



# THE HILLTOP

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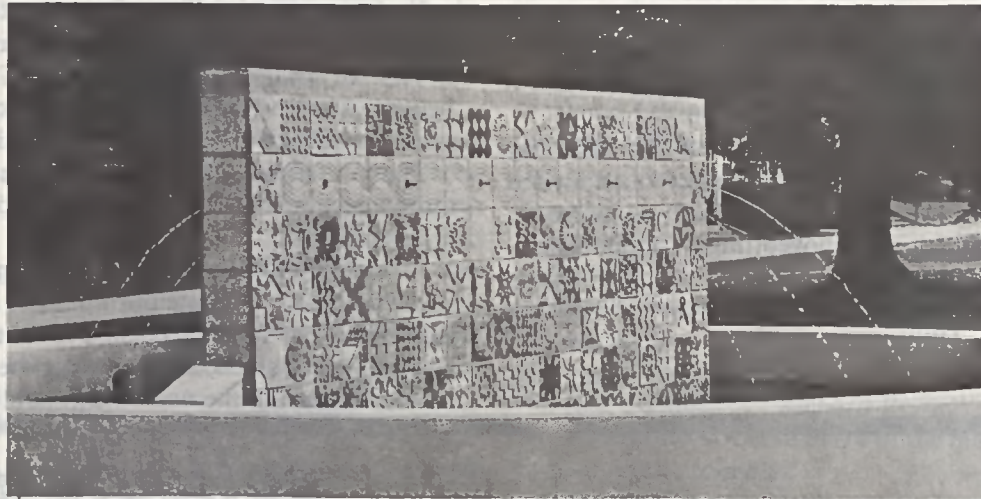
## HOMECOMING: WELCOME ALUMNI!

Graduates of Mars Hill's past 125 years will gather today as the college salutes its alumni with the festivities surrounding its annual Homecoming and Alumni Day. Welcome back!

The activities will begin with registration, held in Blackwell Hall, in the first floor lobby, starting at 8:30 a.m.

An informal coffee for alumni and other guests will be held until 11 a.m. in the Peterson Center of Blackwell Hall. Class reunions will be held across campus beginning at 10:30 a.m. Other activities during the morning will include a Women's volleyball tournament involving Mars Hill, Concord, Carson-Newman Colleges and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The tournament will begin at 9 a.m. in Chambers Gymnasium. The annual Bailey Mountain run will begin at 9:30 with a Run for Fun, and the 10 kilometer run will begin at 10 a.m. on Athletic Street in front of the college union entrance.

An art exhibit featuring the works of Groves Robinson, a member of Mars Hill's Class of 1955, will also open at 8:30 a.m. in the Peterson Center. Robinson is a native of Mars Hill as well and is currently chairman of the Department of Art at Union University in Jackson,



The Ferguson Fountain will be formally dedicated Saturday, October 16th, at 1:15 p.m. during the college's annual Homecoming and Alumni Day activities.

Mississippi. He has exhibited in numerous shows and has 20 one-man shows. He studied art in France on a Fulbright Scholarship and his paintings, drawings, and prints are in the permanent collections of several art museums as well as private collections. His exhibit will open during Homecoming and remain open to the public through November 5.

A "Golden Years" luncheon honoring members of the classes prior to 1932 will be held in the Blue Room of the college cafeteria beginning at noon. A luncheon for other alumni will be held in

the McConnell Building.

A highlight of the activities will be the formal dedication at 1:15 p.m. of the fountain conceived and constructed by Douglas Ferguson located in front of Blackwell Hall. The fountain is a wall composed of favorite Appalachian quilt designs. Ferguson, a ceramic artist from Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, spent nearly a year researching the patterns and the processes which give the fountain its color and vibrancy.

At 2:30 p.m., the Lions renew old ri-

valries with the Carson-Newman College Eagles in the traditional football game in Meares Stadium. At halftime, Homecoming representatives will be named and the Alumna and Alumnus of the Year will be introduced to the audience.

The class representatives this year include: freshman class, Pete Baldini and Connie Stillman; sophomore class, Andy Cash and Susan Freeman; junior class, John Sprinkle and Vicci Teague; and the senior class, Claude Schlagenhauf and Kristina Smith. The winners of the residence hall decorations will also be announced, competing on the theme "Moonlight Serenade."

Following the football game, a dinner honoring the Alumna and Alumnus of the Year, Virginia Isenhour of Charlotte and Owen Tilson of Mars Hill, will be held in the Gold Room of the Cafeteria. Completing the day's activities will be a dance in the McConnell Building and the first drama production of the 1982-83 season, "By Jupiter," in Owen Theatre. Both events begin at 8 p.m.

An information desk will also be located in the lobby of Blackwell Hall and will have times and locations of all events during the day.

## ATHLETIC DIRECTOR DISMISSED Gibson to Appeal

By Steve Ferguson

In an emergency administrative meeting Monday, September 27, President Fred B. Bentley announced that Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Claude "Hoot" Gibson was no longer employed by Mars Hill College.

The announcement was brief, citing "incompatibility between the head of the department of athletics for men and the administration and faculty of the college as it relates to the policies and regulations of the institution" as the reason behind the firing. In a faculty meeting called later that same day, a surprised faculty gave Dr. Bentley a vote of confidence, which appeared to be unanimous.

The move shocked and angered many football players and students, however, and a candlelight protest was held late that night. Approximately 200 students marched peacefully through the campus, lasting for nearly 20 minutes in the end near Meares Stadium, outside Gibson's office. Gibson met with the can-

dle-bearing crowd for a few moments, and then the marchers turned toward Dr. Bentley's home.

As the marchers gathered in front of the Bentley house, two spokesmen were sent to the door and five minutes later Dr. Bentley returned with them to talk with the students. Members of the crowd repeatedly asked Dr. Bentley to detail the reasons for Gibson's dismissal, but he refused saying that he did not want to interfere with Gibson's appeal to the Board of Trustees.

Chris Ellis, one of the team's co-captains and spokesman for the crowd, expressed concern over the stipulations that Gibson must vacate his office within 24 hours and the college-owned house he lived in within 60 days. Dr. Bentley replied that he expected no problem with the time limits given, that Gibson had close contacts in Asheville as well as nationwide, and that he should experience no undue hardship.

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PHOTO BY DAVID WACHTER