

The Hilltop

PLAIN LIVING AND HIGH THINKING

Published by the Students of Mars Hill College

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What Shall We Choose?

Life is big. We cannot possibly grasp the whole of it in the few years that we have to live. We all want to make the most of it. How can we accomplish the most with what we have at our command? What is vital? What is necessary? Let us ask ourselves these questions today.

First, what may we let go? Who can say? By what standard shall we measure? Each of us must answer that question as an individual. We may find helpful guidance in this statement: "We may let go all things which we cannot carry into the eternal life." Why fill our lives with things which we can only keep for a limited span of time?

To begin with we may eliminate pretense. Whatever we really are, let us be that, in all clearness and fearlessness. We can rid ourselves of much fear and restlessness if we will rid our lives of all the false pretense that we now entertain. Let us hang life on the line, as the painters say, and look at it honestly.

We can also eliminate worry. Ruskin says, "God gives us always strength enough and sense enough for everything He wants us to do." One's environment may be very disagreeable, but this can be overcome. A good way to get into harmony with one's environment is to try to understand it first, and then begin to adapt ourselves to it, as far as may be possible.

Now for a few of the things in life that are worth keeping. We can make wise use of our time. Money lost may be regained and broken friendships may be renewed; but how can one call back the moment that has passed; or the day that has slipped by? Let us not try to escape our work, or fail to see it. Our very presence on earth is proof that God has work for us to do today. Along with this work will come happiness, love, friendships, and most important, faith.

I have only touched a few of the things that we may profitably let go and a few of the things in life that are worth keeping. May you use these suggestions to live as an inspiration, strength, and blessing to all whose lives are touched by yours.

—Paul Johnson

It's Our Job

"No sir, I'll have none of that! That's politics, and I wash my hands of the whole business." How many times have we heard these words, or others like them? How many people have we heard, people who would have fought anyone who questioned their one-hundred-per-cent Americanism, declare with self-righteous expression on their faces that they would not have anything to do with "those dirty politicians." And how very often have those same people been found complaining bitterly and constantly when state and federal governments were conducted in a manner which they did not like?

Every child who is educated in the public schools of the United States is acquainted with the Constitution and its major provisions. Almost every reasonably intelligent citizen of the U. S. knows that he or she has the power to place in responsible positions those who they believe would best conduct the affairs of those positions. Yet in every election—state, federal, or local—the proportion of those who register to the total number of eligible voters is shockingly low, and the proportion of those who actually vote, even lower. If the interest of the American people in their own government is so small, how can we expect to keep ourselves and our legislative standards free from the encroachments of such evils as Communism and Socialism?

As long as American government is in the hands of human beings, there will be a certain amount of corruption and personal gain in its political system. That the system is nevertheless fundamentally sound and right is the very rock upon which that nameless something, referred to as "the American way of life," is founded. A "hands-off" policy on the part of the citizens, therefore, is not the answer. Rather it is the responsibility of the citizen to see to it that this corruption is kept to an absolute minimum.

Should the people of America shun their responsibility as voters, government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" will become a farce. It is up to us, as citizens to see that our government is run by capable hands.

Witches Expected As Halloween Approaches

BOO! That may not scare you so much now, but in exactly one week, it should make the goose-flesh leap, especially if uttered by a seven-clawed witch with long stringy hair and a wild look in her eye. Girls beware! Halloween approaches!

Halloween, sometimes known as the All Hallow Even, the Nutcrack night or Snapapple night means hallowed or holy evening. This is the

Campus Portraits Are Unidentified

Who are they—These men and women whose pictures hang on the walls of the college library, society halls, and dormitories? Perhaps these people who in every case were instrumental in building and promoting Mars Hill College, go unnoticed by the majority of the students.

A tour of the campus beginning at Montague Library will reveal portraits of such people as Geter C. Pritchard, Thomas Lester Johnson, William Charles McConnell, McKinley Landers, John Robert Sams, and Dr. R. L. Moore.

Mr. Pritchard served intermittently on the Mars Hill board of trustees from 1885-1989 and continuously from 1898 to 1921. The Mars Hill debating society, which was the beginning of the present literary societies, furnished Mr. Pritchard experience in oratory which enabled him to become a prominent senator and a federal judge. He was instrumental in obtaining the first large contribution given to the college and throughout his life he remained a promoter of the college.

Others

Another liberal supporter of the college is Thomas Lester Johnson, prominent Lumberton attorney and board of trustees member from 1930-1943. From the time he made his first contribution to the present Mars Hill auditorium he has remained a most generous supporter and alumnus of the college. In 1920 he set a \$1,000 loan fund for students who need aid.

