

Focus Week Sports A Timely Theme

A gaunt man in death-agony on a cross between two thieves — a lissome, scantily clad girl gyrating in a gilded cage — what have these to do with one another? This is the question posed by the theme for Christian Focus Week this year.

Some say God is dead and the man on the tree may symbolize this to them. Many think the body is meant primarily for "fun" so why not enjoy it, 'a Go Go. All are confused as to precise applications of the old Gospel to the modern scene. God has usually been identified with the "rocks" — the things which do not change. Can He be found in the "rapids" of a society where change and uncertainty are the facts of life?

Those coming to spend the week of Feb. 14-18 at Mars Hill College as members of the Focus Week team believe that Christianity and 'a Go Go do not stand for the past and the present. Rather, we believe that these are modern alternatives, as they were, also, ancient ones. First century men had their own equivalent of 'a Go Go, as did those before and since. Moreover, God has always had his witness. From the courtroom, the home, the operating room, the classroom, the church, and the lab, this team will come to lead in considering these alternatives. We invite you to share the inquiry with us.

—William C. Smith
Focus Week
Coordinator

How Does Mars Hill Measure Up?

Trustees of Baptist institutions throughout the state, including the seven colleges, got together in Durham recently for an orientation conference. What they heard from two guest speakers was genuinely thought-provoking.

Baptist institutions can survive in the changing, demanding mid-20th century only by performing well the ministries for which they are intended and that with a distinctively Christian manner and philosophy, the trustees were told.

How to achieve and maintain that Christian identity is a question being asked today by more and more Baptist leaders, especially those affiliated with the colleges.

Dr. Alan Keith-Lucas of Chapel Hill, had a provocative idea of what makes an institution Christian.

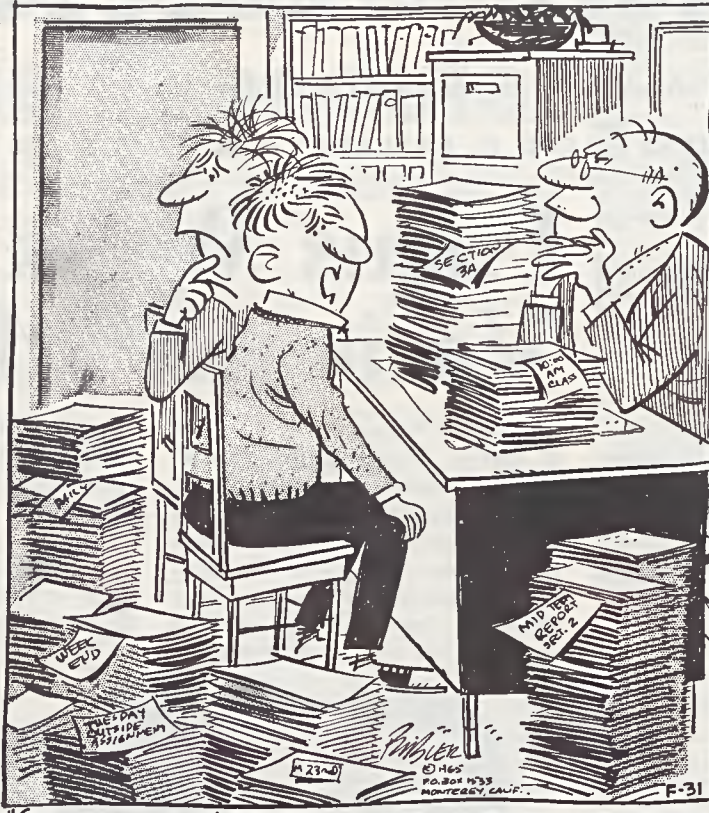
The term "Christian" should mean "something more than a label describing the auspices under which we operate," he said. "It should mean that the agency is in some way a witness to an amazing gospel with which Christ's church has been entrusted. An agency is not Christian . . . simply because it talks and teaches Christianity."

"It is Christian," he said, "when both in word and deed it is redemptive, restoring broken relationships and trust. It is truly Christian when it knows that the ultimate way in which relationships are restored is through love and forgiveness rather than through force or judgment. It is Christian when it truly respects people."

Dr. James R. Scales, former president of Oklahoma Baptist University, said Baptist schools will not be able to compete proportionately with state-supported institutions in size and numbers. Thus, they must make their contributions by adding a plus factor even while seeking academic quality on a par with other schools and by providing the leaven of leadership for the denomination.

Dr. Hoyt Blackwell, who has guided Mars Hill College to its current strategic position, understands the theses of both speakers. Several years ago when the shift to senior college program was begun he told the faculty that Mars Hill must be a college, in the true sense of the word, and it must be Christian. How well the institution is measuring up to these two standards may well be revealed conclusively within the next five years.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"SOUNDS LIKE TH' COURSE WE NEED ALL RIGHT — COULD YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE REQUIRED HOMEWORK?"

Letters to the editor...

OPEN LETTER
TO
STUDENT BODY

Dear Fellow Students:

Sigma Kappa Lambda and Sigma Alpha Chi were founded on our campus toward the end of the spring semester of 1965 after nearly a half year of dialogue between students and faculty-administration both here and on other campuses.

The basic reason for the formation of such clubs was a belief that the lack of an active social life and a means of expressing one's desire to serve others was chiefly attributable to student apathy.

