

# 'Make It Better...'

It is a sad fact that people, Mars Hill students included, have the uncanny ability of skillfully excusing themselves from active participation in life, campus activities and personal relationships. In this realm Mars Hill is a staunch supporter for the propagation of the status quo. While the status quo traditionally takes a beating from certain individuals and groups within a society it almost always outlasts protests against it. In order for the students here to objectively study their relationship to this campus and to the world beyond it, we must first recognize the nature of this campus and the influence it undoubtedly bequeaths to us.

There exists on this campus a mere illusion of reality, created by the relatively safe, secure atmosphere to be found here. We are isolated geographically and are away from the metropolitan influences which touch the lives of a majority of college students in the United States today. Although we have a faculty with open minds and open mouths, we still find ourselves located in a traditionally conservative region whose personality touches us religiously, socially, politically and economically.

I am not suggesting that we exchange the unreality and comfortable safety of this place for the surreal atmosphere of some larger, more metropolitan institutions of higher learning. One can be as destructive as the other to the evolution of individual selves. What we need to do is disregard the disruptive factors in our environment — political, social or otherwise — which tend to shred the fabric of our constantly developing personalities. We need to look for the articulate and definite truths in all phases of living and draw from them the exquisiteness of this gift called life.

Mars Hill, renamed in some circles "Womb University," has great potential academically and extracurricularly. The problem of development of all this untouched potential lies in the students, of which there are three types. Perhaps by defining and exploring the characteristics of these types, we can see what changes need to be made before any great progress can be made.

The core of the first group is comprised of apathetic, unenergetic, unenthusiastic students who are "here for the duration." Although they may be caught up to the point of entanglement in the here-and-now, day-to-day situations of their lives and problems of other persons. Caring little for SGA decisions, changes in administrative policy and dormitory regulations, they have even less interest in such things as religion, the national election or Viet Nam. These students have never met themselves and certainly never challenged themselves.

Painfully involved in life and living, the second group includes those who have found themselves but who have found no place for those selves within the superstructure of society. Acutely aware of their limitations as well as their capabilities, they are caught in the throes of a battle within themselves concerning the conflicts of what is, what ought to be, and what can be, along with the choices and changes that must necessarily ensue any decisions on their part. These are the saddest persons around. By nature a "found" person cannot be satisfied when cooped up within the shell of himself. Although the beginnings of wisdom come in knowing oneself, the beginnings of joy come in giving away that self.

The third category is made up of those students who have learned to know themselves and who have given those selves over to a greater purpose than self. Perhaps the survival of the college is owed to this type of person, along with some financial endowments and the grace of God.

The fact is that Mars Hill remains a rather "protected" college in terms of today's world. Although I am not suggesting that Mars Hill give up its personality or its heritage, I am suggesting that perhaps we need to become aware that Mars Hill is not the whole world, neither is it a true representation of the world.

To those of you who don't care about anything — from cafeteria food to the student next to you in your 12 o'clock class — I can only say that I am afraid of you, of the harm you are bringing to yourself and to this campus and of the harm you are capable of bringing to this nation and the world.

To those "found" persons who have not yet discovered their niche in the universe I can only suggest that you refrain from locking your self within yourself as a precaution against destroying yourself completely.

To those few individuals who are content with life, having searched long for it, I can at best offer my deepest congratulations and best wishes in the rough journey that lies ahead.

—Linda Baldwin

## LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"AN' FURTHERMORE - MY STUDENTS SEEM TO BE EASILY BORED BY MY LECTURES."

## Letters to the editor...

Linda,

Please let me use this means to commend Mike Swaim for his good work in organizing and directing Monday night's "Miss Laurel" pageant.

This was the second straight year in which Mike shouldered this demanding responsibility, and he did an excellent job each time.

Few persons know what an exacting task it is to plan and promote a successful beauty pageant of this type. It takes long hours of hard work, discouraging bouts with almost insoluble problems and several nights of sleeplessness.

There is beauty and talent on this campus, but they must be assembled in some order and presented in enjoyable form in order to have impact and significance. Mike has demonstrated his skill in this respect. He is a dependable young man, a person to whom you can delegate responsibility and authority with assurance that the job will be completed successfully.

Ever since the pageant was originated several years ago as a means of selecting the campus beauty queen, high standards of beauty and performance have been the rule. Each of the pageants has shown what students working together can do.

