

Campus Atmosphere Distinguishes MHC

Every visitor, faculty member, and student that has witnessed the friendly attitude and the overflowing Christian spirit of Mars Hill College has been impressed by it. Even those among our student body who would rather be somewhere else agree that they could never hope to find a more amiable group of young people than are found here. Does the general spirit mean that we as individuals possess something that makes us different from students in other colleges? Does it mean that when the present sophomores or even the present freshmen class has departed, the spirit which characterizes the student body will be nil? We think not.

In other words, the student body of MHC could be dispersed into almost any other school, but the closeness that we now feel for our fellow-students would probably be lost. So it is quite obvious that the spirit of Mars Hill is chiefly due to the atmosphere which surrounds the college. Of what does this atmosphere consist? Mainly the high ideals of our schools are responsible for the brotherly love here manifested in actions.

Students Desire Changes

Lately there has been voiced by some students a desire for certain changes. If a poll were taken of the students who really have definite grievances it would possibly reveal a small percentage. Certainly all of us find it easy to criticize and advocate changes, but few of us allow our thoughts to dwell on these things enough to make us unhappy. But here is an opportunity to point out certain facts.

All conscientious students should have become aware of the standards upheld here so that when they signed their application blanks they were agreeing to accept these requirements as their own during their stay here. Also, any student who expresses the idea that he is not here by choice, but because of poor grades in high school owes the college a debt of gratitude above all others and has no right to complain if the institution that affords him the opportunity of a higher education. Think seriously about it.

Would you go to live with grandparents for the short span of two years, and try to change their way of living and doing things? Would you pretend to know more than those who have had years of experience in the "school of life?" Then what right do we have to spend two — all too short years at MHC and in this time try to revolutionize the school? There must be thousands of colleges that allows smoking, dancing, dating without restrictions, and such. Would it not be more simple and more considerate for the students who want this kind of college life to apply to one of these institutions and leave Mars Hill as it is, unique in high standards, for those of us who came here for just this atmosphere?

Smoking Among the Girls

Last week the student council held a meeting concerning the breaking of certain rules. Smoking among the girls was the particular offense involved. Several girls had been reported for smoking downtown. When approached, some of the girls stated that they thought the area was "off limits". It is not necessary to pursue this line of argument further — a little reasoning would surely tell anyone that we are representatives of our school, wherever we may be, during our two years here. And certainly it would have been better for the girls to have broken rules in their respective dorms, student center, or somewhere on campus rather than to allow the townspeople to witness their defiance.

When called to account, the girls exhibited an understanding attitude and a cooperative spirit that pleased the council. They seemed to realize (as we hope all inclined to criticize our decisions will) that the revoking of their privileges is for their protection,

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The HILLTOP wishes to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas. We hope that each of you will have a very pleasant and safe holiday.

Society News Christmas Observance Among African People

Eu and You

By John David McGee

Rhea Fletcher presided at the Dec. 9th meeting of the Euthalian Literary Society. Eu elections will be held immediately after Christmas.

Each Non and Eu is to be congratulated for the well-done job on Anniversary and Reception.

Clio Chatter and Phi Lights

Now that all the excitement of Anniversary-Reception Term is over Clio and Phi are beginning to get back into the regular swing of society. On December 2, a joint meeting was held in the College Auditorium. Jean Yoder presided, and Sandy Ragsdale and Wesley Boling were in charge of the program, which was "The Sound of Music" with Martha Compton, Bob Carter, Jayne Stephenson, Ray Luther, Richard Bennett, Ferial Forbus and the Clio-Phi chorus.

Sandy Ragsdale, Literary vice-president, presided at the regular meeting of Clio on Dec. 8. Wesley Boling, Literary vice-president, presided at the Dec. 9th Philomathia meeting.

Elections will be held the first meeting following the Christmas holidays. Each Clio and Phi is urged to be thinking about Forensics Term officers. Also everyone is reminded of the forensics contests which will be coming up soon.

