

Concerts Highlight Spring Fling

by JONATHAN RIDDLE

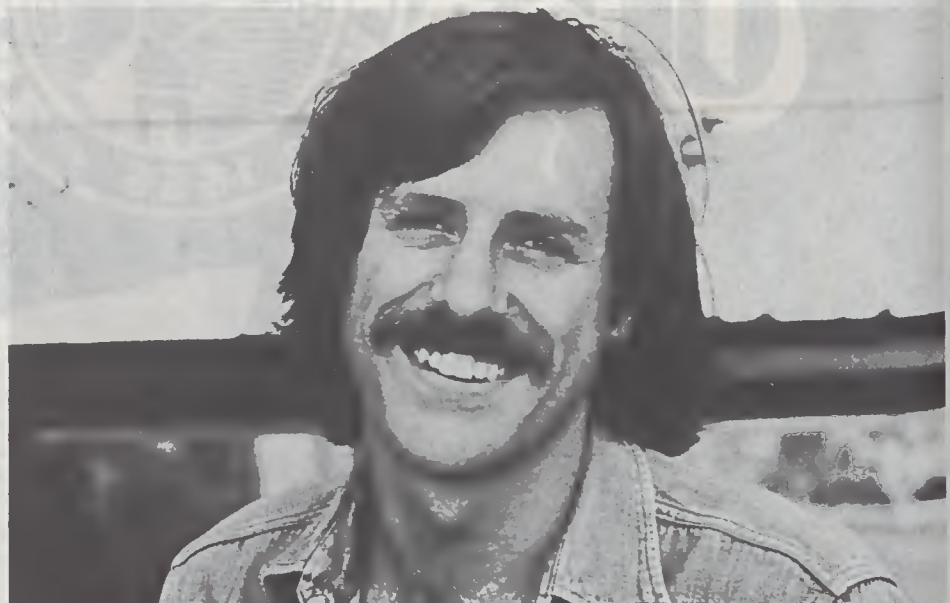
Those in charge at Wren College Union have once again commemorated the advent of the spring season in a whole series of unique events labeled "Spring Fling 1977". By sponsoring activities ranging from the traditional picnics and frisbee-throwing to more extraordinary happenings like an Hawaiian luau and a balloon ascension, the union has sought to capture the tremendous energies of the new season in some organized form. So far this week their efforts have proven quite successful with more students than ever participating in the activities. Wednesday afternoon and evening featured an ice cream social, the Goodtime Oatmeal Band, a frisbee demonstration and clinic, field day activities, a picnic supper, a carnival, and the antics of Geno the Clown. Thursday was "Wild Mountain Day" on campus, and the activities reflected such a theme: a flea market, a watermelon cutting (and seed spitting contest), the Warren Wilson String Band, and a contest for the best-dressed "wild mountaineer". Last night saw a pinball tournament, a continuation of the "Three Shades of Comedy" film festival, and the opening of the play "Spoon River Anthology" in Owen Theatre.

"Spring Fling's" greatest excitement, however, occurs this weekend starting with an Hawaiian luau from 4-6pm this afternoon. Sponsored in cooperation with Epicure, this special meal will be held on the patio of Wren College Union and will feature all the flavor of the south seas — from roast pig to Hawaiian leis. The luau will be followed tonight by a number of special events: a sale in the student bookstore, a casino in Belk Auditorium, a disco in the Snack Bar, a fireworks display in Meares Stadium, and another movie in Belk. The main emphasis Saturday will come at 7:30 pm in Moore Auditorium with a concert featuring Arrogance, Tom Chapin, and comedian Tom Parks. According to Sundance Music Company in New York, "Arrogance, in spite of their name, plays some of the finest good-time music since the stuff was invented. Audiences laugh, they clap, they applaud. Their ballads weave people into stories, feelings, make people feel warm." Tom Chapin has been described as "a man for all media." Known best as the host of ABC's Emmy-winning children's show *Make a Wish*, Tom Chapin has just recently begun a solo recording career in earnest. Mars Hill is one of his first stops. Tickets for the concert will be \$3.00 at the door, \$2.00 for Mars Hill students, and \$3.00 for outsiders.