Finally, let me call for attention to next year's pageant. Already I am in the market for a pageant coordinator-planner. Anyone who feels he can maintain

the high standards which Mike and his predecessors have set is welcome to apply for the job.

—Walter Smith  
Laurel Staff Advisor

"Be judge not, yea you will be judged!"

In this world of hypocrites, men often judge others; but they do not judge them fairly, but by their own standards. Who is to say that they are right and you are wrong! But they say "It is my Christian duty," did Christ ever feel it was his duty to judge another? That is for the Father above to decide!

In this time of Thanksgiving we give thanks to Him who hath made us; but do we give thanks that He made others besides ourselves?

How narrow-minded men we are when all we think about is what the person is doing wrong. Alas, you men of God, how little you have to say for yourselves. Are you not doing something as guilty as the next? Yet you pretend to judge on the "Christian duty," my what fools you be. Alas, your turn will come. I am not worried for my deeds, for I have answered them to God. But what of you and your deeds? Have you not been so busy judging others that you have forgotten your own deeds!

Well, my friends, God has not forgotten them and you will be judged as you have judged!

—Linda Brose

## Around Campus

In cooperation with the Opportunity Corporation offices at Marshall several social-service clubs are sponsoring county families for Christmas projects.

Under the organizational direction of Len Cheek, Tommy Smith and Skippy Liles, Sigma Kappa Lambda is providing clothing for a family of six boys.

With Beecher Horton, Nick Bennett, Eddie Ganiney and Jim Brown, Kappa Phi Theta and Phi Mu Alpha are combining efforts to provide for a family of eight including a deaf child and a month-old baby.

Bill Kilgore and Don Morris are in the process of arranging for Alpha Phi Omega to sponsor a family of eight. There is the possibility of further sponsorship for this particular family since there is a child with polio.

Under the leadership of Waynette Garland and Judy Burgess, Delta Phi Zeta is sponsoring a family of four and giving a Christmas party at the Orthopedic Hospital in Asheville.

Sigma Alpha Chi's president Charlette Oakley and Judy Hirschberg are hoping to give assistance to a fatherless family of four.

Enthusied by the action of the social-service clubs, the freshmen girls on the third floor of Edna Moore, headed by Donna Vaughn, are sponsoring a family with seven children.

The newly-formed Veterans' Club, under the presidency of Gary Styres, is providing clothing and toys for a family of five children.

On Thursday, Nov. 7, under the leadership of Dr. Roman Gorski, a large group of students made the annual trip to Charlotte to visit the Federal Reserve Bank and a brokerage house. They were given a tour of the bank and were indoctrinated into the procedure of placing orders and into the general mechanics of the investment business.

**Congratulations to Richard Hoffman of the History and Political Science Department faculty. He successfully passed the final oral exams in his doctoral program at UNC-Chapel Hill this week, the last hurdle in his race for the coveted Doctor of Philosophy degree.**

The possibility of students or faculty leaving early for Thanksgiving holidays was blunted earlier this week by a pointed announcement from Academic Dean R. M. Lee.

"Our calendar for the fall term calls for Thanksgiving holidays to begin at the close of classes on Tuesday, Nov. 26," he said in a memo distributed to members of the faculty and administrative staff.

"It is necessary that we follow this schedule. There have come some requests to make up classes on Monday evening, and I have heard by the 'grapevine' that some faculty members plan to make up classes in order for students to leave early," he continued. "Our schedule is too heavy to permit making up classes at any time."

One concession in the matter was offered, however. Chapel will be dispensed with on Tuesday and the day's class schedule will be the same as that normally followed on Saturdays.


Dean W. L. Lynch was among 100 persons who participated in a two-day seminar last week at Chapel Hill on drug abuse. The program was sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Professors, the N. C. Highway Patrol and the State Bureau of Investigation.

## College Coveralls

Stetson University, a Baptist institution in De Land, Fla., has organized a student-operated campus security guard. The guard consists of four male students who have received police training in the use of the little black stick they carry. An added note of caution to any fun seekers is that the guards also carry, hidden about their person, canisters of mace or tear gas.

East Carolina University's faculty, administration and SGA have joined together in presenting to the university a vitalized concept of the value of forum discussions. Bi-monthly forums, with four members representing the faculty, administration and SGA answering questions from the floor concerning a specific topic, are to be held. Prior to the question-answer period a guest speaker of speakers will present their opinions on the subject. The president of the ECU SGA will act as moderator.

the Mars Hill College



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