



the Mars Hill College

Hilltop

"Those who make peaceful revolution impossible, make violent revolution inevitable."

—JFK

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MARS HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

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Alumnus White Will Become Student Activities Director

by Mike Mills

Perry White of Raleigh, a '68 MHC graduate, has been named by President Bentley and approved by the trustees as Mars Hill's first Director of Student Activities. The appointment is to be effective Aug 15.

Dr. Bentley said he feels that students need and activities coordinator to help provide them a much larger voice in planning all aspects of campus life.

A well-liked student remembered by most upper classmen, White was chosen for his wide experience in both student and administrative affairs. He served in the Student Government Association for two years as attorney general, and he was honored in the 1968 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities." He majored in biology, received a B.S. degree, was a member of the Touring Choir and appeared in numerous drama productions.

White was awarded an assistantship to Purdue University and enrolled there last fall; however, he underwent surgery in the middle of the term and did not return. The fact that his father, an official of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, was killed in an auto accident in October also influenced his decision not to return to Purdue. He has been living in Raleigh with his mother and younger sister. A brother, Morris, is currently an MHC sophomore.

In the new post White will coordinate various student activities. He will have a voice in the setting and modification of student regulations (such as dating rules) and will initiate new activities. For example, some students

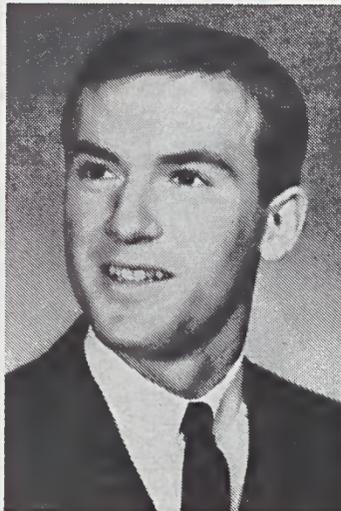
wish to organize a ski club next year. They can get assistance from White, who will work closely with the dean of students and whose office will be next door to the SGA office on the ground floor of Spilman.

When asked why the college needs the new position, Dr. Bentley stated emphatically, "This campus is dead, and it doesn't need to be dead!"

He said he realizes that students presently are having to go through too many channels to express their views. He feels that the administration has a responsibility for broadening the lines of communication and for being more receptive to student needs.

He further explained that both current students and recent graduates have prompted him to create the new post. Through letters and dormitory "bull sessions" they have expressed a need for the type of liaison which he envisions the new director as having between the student body and the administration and faculty.

He said he feels that many students "know Perry" and believe he will be able to bridge the generation gap between students and college administrators. He asked that students begin immediately to offer their suggestions in the area of campus student activities. These ideas and suggestions may be addressed in care of the office of the Dean of Students.



Perry C. White
... New Staff Member



Dr. R. L. Hoffman
... New Dean

Dr. Hoffman Named New Academic Dean

Richard Lee Hoffman, assistant professor of political science and a member of the faculty for 10 years, has been named assistant academic dean for the remainder of the school year and the summer session and will become acting dean at the conclusion of summer school.

The two appointments, announced by President Bentley in a regular faculty meeting Tuesday, follow 18 months of work by a special committee assigned to find a successor to Ralph M. Lee.

Last week the committee unanimously recommended Dr. Hoffman to a joint meeting of the executive and finance committees of the board of trustees. The recommendation was unanimously accepted.

Dr. Bentley said Dr. Hoffman, as assistant dean, will have "prime responsibility for coordinating and developing programs and proposals for foundation and government support. In that capacity he will be an ex officio member of all faculty committees. He also will become director of a Community Development Institute which is to be established in the very near future"

In recommending him the special committee expressed its confidence "that Dr. Hoffman is admirably qualified to carry out the duties of acting dean."

Dr. Bentley added he hopes "all of us will realize the difficulty of the task which Dr. Hoffman is inheriting and will pledge our full support to him for this next year."

The newly appointed administrator, who will be 37 on Mar. 17,

is a native of Waynesboro, Penn. He attended Mercersburg (Penn.) Academy, graduating in 1951. His undergraduate career was interrupted by a tour of duty in the Marine Corps (1954-57), but he received a BA degree in social studies at East Carolina College in 1958. He later studied a year at the University of Pennsylvania and has earned the MA degree in American history and the Doctor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. The latter degree will be awarded in June.

He first joined the Mars Hill faculty in 1959, was away during 1960-61, but has been officially affiliated with the college ever since.

