

THE MARS HILL COLLEGE HILLTOP



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Students Robbed Held at Gunpoint

Around midnight, Sunday Sept. 10, Rob Marmaduke, a student at Mars Hill and his friend Billy Carroll were returning to the campus from Salem, Virginia. While driving down a Madison county mountain, a green Mustang began "hassling" them (blinking their lights, riding on the tail of the car, and trying to get them to pull over). "I thought for a minute they were going to make us swerve off the road", Carroll said.

A bit later the air was broken by the sound of pops and cracks. Since the back tires were shot out of Carroll's MG, they had little choice but to pull over at a Texaco station. They stayed in their car, but the green Mustang pulled up and a man, apparently the leader of this trio, came to the MG door, pulled Carroll out, pointed a gun in his face and asked if he had any dope. The other "highwaymen" had pulled Marmaduke from the car, and finding no narcotics, asked for money. They confiscated Carroll's wallet and relieved Rob of a total of 11c. They then took the belongings in the car which included sleeping and fishing

gear. During all this the bandits waved guns in Rob and Billy's faces, threatening their lives, and acted generally insulting and crass.

The "leader of the pack" then decided it was time to leave, so he told Rob and Billy to start running up the highway. The two youths ran frantically about 200 feet, and when they heard the car driving up behind them, they jumped the guard rail and rolled down about 50 feet of a bank planted in sticker bushes. Throughout all this activity they heard continuous gunshots.

When they felt somewhat safe that their robbers had left, they ran to a nearby house-store. The owner said for them to leave; that he wanted "no trouble." Billy and Rob had to beg and plead before the man finally called the police.

When the deputy sheriff arrived, they went into the store and phoned the state patrol and the sheriff of Madison County, E. Y. Ponder. Luckily, there were two witnesses to Billy and Rob's holdup who had followed the Mustang and found it at the Tennessee line.

The sheriff, deputy sheriff, Rob and Billy leaped into the county cars and drove toward the Tennessee line. They found the "Green Mustang Gang" committing yet another offense. The two servicemen who had been driving the second assaulted car were standing by it with their hands over their heads. One of them had been rendered nude.

Upon the arrival of the sheriff, two of the robbers took flight in the Mustang. One of the servicemen grabbed the third bandit who consequently ended up with a broken nose and two black eyes.

Another member of the gang was captured Monday, September 11, and Carroll and Marmaduke had to identify him in a police line-up. The third robber, at press time, is still at large; however, many clues to his whereabouts are available.

Now that this horrible experience is almost over, Rob Marmaduke has this to say: "If they didn't have the guns we'd have beat the hell out of them." Carroll simply said, "I just wish they'd bring them to Brown dorm."



Tired of run of the mill snacks?

CLAYTON New Laurel Editor



Debbie Clayton

Debbie Clayton was selected as editor of the '72-'73 Laurel by the board of student communication media at their first meeting on Sept. 19. They yearbook was left without an editor when Grace Corbett, editor elect, did not enroll for the fall semester. Grace was unable to return because of an illness in her family.

Clayton, a sophomore psychology major, has worked on yearbooks for a number of years and is familiar with the procedures involved in producing a yearbook. "I want to give every part of the college community an ample opportunity to become involved with the Laurel," Clayton said. Debbie plans the first meeting for Tuesday, Sept. 26 in the recreation lounge of Fox Dorm, at 7:00. All interested persons are invited. Clayton said, "This will be a good time for people to express opinions about what they would like to see in this year's annual."

Highway Expansion is boon to MHC

by Mike Conner

According to an administrative source, the construction of the new expressway extension may be more of a boon to Mars Hill than had previously been expected. Currently in the planning stage is a 150-unit Holiday Inn for the area, as well as a shopping center, neither of which might have been possible had not the new road begun to take shape.

Financed by Appalachian program funds, the six and one-tenths mile stretch of road is a continuance of the expressway (which runs out at Weaverville) and will end just outside of Mars Hill (at North Carolina

State Road 36). Including the costs of construction, rights-of-way, etc., the expense for this project, when completed, will total just over eight and one-half million dollars (or approximately one and four-tenths million dollars per mile).

The highway is a part of an interstate system of highways (designated the Appalachian Corridor) which will eventually run from Georgia to Ohio. The projected completion date for the local portion of this project is December 1, 1974. Work is running approximately six months ahead of schedule, however, and the road may be opened for use

earlier than had been anticipated.

A program closely related to the expressway is the road which will connect Mars Hill to the main highway. While this program is still in its early stages, tentative plans call for the removal of the Cody Hardware building, the Campus Corner, and a portion of the store beside the new Blackwell Building (which was designed with an overhang so as to allow for the road's right-of-way). Spokesmen for the State Highway Commission indicate that the new road has been designed as not to require removal of the Montague Building or the Office Building.

Campus Drinking Proposal Passed By Senate

by Su Harper

On campus drinking proposal was passed at this year's first senate meeting, Sept. 11. The proposal calls for deleting roman numeral I, letter J from the student handbook, "Zeigist". The handbook states "The selling, transfer, possession or use of alcoholic beverages on the Mars Hill campus or at college sponsored events is prohibited". Now that it is passed by the senate, it will be reviewed by the student affairs council and President Bentley for their approval or veto.

Frank Farrell's open hours proposal was also approved by the senate. The bill proposes that no curfew be imposed upon the sophomore, junior or senior women in

Fox Dormitory and the Townhouses. This bill was passed by the summer council of the senate, however, President Bentley vetoed it on the grounds of improper logistics. In the discussion on the bill some pros for the issue were: a chance to exercise freedom in making one's own decisions and exercising self-discipline. Also mentioned was the triple standard existing between men, upper classwomen and freshmen women's curfew hours. Some felt, however, that students need guidance to cope with college freedom. The student affairs council and President Bentley must review this bill, also.

The freshmen women's curfew hours proposal passed with almost a majority consent by the senate.

This bill extends freshmen women's hours from 11:00 to the standard 12:00 curfew. This must be cleared with the student affairs council and President Bentley before it goes into effect.

Other matters taken up by the senate included housing council, faculty parking proposal, and student parking. Men and women's house council are now able to establish a quorum and are required by senate to keep minutes which they will examine. The faculty parking proposal asks that the faculty impose a financial fee upon themselves when they receive courtesy tickets for parking in areas designated for stu-

dents. It was felt by the students that since student parking is now so limited it is unfair and inconsiderate for the faculty to park in the student parking areas. This bill was passed by the senate. Thad Strom proposed that both levels 1 and 2 of the student parking area behind the library be open to commuters and male students instead of having the two separated. This matter will go before the traffic committee.

Senate meeting for the rest of the year will be held every 2nd and 4th Mondays at 6:30 in the library auditorium. All meetings are open to any student, faculty or administrators.