

# Reverberation

Mars Hill students have definitely resurrected themselves from the grave of antiquarian concepts which lie buried in the college's past and have ascended in spirit to new realms of interest and commitment. This resurrection was exemplified Monday night when approximately 50 students converged in front of the administration building to protest the shooting deaths of four Kent State University students when National Guardsmen fired into a crowd of student demonstrators who protested recent U. S. actions in Cambodia.

A group of MHC students presented a list of grievance, which they demanded be immediately remedied, to President Fred Bentley. President Bentley had been summoned to the scene by Student Government Association President Danny Ray who was seeking to establish a line of communication between the students and a representative of the administration.

President Bentley, in the forum which followed his arrival, read off all the grievances and answered them individually. In rebuttal to a request that he promise to never call National Guardsmen into Mars Hill, he said that he would take whatever measure he deemed necessary, at whatever time, to protect this educational enterprise and the community at large. I do not believe President Bentley could have made a more sound or more ethical decision. He mentioned that he could only make that promise if students would promise that campus conflicts would always be subject to internal solution and control. It was a good rebuttal.

In response to oral speculation on the part of some students concerning the unjustified firing of guns by campus policemen, President Bentley promised to look into the matter. He had not been aware of such actions.

Dr. Bentley said that, while he was always willing to work with students to effect positive changes through the proper legislative channels, he naturally assumed a defensive role when called out of his home late at night to meet with a group of students who presented illogical requests and used tactics of sensationalism. He encouraged the students to work for their desired changes through the Student Government Association and to make full use of campus communications media.

Mars Hill students have ever-widening opportunities to effect innovations: in order for the SGA, WMHC and the Hilltop to be effective instruments of the students' voice and wishes, these organizations must be utilized. I would like to see increased participation in the Hilltop and WMHC and an expanding range of support offered to SGA. These organizations will literally be rendered useless without this support.

At the same time I would like to see increased communication between the administration and these organizations. Next year, with the expanded role of students on this campus, these organizations will serve as liaisons between the administration and the students. I would like to see regular appointments scheduled for the SGA President, the General Manager of WMHC, and the Editor-in-Chief of the Hilltop with President Bentley, Vice President Hoffman and Vice President Sears. I would recommend open seminars between the latter-mentioned persons and the students at a more frequent rate than have been had this year.

Students, especially student officers, can not effectively carry out their duties if notified of administrative and legislative decisions after the fact. They must be tributary members of the administrative stream of actions in much the same way as the administration has an advisory voice in directing student life.

Thanks bunches.  
—Linda Baldwin

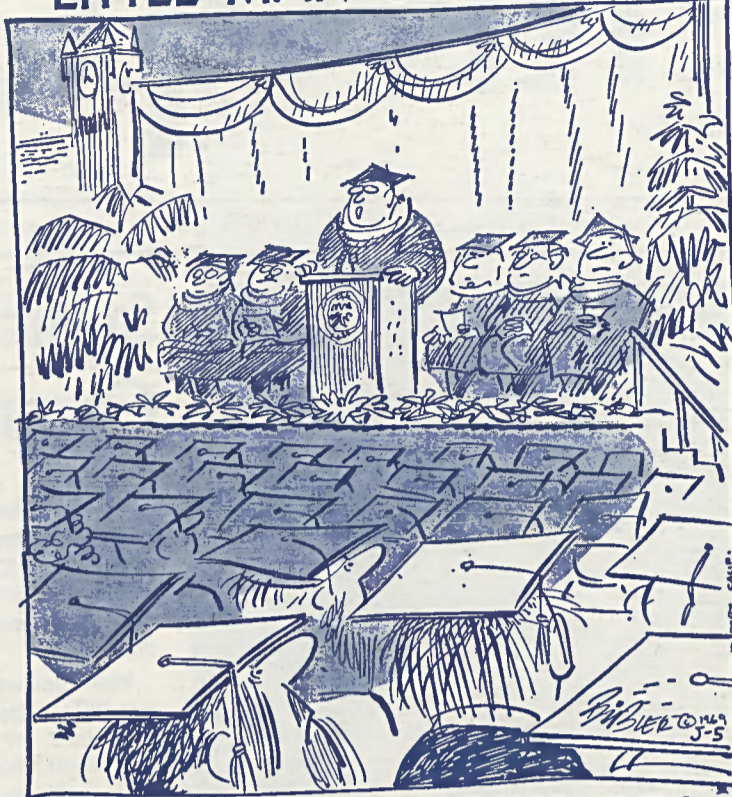
# Presidential Response

In response to the April 25 Hilltop editorial which questioned the existence of a commitment to black students on the part of Mars Hill College, President Fred Bentley discussed with me several facets of the college's overall commitment to all students.

Dr. Bentley said that Mars Hill's obligations to black students have largely been in the form of a paper commitment. He said that the school is interested in continuing its wide, cultural commitment to a broad Appalachian region and that this commitment will include obligations to blacks and whites. Persons who are directly involved in student recruitment, such as Mr. Perry White, Director of Student Activities, have recently established contacts with black or predominantly black high schools. Mars Hill's involvement with the Upward Bound program has led to increased interest in recruitment of blacks as has the tutorial work which has been done in black neighborhoods through the efforts of the Community Development Institute. Each of these programs has the potential of recruiting blacks to Mars Hill College both in the near future and throughout the coming decade.

—Linda Baldwin

# LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS



"AS I REVIEW WITH THIS CLASS THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FOUR YEARS MARKED BY SITTING PROTESTS, RIOTS & GENERAL CAMPUS UNREST, I CAN FRANKLY STATE THAT I'M DAMN GLAD TO SEE YOU GO."

