



the Mars Hill College

HILLTOP

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MARS HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

MARS HILL PERSPECTIVES

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January 31, 1970



Grady Nutt and Mike Douglas are shown here making corn bread on Douglas' television talk show. Nutt will be the feature speaker on this bus for Christian Focus Week, Feb. 2-5.

Grady Nutt Bolts Into Mars Hill for Christian Focus Week, Feb. 2-5

Grady Nutt, a frequent guest on Mike Douglas. Since 1967 Grady has become a regular guest on the nationally syndicated Mike Douglas Show. These television appearances

have sky-rocketed the demand for in-person performances so much that Grady must now turn down more offers than he accepts.

Elections, Finances, Radio Station Important Topics of Senate Discussion

by Jim Ewart

A motion to recall the bill forbidding line-breaking in the school cafeteria was voted down at the Jan. 22 meeting of the SGA Senate.

Also failing to pass was an alternative measure which would have allowed line-breaking for those who have logical excuses. Those people would have had to turn in their names to the SGA specifying their reasons and times of line-breaking.

Representatives of the campus radio station, WMHC, reported to the Senate that the station board had been rewired over semester break and that lines had been strung to all the dorms. Plans are being made by the Executive Board of WMHC to rewrite the station's constitution. It is hoped that a constitutional revision would allow the SGA Treasurer to be placed on the Board and to give him one vote in all Board decisions. He and the station's business manager would approve all expense checks written by the station.

Senate President Bill Pons proposed that underclassmen be urged to attend the State SGA Convention in Charlotte at the end of this month. He called on all present SGA officers to begin "breaking in" their prospective replacements in view of the SGA turnover coming up in April.

Pons declared that, in light of the large amount of shelved Senate

business, the incoming officers will need to become familiar with all the responsibilities of their offices so that they will be immediately able to assume their positions.

Pons reviewed the calendar of upcoming SGA election events. Petitions for SGA offices will be filed by Feb. 19; approval of petitions Feb. 24; campaign speeches in chapel March 3; general office elections March 4; speeches by senators and class officers March 10; class elections March 11; and installation of the new officers on April 7.

Treasurer David Sperling introduced the SGA financial report of Jan. 22, 1970. The report contained a balance on hand of \$2,436.90. Total expenses were listed at \$1,622.84 out of which \$1,491.00 was paid to the classes of 1971, 1972 and 1973 as class dues.

Pons reminded Senate members that parliamentary procedure will stand at all times during Senate proceedings. He charged that all members will attend meetings properly attired in coats and tie or dress or would be barred from participating in Senate proceedings.

Following presentation of new business several Senators protested course schedules for the current semester, sales of text books and curriculum changes. Some Senate discussion took place but no action was taken.

Mini-Mester System Eyed For Adoption

by Sam Wallace

The curriculum of Mars Hill College in the future may undergo drastic changes. Mr. Bob Knott, Chairman of the Curriculum Sub-Committee, has announced the committee is now considering the mini-mester system. He emphasized though, that the mini-mester system is only in the planning stages.

The mini-mester system basically consists of a fall semester lasting from Sept.-Dec.; a January quarter of four weeks; and a spring semester lasting from Feb.-May. During fall semester, four courses would be the maximum load for a student. In the January quarter each student would direct his interests on one course for four weeks. In the spring semester a student would be allowed to take a maximum load of four courses.

Educators feel the mini-mester system makes a significant reduction in the student load for a term and allows the students to apply more emphasis on fewer subjects. The January quarter would allow students to become more intellectually independent, emphasizing independent research. Research could be done in libraries or labs or through discussions with visiting scholars or possibly through research off-campus in other colleges, domestic and foreign. Some of the programs might emphasize inter-disciplinary cooperation and utilize the abilities of the campus faculty and guest lecturers.

Mr. Knott said that whatever system his committee proposed would be in the light of trying to meet the needs of the students in the best way possible. Mr. Knott said, "We have a large range of students here at Mars Hill. We have the well educated with a fine cultural background and on the other hand we have the high risk student who comes from a poor cultural background. The Curriculum Sub-Committee's job is to find the best possible curriculum to meet the needs of all the students. A system which allows time for independent study would allow the advanced students to go ahead in a higher field of study while allowing some faculty members to work closely with the students of lesser cultural backgrounds."

The Curriculum Sub-Committee, composed of eight faculty members and four students, has traveled to various colleges to study their curriculum. Such colleges and universities as Duke, Wake Forest, Furman, and North Carolina Wesleyan, which have adopted the mini-mester system or are in the process of changing their curriculum to a more practical system, have been visited by the sub-committee.

Should the Curriculum Sub-Committee propose the mini-mester semester program, the proposal would first go to the MHC faculty for discussion. The proposal would then

be presented to the students for discussion and debate. Following discussions between the students and faculty, the faculty would then vote to reject or accept the mini-mester system proposal. Should the mini-mester system be approved it has been speculated that the 1971-72 school year would be the earliest time for its implementation.

Mr. Knott has arranged for two consultants to discuss the mini-mester system on the MHC campus. On Feb. 5, Dr. Thomas Turner, Professor of Physics at Wake Forest University, will lead a discussion concerning college curriculum with the faculty and students from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6. Dr. Turner will discuss curriculum changes with various organizations on campus. Following up the discussions led by Dr. Turner, Mr. Knott has arranged in late Feb. for a consultant from a school which is actually on the mini-mester system to speak to the faculty and students giving the practical standpoints of the system.

Scholarships Are Available

Mars Hill College will offer annual scholarships of \$400 to students of Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee living in commuting distance of the school.

All are based on academic standing and will be awarded yearly starting in the fall.

The \$400 scholarships earmarked for commuting students are called trustees scholarships. To qualify, incoming freshmen must be in the top 10 per cent of their graduating class; and sophomores, juniors and seniors currently enrolled at Mars Hill must have a 3.0 grade point average (roughly equivalent to a "B" average).

Thirty president's scholarships of \$200 each will be awarded to students with high academic standing entering as freshmen or transfer students.

Twenty-seven dean's scholarships will be awarded to students with a 3.0 grade point average or better after two semesters at Mars Hill. In this category there are 24 \$200 scholarships and one \$300, one \$400 and one \$500 scholarship.

The new scholarships will help maintain a balance in the school's educational objectives according to Dr. Richard Hoffman, Vice President for academic affairs.

"A vital part of our objectives are our programs to enhance the opportunities of high-risk students and students expressing financial need to obtain a college education," he said. "To maintain a balance in our educational objectives we must provide scholarships and aid programs which will affect students from a different socio-economic background and a different level of achievement."