

The Hilltop



Mars Hill, N.C. 28754

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Spring Fling to be Showered by "Mountain Juice '78"

by Cheryl Aldridge

"Banana Split Race? Tomato Toss? Tricycle Race?" "Insanity?" You bet! It's the last chance for fun and frolic before the Final Exam Syndrome sets in. "Spring Fling '78" is the occasion for the uninitiated, it is a campus-wide celebration of the return of spring. Phil Weast and Wren Student director, Steve Wilent have worked hard to make this year's festival extra special. Afternoon classes were cancelled on Wednesday. An action-packed day was planned with an ice cream party, carnival, and way-out games like Dill Pickle Eat, Volkswagon Push, and Balloon Stomp on the agenda. Also on Wednesday, there was a dance contest with previous winners Cindy Nanney and Steve Holmes acting as judges. Thursday will be highlighted by a craft exhibit and sale on the Union patio.

Epicure will host a Parisian Delight with French cuisine for Friday night. Afterwards you can retire to the recreation room and blow a "cool million" in the Casino games. Friday night is also the occasion of the semi-annual Bookstore sale when all merchandise (excluding textbooks) is 10% off the regular price. An auction is scheduled and the evening ends with pizza and entertainment by Appalachian musicians in Timberline Coffeehouse.

On Saturday, the first intercollegiate skateboard competition in the U.S., Mountain Juice '78, will be held at MHC. Co-sponsored by the YMCA and Wren College Union, this event will draw skateboard enthusiasts from several area schools. Spring Fling '78 will end with a beach concert and dance by the Four Tops in Chamber's Gym. (No street shoes will be allowed!)

From all indications this year's celebration looks like a winner! Be on the lookout for signs announcing more events soon.



Pictured are "The Four Tops", who are to be in concert the Saturday night of Spring Fling, April 29, in Chamber's Gym.

Bentley Delivers Candid Speech

Alarmed by the attitudes and the conduct of some members of the student body, faculty and staff, Dr. Fred Bentley took the spring President Convocation as an occasion to point out certain abuses and intolerable situations which exist on the campus and to call for some serious soul-searching by those who may not be fully committed to the high ideals and noble goals of the college.

Addressing a small audience (probably fewer than 300 persons) which turned out for the service in Moore Auditorium, he delivered one of the sharpest, most candid speeches in his 12 years as president; and he promised drastic changes in the months ahead. To introduce his remarks Dr. Bentley referred to a recent article by columnist Jack Anderson entitled "What Is Happening to the American Dream?" In it the nationally syndicated writer had pointed out "signs of rot on all sides, signs that the nation's ideals are being sapped by permissive immorality." Specifically he deplored "an orgy of self-pampering, overdosing, loafing, sponging, splurging, cheating, shoplifting, looting, philandering, even murdering. Our institutions are becoming impotent before this moral erosion," asserted Mr. Anderson.

Dr. Bentley said the concerns voiced in the article seem relevant to Mars Hill College; and, explaining the comparison, he focused on three groups:

"A few students," he said, "do not respect the property of others. This is manifested on the campus... in the form of ripped sofas and chairs, kicked-in doors, ripped-off phones, fire alarms and smoke detectors."

It is also evidenced, he said, by litter on the campus — bottles, paper and other

trash. Such filth speaks, he explained, of an attitude that says "it's OK; after all, the college has hired help to pick up behind me."

He also cited a few students who steal and who demonstrate their disrespect for others through "vulgar, abusive language."

"Some students do not respect the law or our regulations," he continued, telling the story — well known on campus by now — about a bizarre kidnapping involving two students and the accusation of drugs being "ripped off." (Since the convocation speech Dr. Bentley has confronted several students who were reported to him by law enforcement officials as suspected of dealing in marijuana and has given them — as he put it — "a chance to clean up their act or get out.")

"Equal to my concern over illegal drug trafficking on our campus," he added, "is my concern for those who disregard our regulations with respect to the possession or use of alcoholic beverages on campus." Such situations will change, he asserted, "as we realign our administrative staff and become more active in residence hall life..."

Still referring to students, Dr. Bentley turned to the subject of sexual conduct.

"There are a few students," he said, "who go beyond what I consider to be our basic Christian values with regard to premarital relations and, in fact, engage in promiscuous sexual activity — both heterosexual and homosexual. It is my hope," he continued, "that we... can reinforce the values which we hold in order to make students more aware of more wholesome, non-exploitive relationships."

Finally with regards to students, Dr. Bentley lamented the fact that many "do not take full advantage of the educational opportunities afforded to them" by the college. He cited those who "freely cut classes" and cheat themselves out of that for which their parents are paying. He also expressed concern over those who fail to become involved in extracurricular activities — "concerts, lectures, athletic events, worship, etc."

"It would seem," he added, "that many students drift through their educational experiences with an ambivalence toward trying to develop as completely as possible their talents, abilities, and skills in order to be aggressively preparing themselves for productive citizenship."

The wrath of the president was also aimed at a few members of the faculty and the staff.

Some faculty were criticized for their lack of commitment to the Christian values of the college as evidenced by "their lack of concern for the personal development of their students". Some faculty members abuse their forum by making claims which are directly contrary to the Christian heritage and values of the college," he asserted. Such faculty members ought to re-examine their own commitment and values, he said, and decide whether or not they really should remain within the college community.

"It does not seem fair or appropriate," he stated, "for the majority of our faculty who are committed to Christian higher education and to Mars Hill College as an instrument of that goal to bear the workload of those who are not committed Christians and professionals."

"A few staff members Dr. Bentley blasted as "apathetic gossips." They

show little appreciation for what the college has been able to do toward increasing their pay and benefits, and they complain because they do not get everything for which they ask. Such persons demonstrate an attitude, he explained, that says "you should be doing more for me; what have you done for me lately?" Those same persons, he added, often waste time, waste materials and even cheat the college through dishonest claims on sick leave.

From the harshly negative viewpoint Dr. Bentley then turned to a positive view. He mentioned the natural beauty around the college and the other blessings of God. He emphasized that most of the students are "warm and caring", most of the faculty are well-qualified and committed; and he reminded his listeners that many people outside the college — trustees and advisors, alumni and friends of the institution — have helped provide the physical facilities which are enjoyed on the campus.

"What can and will be done to deal with the few" (who are out of step)? he asked.

Answering his own question, he promised administrative reorganization, a reaffirmation of "our Baptist/Christian posture" and the demanding of "more accountability."

"We will not allow the few to continue to disregard the rights of the majority!" he pledged; "... we will mount a program to instill pride in our community, a pride which would be based on our Christian heritage, our Appalachian heritage, and our scholarly activity."

Then, trying to make his point as personal and as individual as possible, he concluded with a question which served as the title of his speech, "What are you giving?"