

# The Hilltop

PLAIN LIVING AND HIGH THINKING

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## The Pyramid Of Life

Recently, I was reminded of a very good example of the framework of society as determined by the nature of people. I would like to share it with you because I definitely think it applies to us as students here at Mars Hill College. The analogy between a pyramid and a world of peoples, a community of citizens, or a class of students is very keen. The pyramid is a huge structure that was built by Egyptian rulers and Pharaohs where their remains could be safely kept. History tells us that the greatest of these, the Great Pyramid, covers thirteen acres at the base and rises about 481 feet above the ground. Rough stones were placed deep in the earth to give the structure stability; then, with each succeeding tier of stones, the size decreased as the word pyramid suggests. Polished stones set near the top gave the edifice dignity and enhanced the beauty of this massive resting place for the dead of the ancient Egyptian royalty.

Pyramids, in one sense of the word, are being built every day—not of stones, but by the choices that you and I must make. Yes, we are a part of a great pyramid here at Mars Hill. Have you been able to see the pyramid, or better still can you find your place in the pyramid? Maybe I am not making myself clear and should explain just what I mean by a pyramid here in our midst. First, let us consider the base of the structure which encompasses the largest part of our student body. We might call them the foundation because they seem to have no special ambition to climb higher. The only justification for their being is simply their contentment. In our group there are those who aspire to do great things. We recognize them as our campus leaders. They are meeting with varying amounts of success and we may consider them the walls of our pyramid because they give height to the building. Few if any of us may reach the ultimate goal or the top of the pyramid. This is the most coveted spot of all, and those who reach the top must be beautiful in character.

Now, just where do you and I fit in? It is essentially true that we can't all be the walls or peak of the pyramid because without a foundation pyramids just do not stand. If we are to be classified as the foundation, then we must be strong to make the structure secure. If we are just "walls" we must grow tall so that the structure can be seen above things that may obstruct the view. If we are the "top" we will shine as a beacon to those in search of a better way of life. Each element of the pyramid is important, and relying only on the mercy of the Great Architect we should resolve to be the best building block in the whole pyramid.

## Now Is The Acceptable Time

The time you have been dreading is now a reality and many of you are finding that you are delinquent in some of your courses. You knew the time would come, but you had hoped that the outcome would be different. Your first impulse is to be hurt, but let's analyze the situation. There are several things that may have caused your delinquency, and right now you are interested in finding the cause and making sure that there will be no "repeat performance." Perhaps you are trying to take part in too many extra-curricular activities and are subordinating your classroom assignments. Maybe you have not accepted the fact that you are on your own to make of your life what you have always dreamed it would be. There is also the possibility that you have not "found" yourself since you have been here. By that I mean that you are not taking your place as a good campus citizen should. Any one of these could cause you to make low grades, but somewhere out of the past you hear this echo, "You have not been studying and making adequate daily preparations." In most cases you will have to admit the truth in this statement.

Now what is the solution? First, talk your problems over with your advisers. They are willing, and want to help you! Next, I would suggest that you follow their advice, remembering that it's not too late to make improvements. "This is the acceptable time." The words of Paul are very timely here: "But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

## Our Glorious Heritage And Our Responsibility

"Education, when flavored with Christian principles, can change clay in its lowest sense into life in its fullest sense." This thought was presented to the Mars Hill student body on Founders' Day by Mr. J. E. Miller, Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of North Carolina. He and many other visitors came and saw and regretfully left Mars Hill that day, after commenting upon her glorious heritage and wishing that she may be, in her second century of progress, even more outstanding than she has been in her first.

These visitors were able to learn of Mars Hill for but a short while, and yet they sensed the "smog of Christian atmosphere" which permeates all activities on campus. We who are fortunate enough to live in, be influenced by, and become a part of this atmosphere know even better than our visitors how much like a "heaven on earth" our school really is.

Shortly, however, we know we will be leaving our place here to others who also will come to be "molded in the beauty of the grace" of Mars Hill. This knowledge should kindle anew within us each day a gratitude for the advantages which are ours, a determination to participate to the fullest in every activity offered us, and a resolve to dedicate all that we are and have to serving Christ while we are here.

We are the privileged few who are spending these "glad years" at Mars Hill College. It is for us that Mars Hill has been growing and planning for a century. As we leave, we will of necessity leave a part of ourselves here always, just as we will carry eternally a bit of Mars Hill into our every thought, word, and deed. The true test of Mars Hill ultimately will be what we who have "held domain" here go out and succeed in accomplishing for our Lord.

Mars Hill is here to make and mold us into the kind of persons and willing servants God would have us be. When we sing, "May our efforts through the long years they tribute bring," we are really offering a prayer to God that all our lives may manifest the spirit of love and sacrifice we have found at Mars Hill: the spirit which is from Christ and which can serve to make us more like him when we have fully surrendered our wills to his.