Many of the present members of these clubs and many of our fellow students have been critical of the administration of the college, blaming it for our lack of opportunities for service and social events; however, the scope of such activities which can be provided for over a thousand people is severely limited. In the light of the financial and geographical situation of the college, few other things than are already done are possible.

With only one semester of work behind us, we believe that our assumptions were correct. Each member of Sigma Kappa Lambda and Sigma Alpha Chi feels that having been a member of such organizations has made his or her year more than worthwhile.

It is with this in mind that we offer any help which we may give toward the organization of clubs similar to our own.

At the time of the approval of our organizations by the Administrative Council it was ruled that other clubs could be formed at the end of a year if our experiment were successful.

Considering the fact that the organization of our clubs took nearly a semester, we should like to urge anyone interested in forming similar clubs to begin now.

If anyone is interested in forming new social service clubs, Sigma Kappa Lambda and Sigma Alpha Chi will be glad to be of assistance.

—Bill Pruett
President, SKL

Paul Quinn College is a Negro church college here in Waco. (It is integrated formally, but "Whites" have not come.) We have been able to build a new library that will hold 50,000 books; we only have 14,000 books to go in it. Most of the shelves therefore are bare.

The students here are good kids — they are having to struggle up from preparatory schooling that, in many cases, was not rigorous enough. The trustees of the college want to start a drive to get good, current college books and textbooks into our library, and they have designated me to find ways to get these books.

It occurred to us, during a recent board meeting, that many of the college students use their books and then don't want to keep some of them, but really can't get what they're worth in selling them back to the book stores, and that perhaps many of these students would like the idea of giving such books to the library at Paul Quinn. Perhaps also, in some cases, college bookstores in your state would find it feasible to ship spare quantities of good, current, college-level books to the library here rather than returning them somewhere to be remaindered or abandoned.

This is as far as our thinking has gone on this. I am writing to ask if you, your paper, or a group at your school might want to take the pass and make a run with it. All I am really sure of is, that the students who come to the library at Paul Quinn ought to be able to choose from among shelves that are full of good books.

We know you will seriously consider this appeal for books for the students' use at Paul Quinn. Books may be shipped EXPRESS-COLLECT to: Mrs. Delores Harris, Librarian, Paul Quinn College, Waco, Texas 76704.

—Bernard Rapoport
Trustee
Paul Quinn College

Editor's note: Letters to be printed in this space must be signed. A letter complaining of study for exams being interrupted in Brown Dormitory by room checks could not be published because it was signed "Brown Dormitory" and did not include the name of the individual who composed it. The Hilltop is not a gripe sheet but does welcome reasonable expressions of student opinion if properly signed.

Around the Campus

Bobby Franklin, junior from Marshall, was painfully cut last week when he sledded into a barbed wire. The gashes on his face required nearly an hour of sewing by College Physician Dr. Otis Duck.

Mrs. Donna Robertson of the music faculty has won her third award for original choral composition. Her "Create in Me a Clean Heart" won recognition in the professional division of the 1965 state competition for composers. She had won similar honors in 1962 and 1963.

Could one of our cheerleaders become "Miss Cheerleader USA"? Florida Cypress Gardens Inc. has issued the college an invitation to enter the fourth annual contest, which ends on Easter.

The Coast Guard is seeking applicants for its OCS class which will begin in September at Yorktown, Va. Interested seniors should see Lt. James Moore at the Naval Reserve Training Center in Asheville.

Former Hilltop staffer Bessie Cline, who completed her student teaching and was graduated at the end of first semester, has been "baptized with fire" in her first assignment at Southern Pines. In addition to teaching several classes in English and one in Latin she has been made responsible for the student newspaper and the senior play.

The Touring Choir will open its spring semester concert schedule with a program of sacred music at the First Baptist Church, Spruce Pine tomorrow night. The group, directed by Joel Stegall, is also slated to sing at the Choral Clinic next Friday (Feb. 11) and at the Marshall Baptist Church on Sunday morning, Feb. 13.

Ex-SNEA president Marvin Carriker, who also finished first term, has accepted a faculty appointment at Mars Hill High School.

Contrary to what might be expected, the recent snow, ice and low temperatures have not caused a burden on the infirmary. At a check earlier this week there were only two patients in the building. There had been no reports of broken arms or legs and no serious outbreaks of flu — not even a case of snowblindness.

The Oscar E. Sams Ministerial Conference recently elected new officers as follows: Ronnie Owen, president; Ray Frazier, vice president; Jack Fleming, secretary; Kermit Gray, BSU Representative; and Eugene Payne, publicity chairman.

Two 27-minute films are scheduled on the Art Club's Feb. 11 showing of fine arts movies. They are "The Visions of William Blake" and "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge." Showings in the Library Auditorium beginning at 7:30 p.m., the films are open to all interested persons.

It's good to see John Hough of the Educational Department up and around again following recent knee surgery.

"This picture makes me look older than I really am," a faculty member complained recently to the Laurel photographer, who quipped, "Well, that will save you from having to get your picture taken next year."

Lion basketball players must have been eager to get out of Georgia after their disastrous two-game road trip down there last weekend. They drove back to Mars Hill in a blizzard after the game Saturday night.

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