Last year Dr. Hoffman formulated a proposal to the Reynolds Foundation of Winston-Salem for the establishment of a community development program at Mars Hill, including the initiation of an internship type course in community development.

With a \$21,375 grant from the foundation he inaugurated the program at the beginning of the current academic year and has directed it in addition to teaching political science.

He also is director of a Leadership Training Institute established here during the current year with a \$9,000 grant from the local Office of Economic Opportunity. The program is concerned primarily with training local leaders for government agencies and community action programs.

Dr. Hoffman is married to an MHC alumna, the former Jeanne Threat. They have two young sons.

Aid Sought

Fire has recently destroyed the trailer-home of the two grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Buckner, proprietors of Greenvalley Restaurant. The children are in dire

need of clothing. Students are asked to donate money at the designated places in the Student Center and at the Hilltop office. Have a heart and help these kids.

Dr. Lee To Establish Institute of Christian Ethics Here

Editor's Note: Dr. Page Lee is from Greensboro and received his B.A. from Guilford College. He attended Southeastern Seminary and earned his Th.D. from Southern Seminary. With the exception of 1964-1967, he and his wife and four children have lived in Mars Hill since 1961. Response to Dr. Lee's comments are welcomed.

Within a few days Mars Hill College will receive funds from a foundation for the establishment of an Institute of Christian Ethics. The purpose of the institute will be to provide the 1500 clergymen and interested laymen in this region with a theological library, a center for sharing in a study of common problems and a center for continuing theological education. Furthermore, it will seek to establish rapport with the clergymen so that Mars Hill College can expand its ministry to the people of this region.

The basic programs of the institute will be a weekly seminar for 25 ministers and a Christian ethics course in "Church and Community" for about 15 students. A good portion of the funds will be spent on building up our library holdings on Christian ethics and Appalachian studies.

Next fall the ministers' seminar will be initiated through a study of the problem of poverty in Appalachia. This will be followed in the spring by the students' course in Church and Community. Students for this course will be screened from a growing number who are already interested. It is hoped that this will provide the experience that many are seeking so that their final decision will be to stay in the ministry. Many are now leaving the ministry because they cannot see a role for active social participation. This will provide the opportunity for the student to redefine the church and its positions in the community.

This poverty that your institute and many others focus on, is this a real problem or a fabrication? Many reputable sources claim it is a hoax being perpetrated on the public.

Yes, poverty is real and some of those who dispute it are the very ones benefiting from the O. E. O. programs. The facts are that Madison County has a per capita income of \$725 a year, with 63.7

percent of the families under \$3,000. Furthermore, over 70 percent of all private housing in the county is substandard. Perhaps those who deny the fact that poverty is a real problem are too provincial to see the relative wealth of other regions in our country. For many middle-class college students the poverty is what Michael Harrington calls physically and psychologically "invisible."

Concerning the students—I have felt for a long time that we need to relate to the community and need to bend over backward to get the students to break out of their provincialisms. The whole educational process should involve the students in the larger community and its problems. I am very much in favor of the emphasis on community life which a growing number of faculty members are making now.

I am not concerned so much with the recruitment of students as I am with what we do with them once they are here. Some that come with low S. A. T. scores can be developed into real stu-

dents. I would rather see us deal effectively with the ones we have and then let them be our recruiting power. As for the expense of school I can foresee the day that we will have merit scholarships for those that cannot afford to come. But today, rather than blame the students for not exercising their potential, I would accept part of the blame for not challenging them.

How do you challenge a student?

Not through fear of failure. An effort should be made in the classroom, through individual contact, to challenge and stimulate interest. A professor can apply pressure through pop tests and fear of failure, but this becomes a game and enables the student to spot the teacher.

In relation to student challenge and responsibility to what degree does the student have the right to make demands?

In essence the student has the right to dissent, but this does not include destruction of property and infringement on the rights of

others. Our society has similar laws. But a college has a right to establish and demand compliance with a set of mores. Student freedom and student maturity stand in a dialectical relationship, i.e., the maturing process requires freedom and freedom requires maturity. In short, the college cannot expect complete maturity from students, and students cannot expect total freedom from the college. We live in the tension-filled area where the college must learn that maturation requires freedom and students must understand that freedom depends on maturity.

M. H. C.'s direct relationship to this is that, maybe, many of what are called Christian traditions are no more than cultural conditioning and not in direct relationship to the Christian faith. I favor an atmosphere of more freedom because it is under these circumstances that a person can be his real self and mature into the student we were referring to earlier.

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