



Cagers enjoy brief respite before scrimmage

## LION CAGERS PREPARE FOR '74-'75 SEASON

by Eric Garner

Head basketball coach Jack Lytton seems optimistic for the '74-75 season even with the loss of three of last season's starters due to graduation. Lytton will definitely feel the loss of Joe Bridges who set the single season scoring record and the carrier rebounding record, all in just two years. Bridges was all-district and all-conference both years at Mars Hill and was a key player in leading the Lions to the finals of the Carolinas Conference play-offs and the District 6 tournament last season. Lytton will also miss Jerry Hayes who set the school career scoring record, and Kenny Ward who quarterbacked the Lions at the guard position. All is not gloomy in Mars Hill because Lytton has had one of his most productive recruiting years which has brought in a couple of junior college transfers as well as four freshmen. Carlos Showers, at a towering 6'11", transferred here from Westark Community College in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He is probably the only new Lion who will make the starting line-up. Lytton feels that Showers has a lot of undeveloped talent and that he can become one of the most dominating "big men" in the conference. Carlos missed one year of play at Westark due to an in-

jury so he has three years of eligibility for play here at the HILL. John Byrd is the other transfer coming from Chowan Junior College. Lytton feels that the 6'7" junior has excellent rebounding ability. Byrd will see action as a back-up forward along with 6'5" freshman Jimmy Dalton of Asheville. Both Dalton and Byrd are good shooters and use their size in their best characteristic of strong rebounding. Starting in the forward slots will be Jimmy Graves and Mike Earwood. Graves was second leading scorer and rebounder as a freshman on last year's team. Senior Mike Earwood seems to have a better eye for the basket this season and appears to have overcome the inconsistency problems of last season. This Lion team appears to have the best depth of any team in Lytton's five years at Mars Hill. In all positions, there are back-ups such as Byrd and Dalton who could take over the starting spot at any time in the season. "This is the kind of innersquad competition we have been needing to keep our top players working harder. If they don't they get replaced," stated Lytton. Backing up Showers at center will be 6'9" junior Don Cole. Don has looked more aggressive this season especially in his defensive efforts. Also behind Showers will be Buford Cole, a 6'

8" freshman who can play either center or forward. Lytton has the greatest depth in the guard department. In the starting spots will be senior Derek Thomas, the spark plug that delights the crowds as he ignites the Lion offense and dazzles all with his lightning quick defensive moves. Derek was an off-on type player last season with a problem of consistency. He joined the Lions late last season after spending time in military service and it appears he is looser and ready to play more consistently this season. At the other guard spot will be 6'2" junior Eddie Taylor. Taylor is the product of determinism. After being redshirted last season, he worked on his own, practicing with the team every day and has worked his way to the starting unit. Both Taylor and Thomas are quick and good passers and shooters plus Taylor adds the extra defensive punch at 6'2" as a tall guard and the height advantage to threaten Lion opponents. Backing up Taylor and Thomas will be senior Bruce Murray. Bruce started a couple of games last season and played very inspired defensively coming in off the bench. Junior Harry Marsh is a scrappy defensive hustler and good assist man. He has seen very limited action previously for the Lions but that

may change this season. Pat Lanning is probably one of the most versatile athletes at Mars Hill. He adds the extra dimension of rebounding from the guard spot, good shooting eye, assist man, and agile defender, all in his speedy 6'0" frame. Two freshman will be trying to work their way up in the Lions' ranks this season. Ben Was, of Franklin, is a good shooter and hustler and will probably see some action as he develops his potential. Larry Steepleton comes to the Lions after playing three years of service ball where he averaged 20 points a game. The 30 year old has acquired the nickname "old man" from his teammates but he is quick and a good

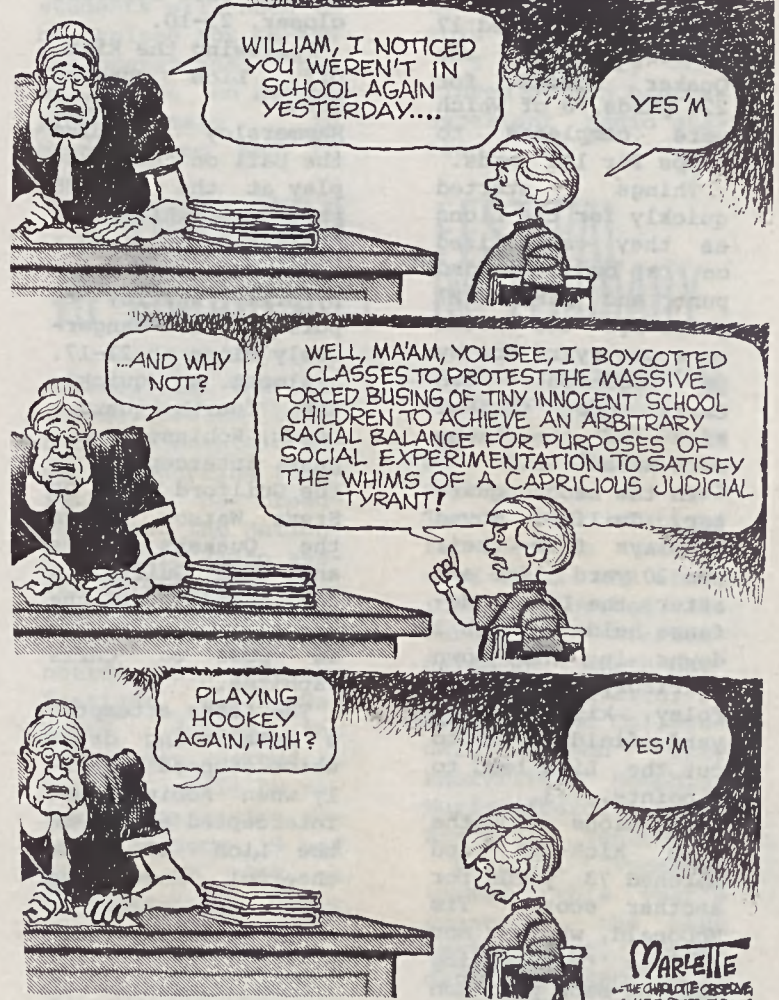
shooter. He rounds out the seven guards being the third over 6 feet tall which should be a definite advantage for the Lions. This should be a much better season for the Lions. They only lost one game at home last year and they will be looking to do better than last year's second place finish in the conference tournament. The Lions have another exciting 30 game schedule which opens with new opponent Lincoln Memorial in Harrogate, Tenn. on November 18. The Lions open the home season hosting a Thanksgiving tournament on Friday and Saturday nights, Nov. 29 and 30. The tournament involves UNC-Wilmington, Lincoln Memorial, Greensboro College, and Mars Hill.

## MAYNARD FERGUSON MHC

by David Smith

How does a person go about describing a group like Maynard Ferguson and his Orchestra? The sound that comes from this thirteen piece band IS MUSIC. It is alive and responsive. The Jazzy Rock members are fiery and driving, the ballads, soft and sexy, and the popular tunes are spiked with that unmistakable Ferguson Flair. Mediocre musicians such as myself turn an envious shade of avocado as Maynard and the band demonstrate their musical abilities. There is

no match for them-not even Doc Severinson and the NBC Orchestra or the sounds of the late Bill Chase. Anyone who knows anything about playing a horn will not believe the music that comes from Maynard's trumpet. Even those who don't know a tuba from a tympani will enjoy the exciting show that this group puts on. Mars Hill will have a chance to experience Maynard and the band in concert Tuesday, November 19 at Moore Auditorium from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. FREE!!! Be there you'll enjoy it.



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