



THE HILLTOP

VOLUME LVI, Number 3

Serving the Mars Hill College Community

Thursday, NOVEMBER 11, 1982

Suicide: A Reality At Mars Hill

By STEFANIE BRIGGS

In the past six weeks, three Mars Hill College students have attempted suicide. Luckily, all were either stopped or were able to get the medical help needed.

For reasons of privacy, the name of our interviewee has been kept anonymous. The name which we have used, Kris, is a fictitious name, and any resemblance to any other situation is unintentional.

The student interviewed was very open about the attempt. Here are some of the questions asked and answered:

HILLTOP: Why did you attempt suicide?

KRIS: I was lonely and depressed. I felt, inwardly, that I had to reach out to someone.

HILLTOP: How did you attempt to take your life?

KRIS: By taking some pills.

HILLTOP: I understand that you were

stopped before taking the pills. If you hadn't of been, would you have taken them anyway?

KRIS: No. I think I just wanted to know that someone cared.

HILLTOP: Was this your first attempt?

KRIS: Yes.

HILLTOP: Do you think you'll try again?

KRIS: No. I hurt too many people.

HILLTOP: Who do you feel you hurt the most - yourself or others?

KRIS: Others. I have some friends that I hurt really badly. I think maybe that I hurt them more than myself.

HILLTOP: Why?

KRIS: Because they tried so hard to let me know that they cared and that when I felt lonely or depressed to just come to them. When I was thinking of suicide, I was only thinking of myself. Maybe I was in an irrational state of mind and

tried to convince myself no one cared; that the world would be better off without me.

HILLTOP: Do you still feel that way?

KRIS: No. I've been going to sessions with Mary Gowan and she's really helped to show me that I am somebody and to believe in myself.

HILLTOP: What would you recommend to someone who was thinking of committing suicide?

KRIS: Talk to someone, anyone. Even though you may feel no one cares, someone cares. Life's too precious to waste.

HILLTOP: Do you have a meaningful spiritual life?

KRIS: Well, before I'd say I had a moderate one. But since my attempt, I feel closer to God than I did before.

Other attempts have been made. So far, the methods used have been to overdose with pills. One student's stomach

had to be pumped. Another had to be taken to the hospital. We were told if she hadn't gone to a friend's room she wouldn't have made it.

Suicide is something that hurts everyone connected with the person who attempts it. Friends of the victim often feel guilty when they learn of their friend attempting suicide. They wonder if they're somehow at fault, if they could have maybe been a better friend, and even if they're somehow to blame.

Anyone attempting suicide should seek professional help. If you feel uncomfortable with the staff here at Mars Hill, go to a friend. Someone cares. Others who you want to talk to may not be there, but that doesn't mean that no one cares. If one person is not there, find another.

As with "Kris," you may only realize how important life is when you've al-

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News

Briefs

The jazz ensembles of Mars Hill College's Department of Music will perform a concert Thursday evening, November 11, in Moore Auditorium beginning at 8:15 p.m.

The Jazz Ensemble, a 16-piece jazz band, will perform selections by Woody Herman, Stan Kenton, and Louis Belson among others. The Jazz 'Bones, a trombone ensemble with rhythm section, will also perform. The ensembles will be directed by A. C. "Buddy" Himes, assistant professor of music at the college.

The performance is open to the public and is free of admission charges.

If you are having difficulty with books, reports, film critiques, research papers, or any other written assignment, drop by the Writing Skills Center for assistance.

The Center is located on the top of Marshbanks in room 30. The evening hours are 6-8 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. This offer is free to Mars Hill students. For more information, call 186 and talk to Ms. Kay Gregory.

WCC will sponsor a series of events during World Hunger Week on November 15-22 with programs to be held in Moore Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday night, and a final program on Thursday the 22nd at 7 p.m. Additional information is available from Dee

WCC secretary, World, Community, and Camaraderie secretary, Box 1304-C.

Roving Reporter

By ROBERT CARMICHAEL

This week's "Roving Reporter" polled students on a question relating to the recent product tamperings. To our question, "Considering the Tylenol situation, if they rectified their product and returned it to the shelves, would you use it again?", 55% said yes, 37% said no, and 8% were undecided. Here are some comments from persons responding to our question.

Pete Baldini - "No, once burned, twice afraid. I would have fear of their inefficiency in clarification of the matter."

Danny Garrett - "No, it didn't help my headache before the conspiracy, so why after?"

Terri Drew - "Yes, if there is complete indication of safety, there is no reason not to."

Mark Norris - "Yes, Tylenol as a good product. In my opinion it's the best pain reliever on the market. I don't think that the public should stop buying the product for the reason that someone tampered with a select few out of millions of bottles."

Denise Cook - "Sure. It would eliminate tampering after it left the factory, therefore it would ultimately prove any contaminations taking place before distribution, which is most unlikely."



PHOTO BY DAVID WACHTER

MODELS SHOW OFF FASHIONS - Cheryl Goforth and Tina Wiggins try on some of the styles from Robinson's Four Season's to be modeled in the Projections Fashions Show to be held November 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center Video Studio. Other fashions to be shown will be compliments of John Carroll, Ormond, Brooks, and High Energy Sports. The show will be produced by the Fashion Industry class.