



One of the many hand-decorated eggs by Tom Carr, now on display in the library.

Photo by Kirk Hall

Editorial

Campus Comes Under Investigation

Few students are aware that our school has been under investigation by the Haywood Baptist Association and that a committee arrived Wednesday, Nov. 30 to discuss the implications made by a former Mars Hill College Student concerning the Christian atmosphere or lack of it on our campus. This investigation caused amazement and a little resentment at first, but now that it is over, I have heard only positive comments concerning its outcome.

First of all to inform you, a former student, whose name will remain anonymous, wrote a letter to the Haywood Baptist Association pointing out what he thought to be valid complaints here on campus. He mentioned violent and immoral films, books that contained filthy language, a demoralized dress code, and lack of chapel to mention a few. He explained why he felt he must drop out of school here because of these conditions. He went on to suggest a committee be formed to investigate his observations. This committee indeed was formed and was composed of the Moderator of the Haywood Baptist Association, the Director of Missions, three college graduates and three non-graduates of Mars Hill College. I might also add that at the beginning of the letter by this former student he stressed the fact that his motive was not degrading or malicious, but merely constructive.

We at THE HILLTOP feel that this incident was beneficial in that it caused us to examine ourselves and our college in a different light. We need to restate and redefine our aims and goals for our institution and contemplate actually what our purpose is. On the other hand, we feel that this student was an outsider, being a commuter and actually knew very little when it comes to what our college community really is. He did make a few incorrect accusations and took some out of context, but perhaps this is true of many uninvolved students who merely look on at our activities and organizations. We also express concern that no current students were asked to serve at the committee meeting as representatives.

Presently, a committee is to be appointed from our organizations to study this problem of what can and cannot be shown here and what is to be studied by our students. This committee will draw up guidelines of our school policy on these matters that will hopefully safeguard us against future investigation. It is good to know that our college and administrators can take the stand against investigation and question and then come out with a positive feeling and unified purpose. This in fact shows that we can justify our actions of our college community and if and when we cannot, then perhaps we do need to take a careful look at what we have here and see if it is something we can be proud of.

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors:

Someone has said that for those in the field of Theatre Arts there is no such thing as a major. Instead, it is a commitment. I personally feel that there is perhaps no more difficult degree to pursue here at the college. All "majors" before graduation must design and implement lights for a show, secure and run props for a show, and also serve on house, publicity, and shop crews. Most also serve hours in costumes and make-up. This adds up to an incredible number of very long hours over four years leaving very little time for a "typical" college social life or for participation in a wide spectrum of campus activities. Quality productions demand hard work, a dedication, and indeed a commitment. The most rewarding aspect of this is, of course, that a graduate who leaves us is competent to make his way into the next echelon of our field. The feedback from our former students assures me that this is true . . . and that's what we're all about in the Theatre Arts program at Mars Hill.

Next week, at the end of this term two young women will finish up the requirements for their degrees in Theatre Arts — a semester early, which is incredibly difficult in the face of the above mentioned competence areas (and demanding class load). Neither Charlotte Tiencken nor Kandie Olsen was named to the Who's Who list of graduating seniors this year, and I have a feeling that this was an oversight. I suspect that their visibility across campus has been limited because their campus careers have literally been spent mainly in and around Owen Theatre. It's possible that those on the voting committee simply aren't aware of the qualities that raise them far above the usual graduate.

Both students have acted in a number of plays — always winning parts competitively. Miss Olsen was invited to appear for two summers in the professional Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre (SART) companies which is tacit recognition of her acting and crew skills. Miss Tiencken served this summer as a teacher at the Children's Theatre wing of Charleston's famous Dock Street Theatre, a honor for anyone in the field. In January of this year, Miss Olsen put together an acting recital with Cheryl Abood as a special production. Not only was the program written and staged by the two students, but the packed house had a chance to hear Miss Olsen read some of her own excellent poetry.

Miss Tiencken is only the second student ever permitted by the Theatre Arts faculty to direct a major children's pro-

duction. This week, hundreds of children from Madison and Buncombe counties have come by busloads to see **The Dancing Donkey**, the delightful musical which she not only designed (implementing her own set) but directed as well. The success of this venture is a major achievement by a student.

Also this week, Miss Olsen has not only completed writing an original one act play, but is directing **The Love Course** being performed on campus in Owen Theatre this weekend.

I regret Miss Tiencken and Miss Olsen were not recognized for their considerable achievements. The academic records, personal qualities, and their abilities which distinguish leaders of merit. I am pleased to have this opportunity to express these comments in a public forum with the wish of future success for both students and also wish that future Who's Who committees will probe deeper for the kind of information above which may not be readily obvious or available.

Kind thanks,
C. Robert Jones
Associate Professor
Theatre Arts

Dear Editors:

A little girl wrote the following prayer "Dear Jesus, please don't have a birthday next year. It is not that I don't love you Jesus, but every year your birthday causes so much hurt at our house. Mom and Daddy are always fighting, it really gets bad at Christmas when I understand is your birthday. Last year Mom wouldn't speak to Dad for a long time and Dad went off somewhere and stayed until Christmas was over. Last night they had a big fuss at the table was about buying presents and spending money at Christmas. Dad hit John that's my little brother, and his glass fell off in the soup. Mom cried. I don't think I'll ever like soup anymore. Mom it wouldn't be so bad if you didn't have a birthday. I love you Jesus. Love, Kandie Olsen."

Obviously here is a marriage in trouble, and as always, the children suffer immeasurably. Hopefully father and mother will receive competent counseling and begin constructing a meaningful home life.

My plea at the moment, however, is in another direction. It is for all people to remember that strife and tension do not destroy far more than our gifts can replace. Whatever we give our loved ones this Christmas, let us remember these words from the apostle Paul, "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven You."

(Ephesians 4:32)

Billy McGill
Kannapolis, N.C.

The Hilltop



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