

The Hilltop



Mars Hill, N.C. 28754

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The Decline and Fall of Wonderful Wednesdays

by Sara LeFever

The open senate meeting on February 28th attracted a packed Belk auditorium. The main issue for drawing over 300 students was "The Decline and Fall of Wonderful Wednesdays."

There have been a spurt of rumors associated with the Wednesday topic; mainly the loss of mini-term. Dr. Richard Hoffman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, was a spokesman on the subject. He assured the audience that there was no connection between mini-term and wonderful Wednesdays. The results of a poll taken on the mini-term showed 84% of the students who participated had positive feelings about it. Mini-term will continue to be held each January at Mars Hill College.

When the rumors were cleared up focus returned to the possible loss of Wednesdays off. Dr. Hoffman surprised the students by stating that he did not wish to create a new schedule but to return to one that supposedly was already in use. This 4-1-4 policy went into effect in 1971. The objective was "never to schedule a day off."

Well then, how did 'Wonderful Wednesdays' evolve? The 1971 policy was to schedule out schedules so that the faculty has classes five days a week. Over the years this plan was not adhered to. Teachers began to shift schedules so that Wednesdays were mainly free days. As a result, 2/3 of M.H.C. students do not have classes in the middle of the week. The main shift-over happened in 1976.

Dr. Hoffman brought up several problems he has associated with 'wonderful Wednesdays'. "In the eyes of some people Wednesdays are a day off, a weekend in the middle of the week. Under this assumption, Tuesday nights in the dorms are high. It is unfair to the 530 students on campus that do have classes the next day. If we do it for some we should do it for all." Dr. Hoffman feels this problem could be solved if everyone had equal commitment in preparation for the next day. He went on to point out that some students even go home in the middle of the week. "I would like to return the focus on the teaching/learning process," said Hoffman.

Disputative response from the senate and students followed. Dr. Hoffman answered questions for over an hour. "I would like to know why students are not confronted in important decisions?" asked senator David Ward. "The student voice should be heard." His point was that students are often not confronted over major decisions made by the administration. Commuter Sheldon Greene spoke on behalf of the commuters. "Most commuters do not have classes on Wednesdays. With the price of gas - this day off is essential to our budgets." The main arguments centered around the fact that students need Wednesdays to prepare for classes. Tim Carter closed the session by saying, "We would like to fight for what we desire, not for what is already designed."

Down The Drain

by David Bowerman

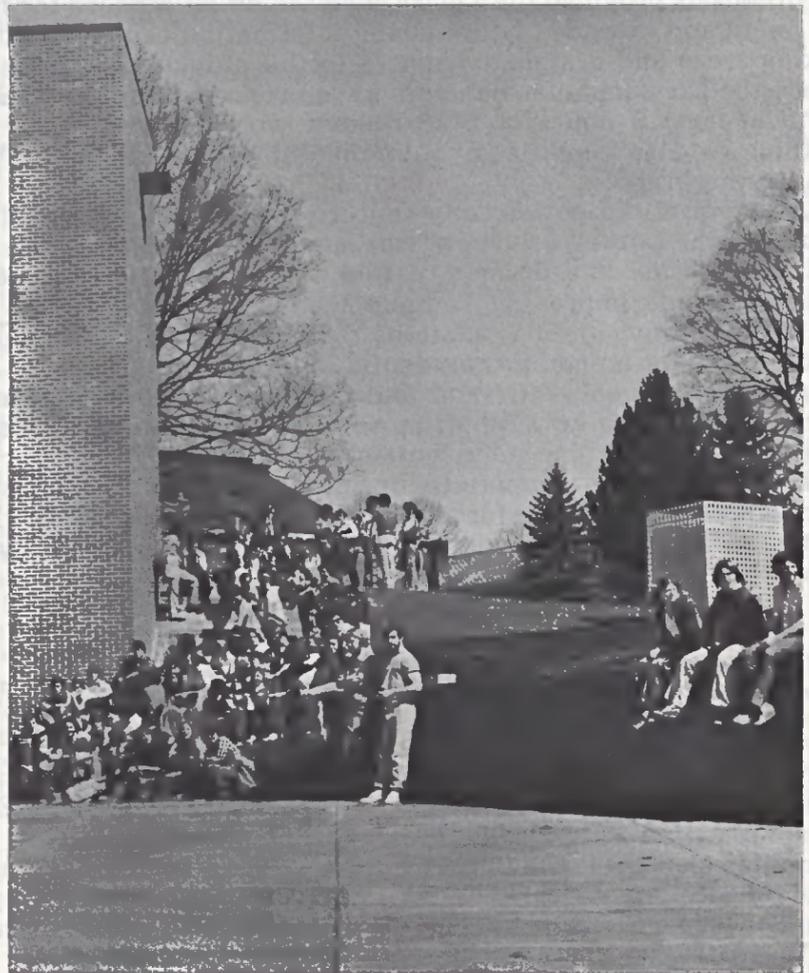
The talk of an athletic dorm is a heavy issue plaguing our campus. According to THE UNDERGROUND, "plans for an athletic housing facility have been approved by key college officials." The paper went on to say that in the fall of 1979 Melrose dormitory will be the home of all males that participate in intercollegiate sports. That article and general discussion of the proposal stimulated outrage amongst the student body.

