

Students-Faculty Relations Improve

Campus cynics may deny it but there is some progress being made in bringing about closer relationships between students and faculty members.

Some discussion of the subject has been aired at recent SGA meetings. One proposal advanced as a partial solution to the problem was for the establishment of a non-profit coffee house in the community where faculty and students can meet in formal conversations.

One committee of the faculty currently engaged in the institutional self-study leading toward accreditation has discussed the subject.

In other areas there is at least a recognition that there is need for and ought to be a closer relationship between students and faculty members.

The problem, brought on by increase in size of the student body and the faculty and by changing social patterns, is not an easy one to solve; however, it must be solved to at least a degree of success if Mars Hill is to be a Christian college.

Hard-pressed by paucity of funds to keep up with publicly-supported or heavily-endowed private institutions, Mars Hill and other colleges like it have to improve and emphasize those qualities which distinguish them from secular institutions.

What are these qualities? Christian atmosphere, high moral standards, religious environment—call them what you will, but they all seem to hinge upon the spiritual and academic caliber of the faculty. There cannot be a Christian college without a faculty of Christians, and there is some doubt that a faculty could call itself Christian which did not communicate its convictions and concern to its students.

This brings us back to the need for closer relationships between students and faculty members. In former times, when the student body was smaller and social habits were different, students were frequently invited into the homes of faculty members for informal occasions as well as for meetings. Perhaps this is not practical now days, but some practical substitutes are needed.

As indicated, this is not an easy problem to solve. It is one which students, faculty members and administrators must face individually and collectively.

You Can Help Too!

Separation of church and state is currently a topic of frequent discussion across our nation, especially as it relates to public schools; but look what the Republic of Ghana in West Africa is doing.

Ghana, a small nation about the size of Illinois or Oregon, has asked the American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society to provide half a million copies of the Bible in six languages for use as textbooks in the schools of Ghana.

Think what a howl of protest such a move would create in the United States. Ghana's president, Kwame Nkrumah, is not ignorant of the influence he and other leaders of the dynamic new nation can have on the population of 7,250,000, of which 2,250,000 are of school age.

They know that the people of Ghana, eager to learn to read, will be greatly influenced by the textbooks and other materials they use in learning; thus, a sort of double barrel blow can be fired by providing copies of the Scriptures for use as a textbook, the children can learn to read and they can be presented the Christian message at the same time.

There is one hitch, however; it's money! Cost of production and delivery of the Bibles will total approximately \$514,470. Ghana will pay 65 per cent, and the Bible societies will have to bear the other 35 per cent.

The American Bible Society's 1965 budget for its work in Ghana, although increased 100 per cent over 1964, is already over-spent. Thus, the organization is forced with the task of trying to raise its share through a special campaign of contributions.

This is where college students, faculty and staff come in. You can aid this worthy undertaking with a contribution—large or small—to the American Bible Society, 450 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y., 10022.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



OH, I THINK GOING TO COLLEGE IS GREAT— BUT DAD CAME UP LAST WEEK AN' SAID IF I STAY I'D HAVE TO TAKE SOME COURSES!

Letters to the editor ...

Editor's note: The following letter was published recently in the Winston-Salem Journal. A copy was sent to the Hilltop with a request that it be reprinted although Mars Hill College students have not engaged in demonstrations expressing opposition to American policy regarding Viet Nam.

"Fellow Americans: My name is David B. Simpson U.S.M.C. I am serving in Viet Nam.

"Tonight I was reading a newspaper and I read of the demonstrators and college students back home. I read where they were raising money to help the Viet Cong. If the people of America only knew what that did to the morale of the men here.

"We are in the rainy season now, and after you work in mud ankle deep all day, and stand in chow line to get food that isn't that good, you often stop and wonder why.

"Well, I can tell you why! "The V. C. are Communists and that is the biggest enemy the free world has today. We are over here fighting in this worthless country to keep them off your front lawn. Tonight you may sit down in your nice easy chair and listen to the radio, just turn on any channel and hear nice music or what you want.

"Here, we have our own station supported by the armed services. All others are Communists telling us we are going to die. We get so tired of reading of the demonstrators back home.

"Personally, I believe they are the most ignorant people in the world. To me, they can't be true Americans; no American would conduct himself in such a manner.

