

Seminary President To Speak at Graduation

The president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Dr. Mike Kimbrough McCall, will present the Baccalaureate sermon Sunday morning, May 21, as Mars Hill College celebrates its annual commencement weekend.

Dr. McCall, a native of Meridan, Mississippi, earned his undergraduate degree from Furman University. He has also earned the Th.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Seminary. During the course of his career, he has also been awarded honorary degrees from Baylor University, Furman University, and the University of Richmond. He was pastor of the Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville before being named president of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has also held posts as the executive secretary of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foundation, and treasurer of Southern Seminary. He was named president of Southern Seminary in 1951.

Dr. McCall has published numerous articles in denominational periodicals and is the author of several books, including *God's Hurry* and *What is the Church*. He is a member of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Rotary Club, the General Council of the Baptist World Alliance, and is a member of the Boards of Directors of the Louisville Fund, the Louisville Cham-

ber of Commerce, and the Louisville Medical Center.

Commencement weekend, which will mark the 122nd academic year for Mars Hill, will officially begin Friday afternoon, May 19, with an exhibition of student art on the mezzanine of the Fine Arts Building. On Saturday morning, May 20, the Board of Trustees will hold their semi-annual business meeting and then meet with the Board of Advisors at noon. Mars Hill separated the traditional alumni day activities from commencement weekend last year, moving the alumni activities to homecoming. This allows the college to place its emphasis on the seniors, their parents, and friends.

Saturday evening's activities will be highlighted by the annual banquet in the college cafeteria at 5:30 p.m. and will be brought to a close with a "pops" concert by the music department in Moore Auditorium.

On Sunday, the congregation of Mars Hill Baptist Church will join the college community for the 11 a.m. baccalaureate service in Moore. At 2:30 p.m. there will be a student organ recital, also in Moore, and at 3 p.m. nearly 260 seniors, the first class to complete Mars Hill's competence-based curriculum, will receive their diplomas from college president, Dr. Fred B. Bentley. The weekend's activities will be brought to a close with Dr. Bentley's traditional address to the graduates.



Pictured are Phil Weast, Director of Wren College Union; and Don Gehring, Dean of Students. Photo by Archie Jones.



competent professional people and (2) to apply the principles of human development to student development. In the next four years, a student union director, housing director, full-time nurse, and director of security were hired. Gehring proudly recounts these advancements: "We pushed student development, opened new doors to students, and made this our whole emphasis. I'm the head coach but I couldn't accomplish anything without these people. We're a team; we work well together. They are all good, well-respected people."

The past seven years have seen many changes - both good and bad. In 1972, SGA officers resigned but since that conflict there have been no confrontations between the Dean and the governing body. Sally Moffitt was murdered, Treat Dorm burned, and the recent kidnapping took place. "But we learned from these tragedies and are the stronger for having undergone them."

Dean Gehring is proud of the fact that 15% of the student body work in some phase of student development. "I'm proud of the foundation grant we've received for our resident tutor program and **orientation** - when I first came we brought freshmen here two days before registration. Now we have a week long program almost entirely by students and it just tickles the death out of me!"

Gehring will be going to the University of Kentucky in Louisville, as Associate Professor of Higher Education. He sees it as an exciting challenge and the non-administrative past will give him the opportunity to pursue his writing. He has collaborated on three books concerning a student government and the role of both student and administrator.

Summing up his seven years at MHC, Gehring states: "It has been good seven years. I've enjoyed the people, professors, and students, and I'm going to miss a lot of people, and the town of Mars Hill with its close ties to the college. I'll be back through. Mars Hill is a good stopover between Louisville and the beach!"

Weast and Gehring Resign Posts

By Cheryl Aldridge

Featured in this article are Phil Weast and Don Gehring who will be leaving MHC after several years of dedicated work as administrators.

When Phil Weast became the director of the college union in 1972 the Union was housed underneath the cafeteria in the area occupied by the New Beginning Coffeehouse. In July 1973, Wren College Union opened. As the first College Union director, Weast had helped design the budget and develop operating procedures, and selected the furniture for the new building. His responsibilities as college union director have included coordinating all Union activities, arranging programs and seeing that all facets of the Union Board services, student employment, etc. are running smoothly. Until 1976, he was also in charge of Union finances. Because programming is a full-time job, a business manager was hired to relieve the director of those responsibilities.

Phil Weast describes his primary objective as "helping students to get a realistic idea of what it's like to live in the real world and work with people outside the college, and to aid in the personal growth of the student." During his year tenure, students have become increasingly more active in Union affairs. With student help a wide variety of programs were initiated. Spring Fling, the Union Christmas Party, Gong Show, Dating Game, recreation and Special Interest Classes were begun.

All has not been a bed of roses for Weast. He admits it has been an uphill struggle. During his first year as director, a petition was circulated calling for his dismissal. Now, six years later, it is evident that there is a feeling of mutual respect between the students and Phil Weast.

In addition to his activities as College Union Director, Weast served as advisor to the Greek Council, WVMH Radio Station, SGA, and was in charge of the ID Card System.

Reminiscing about his years at MHC Phil Weast is most proud of the fact that today "there are students who are taking the initiative to work with programming and are seeing them through." He doesn't credit this to himself but rather states that the students have been given the necessary leadership tools (through workshops, conventions, etc.) and are handling their own affairs adeptly. Outstanding leaders like Mickey McGlaughlin and Buzzy Scott made it all worthwhile.

Mr. Weast admits that he feels a degree of sadness at leaving Mars Hill but he is entering a new phase of his life and is definitely excited about it. After the semester ends, Weast will be leaving for the University of Georgia at Athens. He is pursuing his doctorate of higher education which probably will require two years of study. When asked about his vocational goals, the College Union Director expressed his hope that he could obtain a job as director of a large university student union or a job as director of a continuing education program.

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Phyllis Sledge,

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