



# THE MARS HILL COLLEGE HILLTOP

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MARS HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1975

## Students Protest Suspension

A group of students protested the suspension of freshman Robin Harvey following his arrest last week by agents of the Asheville-Buncombe Inter-agency Narcotics Squad. Harvey has been charged with delivery and sale of LSD, and delivery of marijuana. He has been released under a \$1,600 bond.

The students first made their protest known Wednesday night as nearly 30 prepared to stay in "the pit" area of Wren College Union past the closing time of 11 p.m. They left after conferring with Dr. Bentley, and after being told that they would be subject to arrest and a \$500 fine unless they cleared out by 11 p.m.

The following night a group of nearly 70 students gathered to protest in the college union and at 11 p.m. decided to again take their grievances to President Bentley.

At Dr. Bentley's suggestion, the group moved from outside the president's house to Belk Auditorium to discuss the issues.

Once inside the auditorium, the spokesman of the group showed a petition with 430 signatures at the time, protesting the suspension. Various questions dealing with the suspension were answered by Dr. Bentley and Dean Gehring.

Areas discussed were: is the suspension legal since Robin had not been convicted in a court of law? Dr. Bentley answered that the college usually does not become involved with off campus arrests unless the arrest or conviction is of such nature as to pose a threat to the health welfare or safety of

the other members of the college community.

The sale of drugs as evidenced by Harvey's arrest constituted such a threat in Dr. Bentley's opinion, and therefore it was his responsibility to enact the suspension, even if it proved unpopular with a large segment of the student body.

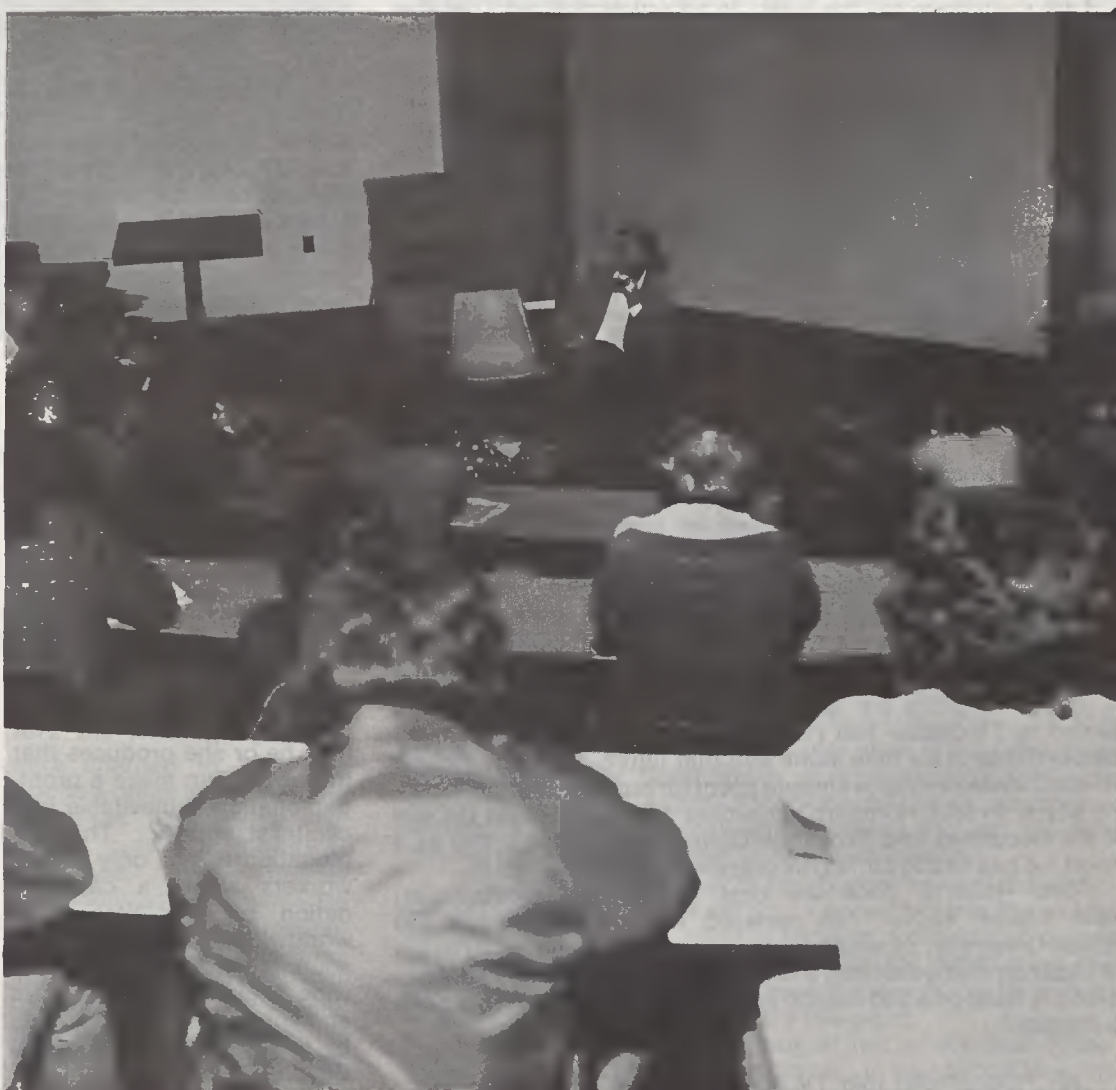
President Bentley also made clear that rumors to the effect that a trustee had called demanding the dismissal of Harvey was untrue. He had not had any communications from trustees regarding Harvey. Dr. Bentley and Dean Gehring also made clear that due process had been followed. In a case like this, and Dr. Bentley mentioned two others, the student is informed of his suspension, that he has a right to appeal the suspension.

Harvey had elected to make his appeal immediately, and the appeals board had upheld the suspension.

Both President Bentley and Dean Gehring noted that they in no way influenced the appeals board decision. Dr. Bentley left town during the proceeding and Dean Gehring disqualified himself for the hearing.

Dr. Bentley also noted that Harvey would be refunded his tuition and board fees for this semester or have them applied to his fees when he decided to return to school.

President Bentley commented that he did not resent the meeting or the time, as it was evidence that students were concerned and needed answers to the problems that had severely troubled them.



President Bentley meets with students concerning the suspension of Robin Harvey.

Photo: Campbell

The meeting proceeded calmly enough, considering the emotional levels of some of the students. Only

one "cheap shot" was taken all night.

At midnight, some of the students began to drift out of the

auditorium, and at 1 a.m., when the motion was made to adjourn, there were approximately 30 students left.

## SGA ELECTIONS SOON

Petitions for student Government offices will be available Monday, February 24, 1975, in the S.G.A. office in the Wren College Union Building. From those candidates petitioning, the student body will elect a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, chief justice and speaker of the joint residence hall council. Class elections will be held at a later time.

Signed petitions must be returned to

the S.G.A. office no later than 5:00 PM, Thursday, February 27, 1975, in order to be considered for validity. Candidates are required to obtain the signature of at least 10% of the student body (approximately 150) to be eligible. Other election procedures will be available to candidates at the time they secure petitions.

Speeches by those candidates found to be eligible to run will be delivered Wednesday, March 5,

1975, in Moore Auditorium, at 7:00 PM.

The election will take place Thursday, March 6, 1975. The polling place and the hours it will be open will be announced by the Election and Open Forum Committee. Voting this year will be done by machine instead of paper ballots. The Madison County Board of Elections has consented to loan S.G.A. the use of a voting machine. Should a run-off be necessary, it will occur on Thursday, March 13, 1975.