"Tonight take a good look at your children. How would you like for them to grow up under Communist rule? Well, I don't! I want mine to go to school and the church of their choice. As long as I can be sure that my family can live in a free world and my baby sister can attend the college of her choice, then I'll stay here and fight this war as long as it lasts.

"People, I'm 20 years old; I want to come home . . . all of us want to, but if you keep the attitude you have now, then all these men have died in vain. We need the moral support of our fellow Americans. You are Americans; never forget that fact; we over here don't."

Dear Sir:

Have you ever considered starting a classified advertising section and/or a lost and found column in the Hilltop? It seems to me there must be dozens of students and some faculty members who could utilize the paper to try to sell books, cars and high fi's or to rent rooms, trailers or houses or even to convey messages to friends on the other side of the campus. I know I've got several textbooks I'd like to sell plus some short wave radio equipment.

You might even find some students willing to pay modest classified advertising rates to solicit rides or riders, and others who would gladly pay to try and get back a pen or a book or perhaps an umbrella they had lost; however, I doubt you would have very many persons willing to pay to advertise something they had found.

Also, I wonder if the staff has ever considered a column of advice to lovers. "Dear Abby" makes good reading whether you're a lover or not!

(Don't use my name; somebody might think I'm kooky.)

A Tree

If through your window you can see
A single tree,
Its branches etched against the sky
In Winter and, as the days go by,
Its soft buds swelling till they burst in leaf
In May, with the season brief
Of bloom, then the long Summer days
Of cooling shade and happy ways,
Until October's red and gold
Proclaim the year is growing old—
If through your window you can watch
One tree all the year, and catch
Its beauty as the seasons change,
Life will not seem so sad and strange.

—Roman Gorski

WCC Columnist Raps Mars Hill

Editor's Note: A rather bitter column of complaint was published in "The Western Carolinian" of Oct. 22 under the byline of WCC student Bill Smathers. It is reproduced here for the benefit of Mars Hillians who have not heretofore seen it. Comments should not be addressed to the Hilltop but to the WCC publication at Cullowhee, N. C.

Because of events arising from this weekend's game with Mars Hill, that college is thinking of severing relations with Western Carolina. In my opinion, taken for what it is worth, this could only be for the better.

Mars Hill is a seat of consistently backward moves which have no place in the accelerated society of today's world. The fact that the school is endowed by a religious sect is immaterial. The administrators of that school should devote more time to the mental development of its students rather than to their moral development.

It is escapism from reality to allow students to smoke only in designated areas, and to specify the minimum distance to be kept between a boy and a girl. Anyone can walk down any street in any city or small town and see that such regulations will not work.

This is not only a concern of WCC, but of the other schools associated with Mars Hill as well. When a school tries to impose its standards upon another, even in visiting, then it is time to give serious thought as to the worth of having relations with that school. Let Mars Hill keep their standards; if we wanted them here, we would have gone here in the first place. We would have sought admission to Mars Hill. I have known many Baptists, but never have I encountered such fanatic moralists as I have in this area.

These people seem to be the self-appointed moralists of the time. What it actually amounts to is not regulating their own affairs and leaving others alone. For example several years ago some students went to the lake during summer school. During the course of the afternoon they drank beer and were seen doing such by an important personage of the local Baptist Student Union. The person's actions? He immediately reported them for drinking. Of what concern was it to him? The students were not trying to direct his morality, why should he try to direct theirs.

Of what significance is this? Simply that the same thing has happened again, only this time with a different director of morality. Why not abandon this moral imposition and adopt the policy of live and let live? It is a very simple thing to do.

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This simple statement is in essence one of the simplest, yet most profound philosophies anyone can adopt. Then try not to force things on other people, things they don't want. People will leave you well enough alone, you leave them alone. Only when you impose upon them will they impose upon you. If you don't report people for drinking and remain content with your own problems, then no one will write columns about you.

Some statistics worth considering: Take 10 average American men at age 25 and trace their lives. By the time they are 65, 36 will have died, 1 will be wealthy, 4 will be well-to-do, 5 will be self-supporting and 54 will be dependent financially.

Published by the Students of Mars Hill College

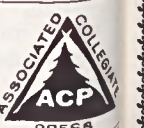
The Hilltop

Box 486-T, Mars Hill, N. C.

ALL-AMERICAN



Second-class postage paid at Mars Hill, N. C. Published 15 times during the college year.



Volume XXXX November 6, 1965 No.

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