# Sounds of the Times

Dear Editor,

The other night I had the opportunity to sit and listen to a rather spontaneous meeting between President Bentley and approximately 50 students. This meeting occurred as a result of student concern over the killing of four Kent University students by National Guardsmen present on their campus. The meeting proceeded to accomplish little as is typical of meetings of this nature with the president.

It should be obvious by now to all who have participated in such meetings that whenever the president is coerced into this type of "gathering" (I use the term gathering because, in effect, that's all it amounts to) little can be accomplished relative to what initially was intended to be accomplished. This remains true because of the fact that the situation, per se, invariably dictates the frame of mind the president will be in at the time he views the students and the situation and obviously this frame of mind is not to the advantage of the students concerned.

In such a situation the president will use and has used administra-

tive rhetoric to refute grievances presented by the students. The students, as a result, are unable to offer a suitable rebuttle to substantiate their demands. Subsequently, the students are stupefied and more than likely must seem, in the eyes of President Bentley, like a bunch of dumb little kids who are caught in a degree of sensationalism and really didn't know what their aims are or what they want to accomplish. One of Dr. Bentley's primary bases for refusing the majority of student-planned reforms is his rationale that when one matriculates in Mars Hill College he automatically accepts the objectives strived for by the college. Inevitably, objectives must be obtained through a means which will be relevant to the times.

The Chapel program is just one example of this. A few years ago students were assigned seats in Chapel and if they ever cut then they were suspended. Obviously, the student aware of this consequence was careful not to exceed the amount of cuts allotted to him. But how much benefit did these stu-

(Continued on P. 3)

The Hilltop offers deepest condolences to Mr. Roger Johnson in the recent loss of his father.

**hilltop**  
the Mars Hill College

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# File 34

by Linda Baldwin

Well, rejoice, gang. The old adage that misery never ceases is becoming more believable every day. Last night the cafeteria initiated the first of several innovative and welcome changes when it provided coffee and soft drinks in all dorms and cottages. The good probably seemed like manna from heaven to the starved bookworms who partook of the treat in great exaltation. The cafeteria provided the service free of charge and the Student Government Association piled volunteers to assist in the delivery of the refreshments. Hats off to the cafeteria for this surprise snacks.

Dr. Fred Bentley, President of Mars Hill College recently announced that the cafeteria plans to provide at least one special treat each week during both sessions of summer school. These treats will include such activities as picnics, Hawaiian dinners, watermelon outings and cook-outs. The weekly gourmet festivities rival Shoney's and Suds 'n Pizza; who knows?

Sigma Kappa Lambda social fraternity received new brothers at the regular meeting April 20. Members of the spring pledge class were Rick Chiles, amateur golfer, David Krickan, Pete Lampby, Charles Orr, Herbert Peek (pledge class president), Jack Thomas, Doug Thomas and Steve Williams. The pledge class, which lasted approximately eight weeks, climaxed by a party in Hickory, April 18-19.

Following the induction of new members, election officers for 1970-71 was held. The results are: Frank Hough, President; Tom Myers, Vice President; Chinnamon, Treasurer; Steve Williams, Secretary; Thomas and David Krickan, Pledge Masters. Sigma Kappa Lambda is MHC's only purely social fraternity.

File 34, being appreciative of good editorial bestows admiration upon Editor Hayes Goodrum Assistant Editor Diane Brown of The Laurel for outstanding work and achievement on this year's directory book. Their long hours, tedious tasks, and times unrewarded efforts all contributed to the book's success. Hats also go off to Cadenza Editor Gary Simon whose second literary magazine went on sale this week.

The Veterans Administration has sent out a bulletin which found its way, through the grace of the U. S. Post Office, into the Hilltop copy box. All veterans are reminded that they must return their certification of attendance cards during the last full month of every enrollment period. The current semester end next week for Mars Hill students. (Quit celebrating and read on.) VA computers are programmed to compare the final check this spring for the 1969-70 school year only after the certification of attendance cards have been received.

What's more, if the card is not returned at the end of the current semester, the student cannot be automatically enrolled under the G.I. Bill next semester.

College registrars also have a role to play. They must promptly return the veterans' re-enrollment certification to the VA so the veteran may start receiving his check on schedule the next semester he is in school. A reminder there, Silver Fox.

Everyone attending school under a VA program has the responsibility of keeping the VA informed as to whether there has been a change in the number of dependents, or in his enrollment program.

The NoDoz Service Award of this week goes to Frank Farrell, faithful Hilltop typist who stayed with the Hilltop editors until the wee hours of dawn last Tuesday morning. He helped to revamp the paper after campus demonstration late Monday night (see story on page one) and courageously endured the aches of sleeplessness.

In case anyone who might be reading this column didn't make it to Collegiate Sound, the show was terrific. The Phi Mu Alpha chaps, along with all those who participated in the show, did a really fine job in presenting the first annual Collegiate Sound. The show had a good turnout and an even better response. Most entertaining group and Mars Hill has never had more reason to be proud of the ingenuity, talent and creativity of its students. A veddy good show!

The Associated Collegiate Press has awarded Hilltop a rating of First class for its fall, 1969 edition (Hard work really pays off!)

# A Word of Thanks

The Hilltop Staff wishes to express our deep appreciation and admiration to Mr. Walter P. Smith, Director of Public Information and Advisor to The Laurel and The Hilltop. This man has unfailingly offered journalistic criticism, technical assistance, and personal encouragement through the production of each issue of the newspaper. He's a bridge over sometimes troubled waters.