

The Hilltop



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The Hilltop
MARS HILL COLLEGE
Mars Hill, N.C. 28754

Meet the Alumni Association

By Andy Behl

Editor's Note: The following is an interview with Rob Ruark, Assistant Director of Development for Alumni Activities. Mr. Ruark is a 1973 graduate of Mars Hill and has held several positions in banking and as a controller of a private business. He returned to Mars Hill in 1979. The Alumni/Development Office is located on the first floor of Blackwell Hall.)

HILLTOP: What is the Mars Hill College Alumni Association?
ROB: The Alumni Association is made up of students who attended Mars Hill for at least one year. I think that some students think they have to join the association, but this is not so, as they automatically become members. The only decision they have to make is whether to be an active member or an inactive member.

HILLTOP: What does the Association do for alumni?
ROB: The Association, through the Alumni Office, plans a variety of programs each year. Some of the programs we sponsor are alumni chapter meetings, tours, Homecoming, class reunions, and we put together a great deal of the material for the alumni magazine. We also have programs which are directed at current students such as the Homecoming Dance, a parent's organization and Parent's Day, the graduate banquet for seniors, and we distribute *Graduate* magazine to seniors. This year we are working with the senior class on a Senior Seminar which will help seniors make decisions on items such as what to look for in a lease; do I need life insurance and if so, what kind; how do I establish credit; and other important decisions which seniors must face.

HILLTOP: What are alumni chapter meetings and the alumni magazine?
ROB: In 1969, when the first full-time Alumni Director was hired, he established areas where there was sufficient alumni interest for meetings on an annual basis. We now have 35 groups who meet on a regular basis. The groups are as far north as the Delaware Valley area, and as far south as Florida. We also have groups in Louisville, Kentucky, and Knoxville and Nashville, Tennessee. Since our largest concentration of alumni is in North Carolina, we have a larger number of groups in the state. These meetings are for former students to get together to hear about the college's activities. We usually have dinner and the college provides a program such as faculty speakers, student speakers, or student entertainment. These meetings are an excellent

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The Lion's Prey

Opens Soon

The Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre (SART) has received a \$2,000 grant from N.C. Theatre Arts, a section of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, under their New Plays Program.

The funds will be used to produce a new play entitled "The Lion's Prey," written by Jed Bierhaus, chairman of the Department of English at Warren Wilson College. Scheduled for performances February 18-21, the new play came to the repertory group's attention at a workshop sponsored by SART for new N.C. playwrights this summer. In September, a preliminary reading was held at the college and received favorable response.

"SART has a history of producing new plays," claimed James W. Thomas, chairman of the Department of Theatre Arts at the college and SART's managing director. "We have produced the world premier show of new plays by Howard Richardson, Bernard Sabath,

and Mars Hill playwright C. Robert Jones. We began the workshop for playwrights to encourage new playwrights in their work, and perhaps produce new scripts for SART to produce."

SART does not usually produce shows outside the summer months; but according to Thomas, "When we received the grant from N.C. Theatre Arts, we decid-

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Media Center Is Now Open

By Andy Behl

The Harris Media Center is now officially open to the public from 8 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday. There are still many things that still need to be done, but classes are meeting in there, and equipment may be checked out. The

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Hascal Fisher - The Man Behind the Law

By David Trotter



If you have been at Mars Hill for a while — and if you have managed to get yourself in trouble — you have probably met Mr. Hascal Fisher, a security officer here.

Mr. Fisher has been on the security staff for 13 years. He is the father of two daughters, each of which now have families of their own — one in Hendersonville and one in Weaverville. A native of Madison County, Mr. Fisher was first employed by the N.C. Department of Transportation, where he worked in construction. He then worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority for five years, before moving to Michigan where he was employed by an airplane factory and then later on, by the state. Then, as so many people seem to do, Mr. Fisher returned to the beautiful North Carolina mountains, built a house and started farming in Buncombe County — where he and his wife live today. Mr. Fisher farmed for a while before coming to work at Mars Hill in 1969.

As a security officer, Mr. Fisher explains that his chief duty is that of helping the students in any way he can. The security officers have many duties; they are responsible for locking all doors, answering all emergency calls, transporting patients to and from the hospital or doctor's office, delivering the mail, transporting students to and from the bus station or airport, and as Mr. Fisher explains, just being a handyman — "doing what no one else will do."

Over the years, Mr. Fisher has had quite a wide variety of experiences — experiences that he shall never forget. He has seen suicide attempts, tragic accidents, robberies, vandalism, fights, and unfortunately, quite a few deaths. He has been responsible for saving the lives of several students on different occasions. He has seen the building of Cornwell, Blackwell, and the Wren College Union, and of course, just recently the new Media Center. And through these years Mr. Fisher has made friends with countless numbers of students — many of whom come to him for help.

Mr. Fisher has immensely enjoyed being here at Mars Hill. He explains that he has

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