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Vol. XLIII, No. 3

MARS HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

October 12, 1968

Football-Less Agenda Tests Homecoming



King of the Jazz Horn Blows into Town

This year our Homecoming will "come alive" to the sounds of "Mr. Trumpet" Al Hirt. The incomparable Hirt will be in concert in Chambers Gymnasium beginning at 8:00 Saturday, October 12. Al Hirt is an Everest in the field of musical entertainment. He has earned countless honors by working successfully in the pop, dixieland, and classical fields. Born in New Orleans in 1922, he grew to love jazz, so much that in 1940 he was awarded a scholarship to the Conservatory of Cincinnati. In 1942 he married Mary Patureau and is now the father of eight children. With these mouths to feed his career began with odd jobs. He at one time played with most of the name bands of the '50's. Ironically, it was a job outside the entertainment field that started Hirt on his way to show business stardom. While working as a pest control salesman in 1957, he was introduced to his employer's father-in-law, owner of a Bourbon Street club called the Pier 600. He began playing at the club and each week the audience grew. Before long the name of Al Hirt was heard throughout New Orleans. While playing at the swank Blue Room in New Orleans' Roosevelt Hotel, Gerard W. Purcell signed him to RCA Victor's contract. By 1960, he was making well over a half-million a year, had brought the Pier 600 (renaming it Al Hirt's Place), and had processed four gold albums for sales of over one million. He has been on most all major network variety shows. This

summer he hosted his own show, "Fanfare," which showed the many sides of the "King."

Hirt's title "the King," has been attested by countless awards — a Grammy included—through which musicians have honored him. These include an Artist of the Year award from the Music Operators of the U. S., a citation in two annual Billboard Disc Jockey awards, and four Gold Record Awards from the Recording Industry Association of America.

Not so many years ago, if anyone outside his native New Orleans knew the name Al Hirt, it was as a good "jazz trumpet." Today, he is the "King," the most famous trumpet player (with the possible exception of the chap of yore known as Gabriel) the entertainment world has ever known. More precisely, he has passed beyond a mere trumpeter, or even only an entertainer. He has arrived at the lofty status—shared by a mere handful of others—of being a full-fledged personality. But no one in recent memory has done it playing a trumpet . . . until Al Hirt came along. As one fun-loving pundit recently described Hirt's rise to fame, "that's what can come to a man who keeps a stiff upper lip."

Hirt was chosen to present a concert on campus by a special student committee involved in selecting talent for such programs as homecoming. All in all, the evening promises to be one of the most spirited and lively events of this school year.

Several hundred former students, parents and other friends of the college are expected on campus today for the annual homecoming festivities. Despite the lack of football from the agenda, the campus visitors will find a good variety and an abundance of things to do.

The Alumni Office, a part of the Division of Public Information, will staff a registration desk in the lobby of the Chambers Building from 10 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Various members of the faculty—both newcomers as well as old-timers—will be there to greet the visitors.

First official event of the day will be a cornerstone laying ceremony at Gibson Dormitory. This event will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The family of the late trustees James Emory Gibson, Jr. and J. E. Gibson, Sr., whose memories the building will honor, will be present for the ceremony.

The elder Mr. Gibson founded a toy manufacturing company in High Point and was a generous benefactor of the college. He served three four-year terms on the board of trustees. In 1963 the younger Mr. Gibson was appointed to the board but died suddenly nine months after assuming the office.

Before his death in February of this year the elder Mr. Gibson made a generous contribution toward the cost of the planned 64-man residence which will replace ancient Treat Dormitory. The board of trustees voted to name the building for the younger Mr. Gibson.

Another Gibson son, Walter, is

presently a member of the board of trustees and will participate in the cornerstone laying. The widows of the late trustees and other members of the Gibson family will be present.

The College Band, under the direction of its new conductor, Raymond Babelay, will play at the beginning of the ceremony; and the College Choir, directed by Robert Rich, will sing three selections.