Dr. Richard Hoffman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, spoke at the February 28th open senate meeting on the subject of the "jock dorm." The main objectives of the dorm, pointed out by Dr. Hoffman, were; 1. to ensure academic support for the football players, 2. to

enforce rules and regulations of the football players, and 3. to consolidate football housing during pre-school practice.

Dr. Bentley, Dean Holcombe, and Dr. Hoffman met on the morning previous to the February 28th senate meeting to discuss the proposal. The decision outcome of the trio's meeting was to terminate plans for the athletic dorm.

There are many reasons for the abandonment of the proposal. Dr. Hoffman said at the senate meeting that he was "pleased with what I've seen develop in the students over the past couple weeks", which proves the student voice can be heard. We, the students, carried dead weight in the protest against the segregation of the athletes.



A relatively small crowd protested Monday against dropping "Wonderful Wednesdays."

Returning to a policy that is supposedly already in effect did not strike out as fair. Most of the large audience left dissatisfied. Dr. Hoffman even admitted that "I have been irresponsible in enforcing the 1971 policy." Why the policy went unenforced was a question not clearly answered.

Time will tell if the meeting accomplished anything. The students at Mars Hill College are plainly caught in the middle of a policy created nine years ago and a slackness of enforcement. Wednesdays are a right that have been given to us. They should not be jerked away.

Middle Income Assistance To Aid Students

Now a lot more people will be eligible for financial help from the BEOG (Basic Educational Opportunity Grant). According to John Hamrick, Director of Financial Aid at Mars Hill College, the eligibility for this assistance was greatly expanded by the Middle Income Assistance Act, a Federal law passed November 1st. Those students with parental income of \$25000 and lower are eligible for help with a BEOG. Other circumstances, of course, are involved in determining the eligibility of the individual student. This help could range from \$200-\$1800 in the next academic year.

Other forms of financial aid have been expanded recently, too. About 60% of the students at MHC are expected to be affected by this increase. Among these forms is the Work Study program. The North Carolina Legislature appro-

priates \$400 to residents of the state with need; and this has been recommended to be raised to \$500. This will be voted on during the summer.

Financial aid is still available, and has been increased. Details are obtainable in the Financial Aid Office.

The key to receiving financial aid is in starting early. While it is not too late, financial aid is awarded on a first-come, (with need) first-served basis.

Hamrick says that students should file a Financial Aid Form, (FAF) and a Mars Hill College Application for Financial Aid. For the Basic Grants program mentioned above, a student filing for the first time will receive, in six weeks, a form telling of him or her of his eligibility. A copy of this should be sent as soon as possible to the Office of Financial Aid at Mars Hill College so that the award can be made.

The deadline for the many on-campus scholarships, another form of financial aid, was March 1st.