

Trustees Give Support

In its December meeting the Board of Trustees formed a special fact finding committee to investigate the rumors which were so prevalent concerning the claims that "Mars Hill College is lowering academic standards, that the moral standards of the students are declining, that the President is directing the college in a proper manner, etc."

In making its report to the Executive Committee of the Board on April 10, the Board gave Dr. Bentley permission to release to the faculty and students the following portions of the report which seem to be of most direct interest to the faculty and students at this time. The full report, a very positive eight-page document, will be presented to the full Board of Trustees at its meeting on May 16. The pertinent portions read as follows:

There is definite basis to the fact that students are away from the campus excessively. They are allowed class absences 25 percent of the total hours the class meets without loss of credit. Since there are no Saturday classes, many students leave the campus Thursday or early Friday, returning on Sunday evening or early Monday morning. Therefore they are not prepared for Monday classes. This means that they basically lose an entire day. The Committee feels that this is not in keeping with our program of academic excellence as we feel that we must do more than just meet minimum requirements. This, of course, not only affects scholarship but takes the students away from many social activities and programs of Mars Hill College.

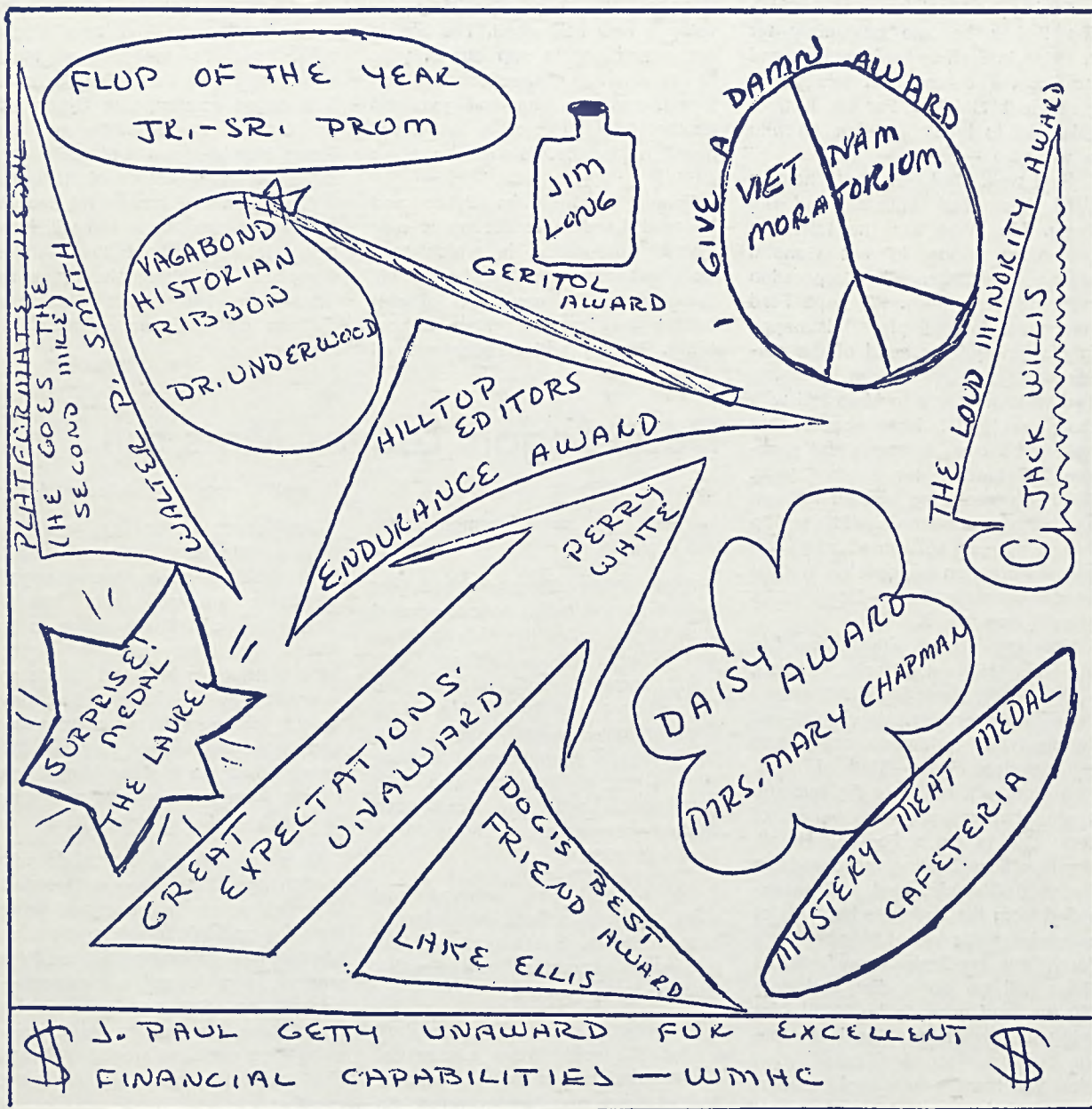
It is the opinion of this Committee that there are not too many off-campus social activities at this time, and this Committee finds no evidence of misconduct on the part of Mars Hill College students while attending any off-campus social activities. This Committee feels that there is no evidence to substantiate any appreciable decline in the moral standards or moral values of the students of Mars Hill College.