Sunday, May 1 will bring to a climax all of the events of the "Spring Fling" week. From 12 to 4 pm a hot air balloon will be inflated and tethered beside the cafeteria, giving students rides all afternoon. A soap-box derby at 2:00 pm and a movie, *Three Days of the Condor*, will then conclude the annual festival, helping to make it one of the most memorable "rites of spring" ever held.

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Featured during "Spring Fling" are the concert band Arrogance, solo artist Tom Chapin, and comedian Tom Parks.

Receives First Class Rating

HILLTOP Takes ACP Honors

Winning marks of distinction in photography and graphic design as well as editorial leadership, the 1976-1977 HILLTOP has received a First Class Honor rating from the Associated Collegiate Press in its respective college enrollment category of 1500-2000 students. The ACP honor comes to the student newspaper after an absence of approximately five years when the paper received no critical evaluation or rating. Prior to that time, the HILLTOP had rated highly in ACP judging, receiving First Class Honor ratings yearly.

The Associated Collegiate Press, in cooperation with the school of journalism at the University of Minnesota, offers student newspaper staffs country-wide an outside, authoritative opinion of their publications; suggestions on how to improve them; a measurement of how their product compares with those being published in similar situations; and recognition of their efforts through honor ratings.

Judging by the ACP is divided into five sections: coverage and content; writing and editing; editorial leadership and opinion features; physical appearance and visual communications; and photography, art and use of graphics. Included in each of these sections are statements representing essentials for student newspapers in that area. The judge decides the score according to what other publications in the paper's classification are doing, not in comparison with some imaginary, ideal newspaper. Papers are classified by size of school enrollment, frequency of publication, and printing process. The rating is finally determined by the total number of points scored in the various five categories of evaluation. A First Class rating represents "very good to excellent."

Changes in the 1976-77 HILLTOP that put it into the First Class category were the introduc-

tion of a features and review section, including television, movie, and book reviews, plus original works, such as the serial *Pauline Pratt*, *Pauline Pratt*. Editorial page merits were also a strong point for the paper, delving into national, as well as state and campus issues. Layout and design innovations, along with the use of quality photography and graphics, caused the HILLTOP to receive its high honor.

Co-editors of the 1976-1977 HILLTOP were Rex Best and Jonathan Riddle, while Julia Storm served as the paper's associate editor. Ninette Humber headed the copy staff and Scotty Miller filled the position of sports editor. Kirk Hall served as chief student photographer for the paper. HILLTOP advisor was John H. Campbell, Jr., assistant to the director of public information.

Alumnus to Deliver MHC Baccalaureate

by JOHN CAMPBELL

Approximately 240 seniors will receive degrees Sunday, May 15, as Mars Hill College closes out its 121st academic year.

In an effort to give more attention to the graduates and make commencement weekend more meaningful to them and their parents and friends, drastic changes have been made in the schedule of activities and events during the three day weekend. Alumni affairs, such as class reunions and the annual alumni banquet, have been postponed until the Homecoming celebration in the fall.

There will still be a banquet in the college cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 14, but it will be primarily for members of the graduating class, their parents and relatives, and other honored guests.

Other events in the revamped commencement weekend agenda include a traditional

display of student art, which will be officially opened at 4 p.m. on Friday in the gallery on the mezzanine of the Fine Arts Building; the semi-annual business session of the Board of Trustees on Saturday morning; a joint meeting of the Board of Advisors and trustees at noon; and a pops concert given by the Music Department following the banquet Saturday.

Sunday, in addition to the baccalaureate service at 11 a.m. and the commencement exercise, there will be an organ recital at 2:30 p.m. in Moore Auditorium.

A highlight of the occasion will be the awarding of an honorary degree — Doctor of Literature — to Dr. Walter Harrelson of Nashville, Tennessee, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Harrelson, a Mars Hill alumnus, will also bring the baccalaureate message in the Sunday morning service to the seniors and their parents and the members of the Mars Hill Baptist Church, who traditionally join the college for the service.

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