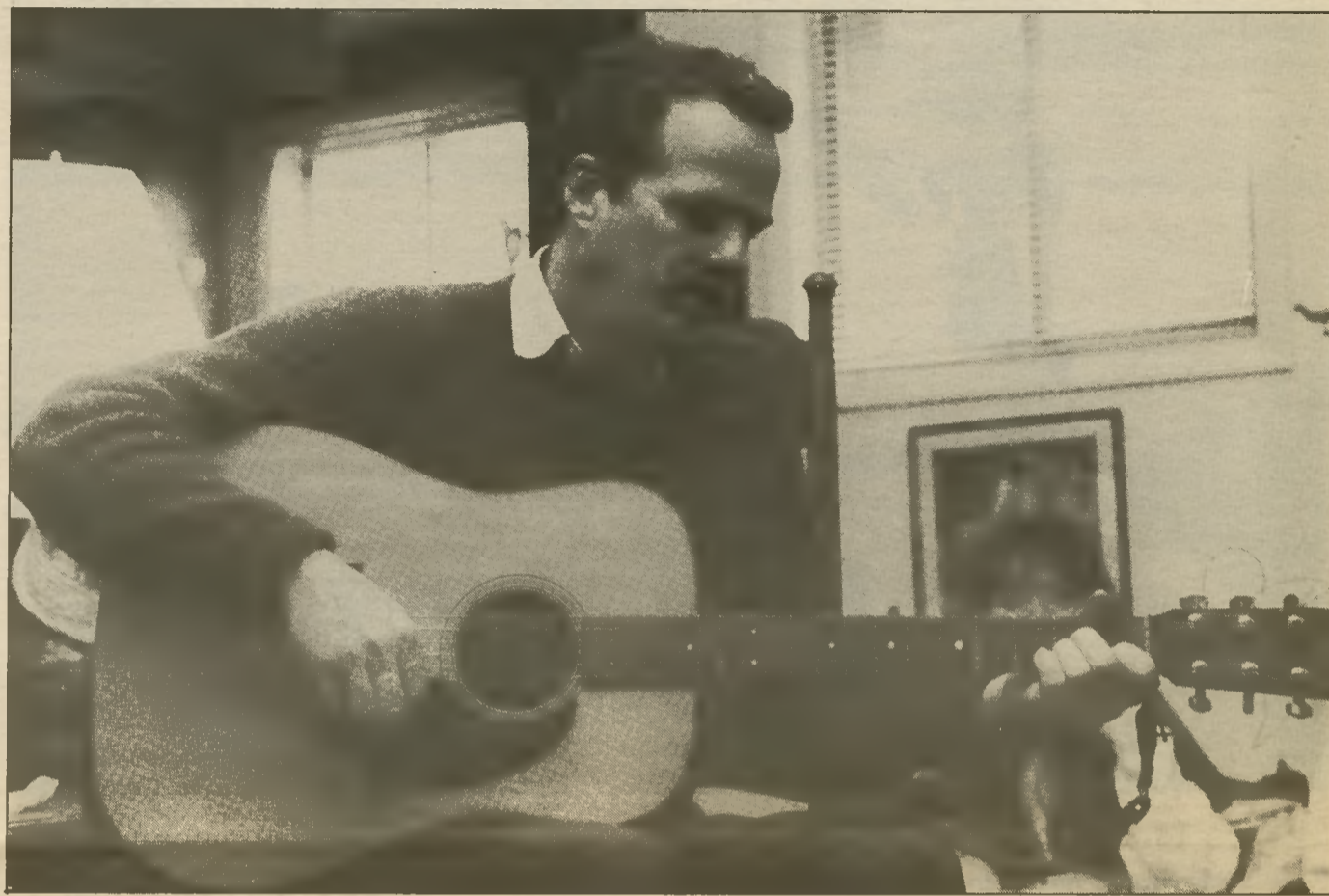
Ernie believes that responsibility is a major lesson that students should not only learn while in college, but for the rest of their lives. "We have this idea that education begins and ends at

college. Once you get your degree, your through learning and growing, and it is all just one small step along the way.

This just kind of supports and encourages you in your journey toward growing and learning, and to me that's a

major responsibility," he said.

Ernie holds a Wednesday Worship Service, and all are encouraged to attend.



Ernie Mills soothes souls with music, compassion, understanding and friendship.
(Clarion photo by Henry Stepp)

Survivor To Tell Her Story

Incest: Prevalent In Our Society

by Joanna Wilson
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Incest is a subject no one wants to talk about. But with more and more survivors disclosing their stories, it is a topic which can no longer be ignored.

Though definitions vary, according to a report in *Lear's* February, 1992, magazine, incest is "any sexual abuse of a child by a relative or other person in a position of trust and authority over the child." The abuse could be voyeurism and exhibitionism, masturbation, rape and sodomy, bestiality, and even ritualized torture in cults.

The horrendous effects of these violations can haunt the victims throughout their whole life. Many suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Symptoms of PTSD include amnesia, nightmares, flashbacks and disassociation (the feeling of leaving one's body).

In some cases survivors have been diagnosed with multiple personality disorders (MPD). Research suggests that

children who were victims of severe abuse may have developed one or more personalities or "alters" to cope with the trauma.

There are many other conditions that may be linked to childhood sexual abuse. Eating disorders, depression, panic attacks and various sexual problems are often prevalent in survivors. They may also become victims of rape or domestic assault. Often, without realizing it, some adult victims of incest may "recreate" the abuse for their own children by

becoming involved with an incestuous partner.

Incest is devastating. But, there is hope for those survivors who seek help. Experts tell us to listen to our children and become aware of the signs of abuse. We can stop childhood victimization if we just face the truth.

On April 21, Judith Godsey, a survivor, will share her story. She will be speaking in room MG118, from 8-9:30 p.m. This program is open to both men and women.

Spring Formal Cancelled

by Makisha Gary
Clarion Staff Writer

Brevard College's Spring Formal was canceled due to lack of student interest.

The Spring Formal dance was canceled because not enough tickets were sold. It was scheduled for April 17,

1993. It was to be held at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, N.C., from 9 p.m. to 1 p.m. A total of 50 tickets were needed to be bought in order for the Spring Formal to be held. Instead, there were only 18 sold. Since this was such a low number, it was decided in the SGA meeting on Wednesday, April 8, to cancel the Spring Formal.