

# The Hilltop



Mars Hill, N.C. 28754

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## The Amazing Kreskin To Appear At MHC



a scientific consultant to Edmund Scientific Company, and is national entertainment ambassador to the "Big Brother" organization.

As a scientific investigator of the power of suggestion and ESP, Kreskin has amassed a personal library of over 3,000 volumes ranging from fundamental magic to telepathy and parapsychology. He is able to read at a rate of 7,000 words per minute. Although he has developed a highly successful show business reputation, his reputation in the scientific community is equally esteemed. He has cooperated with physicians and dentists in the medical field, and has been called upon to work with witnesses to crimes where the case hinged on unearthing forgotten details from the subconscious.

Kreskin has several standing challenges open to anyone. The first is \$25,000 to anyone who can conclusively prove under scientific conditions the existence of a specific hypnotic state, trance, or condition. The second is a \$20,000 challenge to anyone who can prove his employment of paid assistants or confederates in any phase of his performance. The third is not really a challenge but involves a committee composed of people from the audience to hide his check before the show begins. If he fails to find the check, he is not paid.

At Mars Hill, that committee will be composed of Asheville Citizen-Times columnist Bob Terrell, president of the Student Government Association Danny Jenrich, and college president Dr. Fred B. Bentley. In the past, several odd places have been used in attempt to keep the check from him. These have included the upper dental plate of an audience member, inside a cooked turkey, and stitched into the lining of an FBI agent's coat. According to Kreskin, he has failed nine times to find his check.

As a showman, Kreskin uses conjuring, sensitivity, suggestibility, and humor on stage. Humor is an integral aspect of his performance, not only for the benefit of the audience but to allow him a break from the tensions he works under. During a typical performance, he will lose almost three pounds.

Tickets for the performance are \$5 and are available at the door. Additional information is available from Robert Kramer, Chairman, The Visiting Artists and Lecturers Committee, Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N.C. 28754.

## Helen Lewis Receives Appalachian Leadership Award

Helen Lewis, a radical who has spent most of her life campaigning for poor people's causes, will receive the Appalachian Leadership Award from the Grayson Scholars from Appalachia of Mars Hill College Thursday evening, April 9.

The award is made to a person who has contributed to the Appalachian region and its people through a sincere concern for the future of Appalachia. The award recognizes outstanding service and commitment to the region with an emphasis on leadership. This will be the second time the award has been made. Last year, it went to former North Carolina Governor Bob Scott for his accomplishments as co-chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The Grayson Scholars from Appalachia was begun in 1978 at Mars Hill, funded by a \$1,123,000 gift to the college by Dr. J. Wesley Grayson of Laguna Hills, Calif. The program is an effort to develop informed, capable leaders from students within the region who appreciate the history and culture unique to the area and who are sensitive to the problems of the people within Appalachia. In addition to demonstrated leadership abilities and exceptional academic achievement, the students must be from Appalachia and have a desire to remain within the region following graduation. The award was formulated by the students in the program and in addition to recognizing area leaders, the award program will introduce the students to

leaders on the national level and let them discuss the decision-making process concerning the future of Appalachia.

Born in northern Georgia, Helen Lewis received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Kentucky. She began her career teaching at Clinch Valley College where she became the first to design Appalachian courses for her students. She is recognized as one of the few people who have bridged the gap between academia and social action at the grass roots level, instigating such programs as a cultural exchange between coal miners of Wales and coal miners from Appalachia. She is one of the editors of *Colonialism in America*, and has lobbied in Washington against the working conditions in coal mines, including anti-strip mining movements. Perhaps her greatest achievement has been her efforts to establish health care facilities both within and outside of the coal fields of Appalachia. She has also lobbied for health care for the victims of black lung disease. Currently she is living in Dungannon, Virginia, working with Appalshop to produce a documentary history of Appalachia.

The award ceremony will be held in the college's Belk Auditorium beginning at 7:30 p.m. Following the award ceremony, Ms Lewis will address the group and there will be time for a question and answer session. The public is invited to attend the award presentation and the lecture.

## SART

The Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Western North Carolina's only professional repertory theatre, has announced its summer season. The season will begin June 19, and will run through August 9 in Owen Theatre on the campus of Mars Hill College.

The productions the company will perform include the popular *Fiddler on the Roof*; *The Subject Was Roses*, which won both a Pulitzer Prize and Best Play of the Year award by the New York Drama Critics in 1965; *On Golden Pond*, by Ernest Thompson, was also chosen Best Play of the Year 1978-79 by the New York Drama Critics and was mentioned as a Pulitzer candidate; and a new play tentatively entitled *The Front Porch: An Appalachian Montage*, which will include the short play, *Tennessee*,

by Romulus Linney.

Jim Thomas, managing director of the company also noted that Dr. Earl Leininger, professor of religion at Mars Hill, will play the lead role of Tevya in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Dr. Leininger, long a favorite with SART audiences, has played El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*, Captain von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*, and Abel Ammons in *A Belonging Place*. Thomas also announced that Dr. Bill Martin, nominated for a Tony for directing *The Lieutenant*, will direct two of SART's shows this summer, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *On Golden Pond*. Dr. Martin directed *The Tempest* during the college's 1979-80 academic year.

Additional information on the season, including season passes, is available from Jim Thomas.