President Bentley will preside, and College Chaplain Robert Melvin will offer the prayer of dedication. Also taking part in the historic ceremony will be W. R. Chambers, chairman of the board of trustees, and Emory C. McCall, chairman of the buildings and grounds committee of the board.

A matinee performance of the play, "The Fanasticks," will be given at 2:30 p.m. especially for campus visitors and for the students and faculty members affiliated with the Upward Bound program.

At the same time and extending until 6:30 homecoming open house will be observed in the Chambers and Harrell buildings. Members of the physical education majors' club, Pi Sigma Phi, will give demonstrations in the usage of various equipment and facilities within the two buildings; and other members of the club will conduct visitors on guided tours throughout the buildings. Refreshments will be served in the lounge.

The famous New Orleans jazz man has agreed to share the spotlight during the intermission of his performance with some of Mars Hill's loveliest coeds. Thus, the

annual crowning of the Homecoming Queen will take place at that time.

Miss Mary Shepard of Goldsboro will be crowned and escorted by Jack Frederick from Rose Hill. Miss Pam Culler of High Point, with escort Bill Gardner of Burke, Va., will represent the Senior Class. Miss Maria Hunt is the junior representative from Star-tex, S. C.; her escort, Steve Eib is a MHC graduated from Chester, Va. Miss Donna Long, sophomore representative from Nashville, Tenn., had not selected an escort at press time. Miss Myra Williams, Rat Queen, is from Weaverville and her escort, Richard Kohler, is from Jacksonville.



MARY SHEPARD
... Homecoming Queen

Internationals Add Charm to Campus Life

Beautiful Mars Hill is well known around the world. Proof of this can be seen in the number of students who find their ways across the oceans just to be a part of "the Hill."

Coming from far away Asia is Prida Chairisi, a second semester freshman from Thailand who heard about MHC from a close friend. Although at the present time he is undecided about his major and what the future holds, he is sure he wants to return to Thailand someday. He likes the college and enjoys the fellowship of the students but he "hates the food."

We find three MK's (missionary kids) from Brazil. Margaret Kirk, a junior, is studying English and French, hoping to enter the teaching profession. Her father, an alumnus of MHC, told her about Mars Hill. Margaret Mein, who is a music major in her first year, hopes to return to Brazil to teach or to play in an orchestra. Martha Kolb, a freshman home economics major, desires to return to Brazil as a social worker.

Coming from Africa is a freshman named Jacob Adeleke. His

pastor at home inspired him to come to "the Hill." Jacob particularly enjoys the hospitality of the MHC students. Upon completion of his course in the accounting field, he plans to return to his homeland.

Representative of Central America is Fernando Downs, a junior from Nicaragua. He is studying history and wants to enter the ministry as a Baptist preacher who will "spread the Gospel as it is." The news that MHC was an outstanding Christian institution challenged him.

Coming from the beautiful island of Bermuda is Mary Carol Harris, who is majoring in biology. She is planning to become a teacher or a medical technologist. Her missionary parents are alumni of MHC.

All of these foreign students are a part of the International Club on campus under the sponsorship of Dr. and Mrs. Roman Gorski. This club helps its members to adjust to life in the United States and assists in promoting better relationships among themselves.

The club held its first social meeting of the year recently at

Big Ivy Camp Ground, with some 28 persons attending. With Margaret Kirk as president, the officers for the coming year are as follows: Nikom Matragoon, Thomas Yount, Prida Caisiri and Mary Carol Harris.

The MHC International Club met last week with about 40 foreign students at Warren Wilson College, representing 22 nations. In response to the friendliness and enthusiasm of the Warren Wilson students, Dr. and Mrs. Gorski invited them to participate in a joint meeting on the Mars Hill campus tomorrow. A better relationship between the international students of both schools is one of the goals. The meeting also will give the visitors an opportunity to become acquainted with our campus.

All members of the MHC group are urged to be present for the get-together, which is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday in the Faculty Lounge of the library.

The next regular meeting of the local club is slated for 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, in the Library Auditorium. Adeleke will lecture on his country and illustrate with dances, native dress and customs.