

# Cliff's Notes

by Cliff Cunningham

Going camping alone is a valuable lesson, particularly if you survive to tell others of your experience. In September 1975 I went camping by myself for the first time.

I had been planning a trout-fishing expedition all summer long, and when I found some free time near the end of the summer, I was off like a shot headed for the mountains of North Georgia. I arrived in the De Soto Falls area of the Chattahoochee National Forest and found that the fishing season was closed and also that the access roads to the creeks were closed. Highly disappointed, I traversed the road a few miles further to the base of Blood Mountain, one of the highest peaks in Georgia. There I packed my equipment and began the task of car carrying it to my campsite.

On the third and final trip to my campsite, a thunderstorm struck the gap and every item I brought with me was drenched. I managed to set the tent up during the rain, but by the time it was up, there was at least 5 gallons of rain water on the downhill end of the

tent's floor. I crawled in after I stowed all my gear in the driest part of the floor. My clothes, food, and cigarettes were all sopping wet. I felt tired and very angry at my foolishness.

What more could happen to me? In the middle of the night I awoke to Ribs, my dog's howling. Soon after I heard a spooky noise outside the tent. The noises petrified both Ribs and me so we just stayed awake for an endless hour. After a small eternity of blackness, we awoke to a dripping, grey, misty world of forest.

I salvaged enough food to have breakfast and having cabin fever after just one night, I decided to hike to the peak of Blood Mountain. We made our way to the top and explored the Rock Cabin there which is maintained by the Appalachian Trail people. When my dog began chasing something which I could not see, I became very frightened and started our way down the trail as fast as we could go. I fell down and could not get back up. My ankle was sprained and I knew that it was going to be tough getting back to the campsite, much less carry everything out. I used my walking stick as a crutch and had been hobbling

down the mountain for about ten minutes when I heard a man's voice behind me.

Everything turned out for the better after I met Brett. He was a student at the University of Georgia, where he would be entering as a freshman in the next two weeks. He helped me carry all my stuff out in one trip, and I gave him a ride to Atlanta.

What gems of knowledge can be gleaned from this story? First, be very sure you have the skills to camp alone. Had my dog not slept with me at night I might have died of hypothermia. Secondly, know the intended purposes and uses of your equipment. Lastly, check local and Federal laws about the area you are entering and ask someone who has knowledge of the area to share whatever he will.

It is fun to camp alone and it is reasonably safe compared to walking in some urban areas at night. The wild places are now man's conquered territory and the time for learning to preserve them is now. Many people on campus are interested in camping and most of them are willing to share their time and knowledge. Find one of us.

# Special Ed Program

by Phillip Ray

The fall semester of the 1977-1978 school year marks the addition of the Special Education Program to the curriculum of Mars Hill College. The Program of Certification for Teachers of Gifted and Talented Children prepares future educators to teach these children. This program is directed by Mr. Smith Goodrum, who said that the program is open to juniors who have at least a B average. Any freshman or sophomore interested should talk with Mr. Goodrum, or their advisor, to insure that they enroll in the necessary prerequisite courses.

Job opportunities should flourish in the next few years because of recent legislation giving added attention to gifted and talented children and their educational needs. Many people feel that gifted and talented children may be a seriously neglected segment of the school population. The characteristics of the gifted vary. These differences are not easy to distinguish and special training for the teachers is a necessity. Teachers need not be superior achievers themselves, but need only have interest in new teaching techniques. They must be willing to encourage, to facilitate, and to help show talented and gifted children how to use their abilities to the fullest.

# Special Attraction at M.H.C.



Highlights from previous Bascom Lamar Lunsford Festivals. September 29-October 1, 1977 has been set aside for this annual event on the Mars Hill College campus.

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