The opportunities for work, sacrifice and growth of the "glad years" here will never be ours again. If we fail to take advantage of them we will never have the opportunity to return and repair our mistakes. In the words of W. M. Taylor, "The wheels of Time's chariot have latches to them, and they move only forward."

## Language Teachers Attend Convention

Three members of the Modern Language Department, Mrs. L. L. Vann, Mrs. Gwendola Fish, and Miss Sadie Franks are in Charlotte this weekend attending a meeting of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Association of Modern Language Teachers. The convention in session consists of teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

## Faith At Work

By NANCY FANT

Sunday School had a record breaking attendance on Sunday morning, October 16. There were 538 present in the Young People's Department. If you were not one of those 538, come to Sunday School next Sunday and let's break our record.

There are many of you C-I's, and perhaps some of you C-II's, who do not know just what the Mission Council does. The work of the group is to sponsor the services held at Oteen Veterans Hospital, Cane River Prison, and Mount Olive Church. It is you who make these services possible. Won't you volunteer to go on the mission trips and help in the work of spreading the gospel of Christ? The Mission Council is very happy to report something new. There will be a representative from Brotherhood to go to Cane River on Sunday mornings. This year the Mission Council plans to sponsor more mission trips in the association, by presenting programs to different churches.

The Youth Temperance Council, under the leadership of Keith Gage, is planning a full program of activities for this year. Their program of work for the year includes the pledge signing campaign which has already been held, and pledges signed by 617. The Y. T. C. assisted in the opening exercises of the college Sunday School on Temperance Sunday. They plan to obtain a tract container for the distribution of helpful and informative literature, and to give a temperance play. The Council is planning for two study courses and at least two radio programs. There will be a press committee which will send releases to various newspapers. A temperance film will be shown; a deputation team will be chosen; and extension work in other towns and communities will be carried on by the Council.

### Where Were You?

Are you a warm weather Christian? From the attendance at Morning Watch lately, there seem to be quite a few such Christians on campus. At the first of the year, the average attendance at Morning Watch was around a hundred. Last week the average attendance was only 48. The theme for the week of October 31-November 4, is the theme for the B. S. U. convention, "God's World; My Life—Now." We are sure you will find the talks this week inspiring, as are all the services. Won't you get up and praise God in the early morning? There is no better way to begin the day.

The Ministerial Conference met on October 20, with Jim Harley presiding. The music was led by Harry Poovey, and Gerald Williams gave a testimony. The scripture was read by Jimmy Poteat. Lester Trentham was the speaker for the evening and entitled his message, "Tragic Problems of the Ministry." Comments and criticisms were offered by Vernon E. Wood, sponsor.

The Y. W. A.'s held their general meeting for October in the Owen Building on October 21. Martha Jo Wilson introduced a very interesting program on stewardship presented by Stroup Dormitory. Those taking part were Carolyn Griffin, Jane Wynn, Ann Vaughn, and Suzanne Mims. A solo, "Thy Will Be Done," was sung by Gail Colvard. Sandra Hickman presided with Mary Carolyn Grant leading the singing. The devotion was presented by Bettye Stroman. There were 41 present, with Stroup Dormitory having the largest number, 24.

## "Lute Song" Will Be Presented In Chinese Tradition

When "Lute Song" is presented, many people will have a hard time. All of the Dramateer Council members are working with drama classes. Thirty speakers are in the play and these are supported by sixteen extras. Crews for the play are made up of twenty-nine workers. This play has many people working with it. The director, Mrs. Elizabeth Wats, says "Lute Song" is a Chinese play and will be presented in Chinese tradition. The scenes will be changed twelve times by pretty men while the audience watches. The acting will be sized to some degree. For instance some of the ladies will walk taking tiny steps. The villains will stalk, and the pompous character will stride.

The make-up will be in line with the fact that not all Chinese people have yellow skin. The colors range from white to a yellow brown. The costumes for the play will be colorful, and the properties are to be as unrealistic as they are in Chinese plays.

The sound effects will include Chinese gongs and a storm. The music within the play is taken from ancient Chinese sources and from the Broadway production of "Lute Song." Mr. Robert Hillkins will play "Chinese Bagatelle" by Tcherpnin between acts.

The story of "Lute Song" is a sad one, but the text includes lines of Chinese wit and philosophy. This story of filial piety and tender love has a happy ending.

## Have You Read The Royal Box

The Royal Box by Frances P. O'Connell is a story of an English actress who is at the height of her career until on the night that she was to give her greatest performance her husband is murdered.

The entire plot of the book takes place in one night. It begins with a reception given before the performance honoring the actress. It is here that her husband is given poison in his food.

The plot progresses very rapidly as the police are called in to question each guest individually. This part of the book is outstanding because the author gives a detailed account of the questioning of each guest. She uses this to create interest and suspense in the novel. Unlike many mystery novels this also gives the reader an opportunity to unravel the plot and help find the murderer. Not until the last paragraph of the book is the true murderer revealed.

An American newspaper court several government officials, and the cream of society of London go together to create this suspense-filled story of London night life.