

# The Hilltop



Mars Hill, N.C., 28754

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## The Inside Story

*Students' Right to Know-*  
Michael Johnston concludes his three part series on student fees. (Page Five)

*Journal from a World Traveler-* Marc Mullinax writes from Yugoslavia on his current world tour. (Page Three)

*Mary Hartman, et. al-* The recent sit-com successes of Norman Lear are discussed. (Page Twelve)

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Sanchagrin, Stern, and participating students discuss on campus surveys, the first phase of the center's research.

## Theory, Practice Merge In Research Center

"It is our belief that student learning activities and community needs should be integrated within the life of any Appalachian educational institution." Such a quote exemplifies the attitude of people who have become involved in the formation of a community research center here at Mars Hill. Members of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in particular have felt the need to facilitate the merging of theory and practice through the creation of concrete educational environments. Furthermore, these research projects would provide students with an avenue through which they could reach competence in understanding and applying the scientific method of inquiry.

According to directors Ken Sanchagrin and Larry Stern, the Community Research Center will have several important objectives. First, it will provide the student with a non-traditional method for demonstrating competence in social science research. Second, it will seek to give more ade-

quate preparation for students intending to do graduate work in social science. Third, it will assist regional groups and agencies in collecting and interpreting information. Finally, the Research Center will develop social data concerning the southern highlands to enrich understanding of a society and culture undergoing significant change.

To accomplish these objectives the Center will be engaged in three types of research activities. It will first provide contract research service to community groups and local government offices. In mountain counties community leaders have extremely limited access to research assistance; and, increasingly local governmental units are required to gather certain data in order to qualify for various state and federal programs. Also, the Center will do basic research designed to help provide a more adequate understanding

## Academic Rights Protected

Of major concern to students and faculty alike is the protection of their academic rights. In recent years methods of safe-guarding the social rights of students and faculty have been established, but ways of ensuring academic rights have been neglected: no definite procedure for dealing with problems of an academic nature has been adopted by the college.

The Plans and Policies Committee, however, is working to change this situation and is actively engaged in formalizing a procedure for academic appeal. Since the spring of 1976 the committee has been studying the situation and revising the draft of the original proposal.

In their work, the committee has taken into consideration points of educational law, consulting Dean Gehring, who is an authority in this area. The committee has also sought out precedents for this type of appeal procedure, but has had to generate all the material itself. Of this material the final proposal will probably include sections concerning faculty rights, student rights, and various bases for appeal (not exclusively grade appeals). Once the Plans and Policies Committee completes the proposal, it will be voted on, by the entire faculty.

The need for some kind of academic appeal policy was recognized in 1974. During that year the General Studies team leaders worked on a proposal, and in 1975 sent it on to the Plans and Policies Committee. This committee sent

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