



THE HILLTOP

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Faculty Cuts Necessary To Maintain Financial Stability

Compiled from Staff Reports

Declining enrollments over the last four years and still further declines anticipated during the next couple of years are putting a severe financial squeeze on Mars Hill College.

A six-page statement concerning the economic condition of the college was issued last week by President Bentley, and a copy was provided to THE HILLTOP. He talked at length with Dr. Bentley about the serious economic problems now facing the school and what is being done about them.

"First of all," he explained, "the main emphasis should be that the actions now being taken are intended to strengthen and stabilize the college." He then sketched out how the college got into its current situation: Four years ago, he noted, 1450 stu-

dents were enrolled here; and, in addition to the substantial income they brought in through tuition and fees, the college was receiving additional monies from other sources. Although a nationwide decline in college enrollments was predicted, Dr. Bentley and his administrative staff felt that Mars Hill's enrollment could be stabilized by expanding older programs and adding new ones. That strategy proved unsuccessful as Mars Hill's enrollments slipped slightly but steadily over the last four years to the point where only 1186 students were enrolled at the beginning of the current school year.

"If you're geared up for 1450 students," Dr. Bentley explained, "and all indicators say that higher education is going to experience at least a 19 percent decline, then we need to start taking actions to reduce our work force so as to

make certain our college does not get into serious trouble."

The decline in enrollment for the current school year was even greater than Dr. Bentley and his colleagues had anticipated. As a result the college is facing a possible deficit of \$500,000 for the current fiscal year, which ends May 31.

"Such a deficit is significant if we don't do something about it," he said. "Next year (1983-84) if there is another significant decline in enrollment we might expect a deficit of approximately \$750,000. And the following year, over a million dollars. We cannot continue to spend more money than we take in; therefore, in order to make certain that Mars Hill College remains a strong school, we are having to reduce our work force and institute other savings."

To help him deal with the problem Dr. Bentley has appointed a "small but effective" president's cabinet consisting of Dr. Richard Hoffman, Dr. Michael O'Brien, Dr. Smith Goodrum, Dr. Jack Grose, and Claude Vess. This group will evaluate suggestions, interpret the gravity of the problem to the faculty and staff, and formulate alternate plans.

Already, Dr. Bentley and the cabinet have begun meeting with groups of the faculty, by department, to discuss the situation with them. There are plans for similar discussions with residence hall

staffs, the Appalachian and Church Leadership scholars, and various other groups. The Community Meeting scheduled for Feb. 15 will be devoted solely to explanation of plans and proposals for meeting the college's financial problems.

"My whole talk will be about this matter to anybody who shows up," Dr. Bentley commented. That meeting will allow students, as well as faculty and staff personnel, to hear directly what is taking place.

Among the proposals being discussed as possible solutions to the college's financial crisis are the following:

- (1) Freezing faculty tenure and all salaries until the budget is stabilized;
- (2) Raising tuition and fees in the regular program;
- (3) Making the student work program a top priority in helping replace full-time staff;
- (4) Cutting faculty positions where needed to achieve a 15-to-1 student/teacher ratio;
- (5) Requiring all departments of the college to contribute to efforts to hold down the anticipated deficits. ("Everyone shares in biting the bullet!")

Currently the student/teacher ratio is 11-to-1. In moving this to 15-to-1 the college will follow AAUP guidelines whenever possible in cutting faculty, Dr. Bentley said. This will help reduce finan-

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news briefs

A good place to start the search for a summer job is in the annual directory which lists 50,000 summer jobs throughout the United States: *1983 Summer Employment Directory of the U.S.*, edited by Barbara Kuroff (Writer's Digest Books; \$8.95 paper).

On-the-job experience is almost a necessity today in order to land a good job, so look to the annual directory which lists 16,000 temporary positions providing a wide range of experience: *1983 Internships*, edited by Colleen Cannon (Writer's Digest Books; \$10.95, paper).

Sophomores, juniors and seniors currently enrolled in a North Carolina college or North Carolina residents attending an out-of-state college have until February 11 to apply for the Institute of Government Summer Internship Program in state government.

Students will work 40 hours each week in a responsible position in a state department, participate in evening educational seminars and be paid approximately \$150 per week.

Students interested in the program should secure a brochure announcing the program and a State of North Carolina application form from their college or university placement office or local Job Service office. For more information, contact the *Hilltop* office.



RICH MAN/POOR MAN - Hypnotist Tom DeLuka (left) tries to convince student Pete Kesterson that he is the richest man, and then the poorest man, in the world. DeLuka fascinated his audience with his hypnotic feats on stage, using many students as his innocent victims. PHOTO BY DAVID WACHTER

PHOTO BY DAVID WACHTER

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Entries for the 1983 CADENZA are
being accepted. Categories are 2-
3-dimensional art, prose, and poet-
Prizes are \$20 for first place, \$10 sec-
ond place, and \$5 third place. Each
entry must be accompanied by an entry
form, available in the Publications Area
Wren College Union. For more infor-
mation, call #170 and ask for Margaret
Kim.

MISS HILLTOP CONTEST
SCHEDULED - Nominations for Miss
Hilltop will be taken on Feb. 8-10 in the
Student Center lobby. Rules for eligibility will
be posted at that time. Pick who you feel
is the 10 best looking women on cam-

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
HILLTOP issue will be February 8. If
you are a member of the club or or organization would like
to submit a copy, send it to Box 1148 or
submit it under the door of *The Hilltop* of-
fice by 5 p.m. on the given date.

Angela Wright
are also making
ions to the team
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players.