William Charles McConnell, Asheville businessman and member of the board of trustees from 1909-1936, was the leader in the drive for the gymnasium which bears his name.

On May 5, 1922, McKinley Landers was presented the first and only junior college diploma from Mars Hill, which became a junior college in 1921. He died one year after graduation from Carson-Newman.

A faculty member from 1868-1872, and a board of trustees member, John Robert Sams worked with his own hands in helping to remodel the first building on the Mars Hill campus so that the school could open following the Civil War. He also donated much of the material for the history of Mars Hill.

Hanging in the reference room of the library is an oil portrait of Dr. R. L. Moore. This portrait was painted by Miss Beulah Bowden, former art teacher. Dr. Moore is sometimes referred to as the second founder of the college. He and Mrs. Moore spent fifty years of their lives in service to Mars Hill and it is largely through their efforts that Mars Hill is operating today.

Portraits of Charles M. Palmer and Mrs. Palmer hang in Spilman parlor. Mr. Palmer was for many years a member of the board of trustees. Also in Spilman is a picture of B. W. Spilman and one of

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The Casual Observer

People who got as far as the feature page in most of last year's editions will recognize the change in the heading of this column from "Hill Topics" to the above. What you probably don't know is that it isn't new; it's a revival of the one used in the 1952-53 run of the *Hilltop*, when Gene Roberts was editor. Yours truly is inclined to dislike plays on the name of this publication, be they ever so clever.

Along the line of observing, there have been several observations made concerning the difficulty of the Spanish-speaking students on campus in picking up the fundamentals of class-room directions. Coach Hart's 10:30 hygiene class on Mondays and Wednesdays is having "mucho fun" at the expense of Enrique Hernandez. Try speaking Spanish, French, etc., during an entire class sometime and see what he's up against. Let alone understanding what is said!

The Observer watches with amusement the antics of the class featuring the latest addition to the girl's physical education program, field hockey. It reminds one somewhat of 22 enthusiastic basket-ball players moving up and down a hundred-yard long floor, each with a four-foot solid wooden stick in her hand, and each bent on either self- or opponent-annihilation. They say the sport is popular in England. No wonder her population is decreasing.

Initiations

The society initiations for both sexes were interesting this year, to say the least. Leap year came early, or was it Sadie Hawkins Day? Anyhow, the girls did most of the asking in the dating department, upon orders of fiendish C-II society members. Several of the boys became highly eccentric in dress, and yours truly was informed no less than six times that the number of squares in the cafeteria floor was exactly 1444. So?

The east wing in Edna Moore dormitory seems to be a gathering place for officers of all types. Two Nonpareil officers live on third floor, three hostesses are scattered along the wing, most of the house officers live there, and there are

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they must be put in a herbarium. The students then must tell various facts about the leaves. The fall botany students are having quite a time gathering their leaves. Wonder how the spring botany class will do on their project, since the leaves are young and tender then?

"WARNING!"

Students who are planning to submit creative material to the literary edition of the *Hilltop*, which will be published during the spring semester, should begin to gather ideas for their papers, as the deadline for material is set several weeks before the edition is published.

Creative material used in the literary edition includes essays, short stories, poems, descriptive pieces, etc. Articles and stories should be kept within a reasonable length.

Originality and individuality are the qualities most sought after in the pieces, and students should draw subjects for their material from their own experience where possible.

Leaf Gathering Is Popular Occupation

Have you wondered why "gangs" of students have been pulling all the leaves off the trees? Don't be alarmed; they're not crazy. They are only getting their botany assignment. All botany students must have thirty-five different species of leaves. In getting these leaves the students must know if the leaves are simple or compound; pinnate or palmate; height and name of trees; and where the tree is found.

Since the leaves are turning at this time of year, some students think that the colored poison oak and poison ivy are very pretty species of leaves. The students gather the leaves one day and the next morning wake up itching. Miss Brewer has dealt with quite a few cases of poisoning. Other students have turned their ankles; some have fallen down hills, and one boy fell out of a tree. Many accidents can happen in a project like this.

Just having an afternoon of rest, peace of mind, and walking in the warm sun is not all there is to this assignment. Oh, No! You must dehydrate and press the leaves in newspapers. The newspapers should be changed about every three days. If these leaves are not dehydrated in the right way, they will turn black, and mold, or dry out and break. After the leaves have been pressed,