Non News

Connie Edwards, Literary vice-president, will preside at the regular meeting of Nonpareil on Dec. 15. Emily Sodergren will be in charge of the program. Nonpareil elections will be held on January 5.

Each Non wishes to thank her Euthalian brothers for such a wonderful and cherished Anniversary.

rather than intended as arbitrary punishment. Whether the girls are old enough to smoke, or whether smoking is necessarily "taboo", is not the question at hand. The fact is that smoking is against the rules and will not be condoned!

We all look forward to receiving a diploma from Mars Hill because we know that it will be respected and recognized by any senior college. We know that it will represent us as graduates of probably the finest Christian college in the nation. And we must realize that each rule is geared to make Mars Hill what it is. —Contributed

Integration and the Future

During the Baptist State Convention held in Asheville recently a discussion on integration among the Baptist colleges in North Carolina was held. Several years ago it was decided by the convention to leave the question up to the individual schools if such an occasion arose. The seminaries have been accepting a few Negroes, but as yet no Negro has attended a Baptist College.

Ever since the Supreme Court made its decision in 1954 concerning segregation much trouble has been stirred up in various parts of the United States by both Negroes and whites. As time goes on the issue will become more and more prominent in national affairs, and it will be up to us, the present college students, to make the decisions. It is up to us as American citizens to read and listen to different views on the integration question. How is the issue going to affect national affairs? How will it affect foreign affairs, especially in countries where the Negroes are the most prominent race? How will integration affect the social life of the Americans. How will it affect you as a private American citizen? These are all important questions to be considered, and there are many more. Read newspapers, magazines, editorials, listen to news reports, news commentators and decide what your stand will be.

Strange as it may seem in this modern age, there are places in the world where civilization has not penetrated which we take for granted, such as the celebration of Christmas, are unknown.

Africa, a continent four times the size of the United States with a population of 180 million people, may in some places be called the "Dark Continent." There are people even in civilized nations of Africa who live in almost the same manner as their forefathers did two hundred or more years ago. For years the three great obstacles that kept the white man from entering and developing Africa were the Sahara Desert in the north, the rugged seacoast and breakers on the west, and the diseases that infected the continent. However, we can be thankful that at last Africa is rising to take its place among other continents.

The season of Christmas and the significance of the occasion are unknown to the majority of Africans. Instead, in Nigeria the year is saturated with seasons and days during which pagan rituals, ceremonial feasts, and sacrifices are held in honor of the four hundred or more gods worshipped in that country alone.

Human Sacrifices

In contrast to the giving of thanks by the Christians of Nigeria, the offering of human sacrifices is still observed in certain parts of the nation. Several years ago a two-year old girl was sacrificed in the town where the writer's parents are now living. Three native kings were hanged by the British government because of the deed; however, several attempts to kidnap children have since been made.

As before mentioned, Christmas is not widely celebrated in Africa. The only people who celebrate the season to any degree are the Christians; and they are relatively few in number. The only other exposure that most of the people have to

Christmas is through advertising campaigns conducted annually by many stores and business to the people through the idea that Christmas is on which to friends bottles wrapped up in

Though the Christmas is often Christian people honored and truest and purest Christmas Day in their church Christmas plays The giving of gifts is not very common the children and do go from house to house ever refreshments leave them.

Needless to say, Christmas in our Christmas trees of palm branches. The Nigerians stare at the decorations wondered aloud have gone crazy. give gifts to the work in and thus making these that Christmas annual event.

Christmas and self is still a feeble in a dark land. to extend its beam

Council New Bu

During the Christmas thoughts turn to one will be exchanging gifts with One of the best can express himself is by giving towards gives will truly by his generous gift. to remember that blessed to give the

The Mission real need of a new gon because the people just about run Church members, ons, hospitals and zations are anxious people to bring the more pur sage of Christ. Council does not of transportation people learn of love for them? brighten your others by giving sion buggy?

The Mission everyone a Merry a Happy New Year Christmas.