The students, however, apparently do not understand the over-all policy of the administration concerning drinking and most students interviewed seemed to feel "it's okay to drink so long as there is no destruction of property" and/or "so long as there are no disturbances or out rageous conduct caused by the drinking." Therefore, the existing rules concerning possession and use of alcoholic beverages, use of marijuana or other narcotic or hallucinatory drugs should be strictly enforced and this Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees request the administration to issue unequivocal policies concerning this, publish the same in the Student Handbook, request the student judiciary and house council to enforce the existing rules and regulations.

We the Committee of Five, in view of all facts reviewed and considered, believe that Mars Hill College has a great future and we believe its future can be realized under the leadership of Dr. Bentley. We recommend that the Board of Trustees extend to him a unanimous vote of confidence and at the same time pledge to Mars Hill College our most ardent and continued support, physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Dr. Bentley stated that he is very appreciative of the work of this committee and commends them for recognizing the positive and high qualities of Mars Hill College—its students, faculty, and administration, for expressing positive recommendations for the continued growth and development of the college; and especially for the unanimous vote of confidence which the special committee and the Executive Committee have given to him, his colleagues and the students.

Hilltop Merit Awards



SGA Tends To Off Campus Obligations Asserts Projections For Next Year

by Laine Calloway

Student Government Association President Danny Ray and Vice-President Lake Ellis spent April 23-26 in Memphis, Tenn. attending the annual meeting for Southern Universities in Student Government Association (SUSGA). In an interview held with this reporter, President Ray said that "For Mars Hill, it (SUSGA) is worthless. We have gotten nothing out of it for what we have put into it." This attitude was evidently adopted by the Senate for that legislative body voted last Monday night to withdraw membership from SUSGA.

Tentative plans are being made by Baptist colleges in North Carolina to form a Baptist College Union which would, for all practical purposes, meet the needs of the various student governments represented. Small, private colleges are not faced with the same challenges that are met by larger schools and SUSGA is meeting no real need of these schools. It is felt by Danny and Lake and some of the other representatives to SUSGA from other colleges in the state that a Baptist College Union would be more practical than SUSGA.

Danny also commented on several projections for next year's SGA activities. SGA hopes to have a student as a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees. Perhaps at a later date it will be feasible to have a student with a full trusteeship for a full year term.

The Student Commission on Long Range Plans will be formed by SGA to update the rules which govern the Senate and which will make SGA a more viable student organization.

One of the more innovative ambitions of the SGA is to establish a parallel committee on Faculty Development which will be responsible for faculty evaluation. Student majors will serve on departmental committees and the committee will act as a liaison between students and faculty members.

Another parallel committee will be formed on Financial Aid. The SGA will form its own scholarship program and will award scholarships funded by SGA dues and monies from various foundations. The program will be operated by students.

Internally, the SGA is planning

to seek re-evaluation and growth. The Summer Council, according to Danny, will update the constitution in the hope that this action will, again, increase the viability of SGA.

Through the efforts of SGA, students may be able to purchase a season's ticket to the Mars Theatre.

In order to inform the Board of Trustees that students are interested in publicizing the college, SGA hopes to form a Public Relations Committee.

Concluding his interview Danny said, "SGA has got to be a service organization. It has got to be a group effort. The students deserve this; they paid for it."

Sounds of the Times

(Continued from P. 2)

dents really receive? What was annexed to their education? I dare say probably very little, since, for a person to fully benefit from an education, he must for himself and on his own pursue what he truly believes will be of significance and relevance to his life. The Chapel program, for most students, contributes little, if any, to this realization that each student must come to grasp. If anything, the Chapel program is detrimental to this realization. The Chapel program today has been reformed somewhat but is far from being adequate.

This fact was pointed out very graphically by the spring symposium. The last person to speak at the symposium had an audience of approximately 200 people and considering the caliber of this

speaker it was pathetic that more people didn't hear him or take the interest to hear him. But then again, by that time everyone had turned all their lecture cards in, the major objective of the Chapel program. Incidentally, the speaker, Mr. Elsmann, commented on the lack of people attending his lecture, a remark which should have embarrassed some of the college faculty.

There is no immediate panacea for all concerned with the college and its problems but through the backing of student-planned reforms by the entire student body and not just fifty or so people students will inevitably aspire to their needs since obviously we are now and will remain the constituents of the college.

—Neal Thomas

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