



# THE HILLTOP

Serving the Mars Hill College Community Since 1926

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## 269 Killed Soviets Down Korean Airliner

BEVERLY BONTA



Above, map depicts intended as well as actual flight path of flight 007 in route from Alaska to Seoul, Korea.

September first, a South Korean Boeing 747 deviated and strayed from its storage-Seoul flight path into Soviet airspace. The jet, which had been trailed and one-half hours by eight Soviet fighters, had actually crossed paths with a United States R.C.-135 spy plane over Sakhalin Island. The Soviets claimed they had mistaken the 747 for the spy plane and downed it with a missile, killing all 269 passengers aboard. There were thirty to sixty-one Americans on board, including U.S. Representative Jerry McDonald.

For six days, the Soviet Union denied the shooting incident, only acknowledging that they had seen the plane disappear. Only after having been condemned

by fourteen United Nations Ambassadors did Moscow admit to "stopping the flight". The Soviets claimed that the jet had flown without lights, making it impossible to identify. In addition, the

Soviets also claimed that the airliner had ignored warning shots fired by the eight trailing fighters.

Contrary to Soviet statements, tapes obtained from U.S. listening posts in

Japan indicated that the Soviet pilots acknowledged seeing the flashing navigational beacon on the 747, and no reference was ever made to warning shots being fired.

## Soviet Planes Common in U.S. Airspace

New York (AP) - More than 70 Soviet planes have entered U.S. airspace along the East Coast so far this year, Time magazine reports.

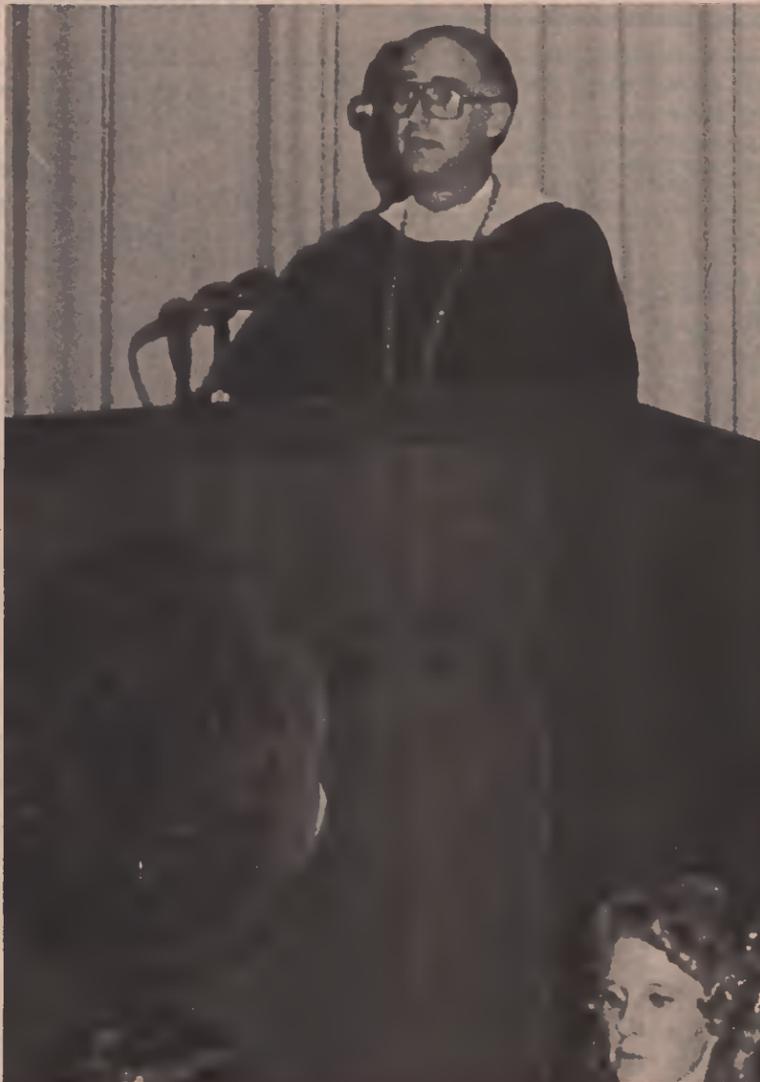
In addition, missiles have been fired at U.S. planes flying near the Soviet border, but none hit its target, the magazine says in this week's issue.

Time, which did not identify the source of its information, said 77 Soviet planes have entered U.S. airspace since January while on nonstop flights from Cuba from the Soviet Union. The planes were designed to pick up U.S. radio frequencies and to see how long it took U.S. fighters to respond, Time said.

U.S. reconnaissance aircraft have been the same near the Soviet border, triggering the launching of a total of more than 900 Soviet ground-to-air missiles, Time said. No shots have been reported fired at aircraft intruding in U.S. airspace.

The United States charges that the pilot of a Soviet jet fighter fired a missile at a civilian South Korean Boeing 747 jet that strayed over Soviet territory last week, killing the 269 people on board.

Some commercial carriers leave their flight paths deliberately, the magazine said. According to Time, shortly before the Soviet airline Aerflot lost its U.S. landing rights, the carrier frequently entered off-limits U.S. airspace.



President Bentley speaks to community at the 1983 convocation. During his speech, Dr. Bentley proclaimed the 1983-84 school year as "The Beginning of Greatness".

## Elderhostel to Enrich Mars Hill Campus

BY CHIP KILEY

From September 25 through October 15, Mars Hill will host its first Fall Elderhostel program. Elderhostel, in the past, has been a summer program for the Mars Hill community.

Elderhostel, a program for persons over sixty, combines the best traditions of education and hosteling. Inspired by the youth hostels and the folk schools of Europe, Elderhostel provides one-week experiences of campus life and intellectual stimulation.

Elderhostel is for elders who are on the move to new experiences and who are willing to shun the luxuries of resort and hotel accommodations.

In eight exciting seasons the program has expanded from its beginning in 1975 with five campuses in New Hampshire to include over five hundred colleges and Universities in fifty states for the 1983 season.

This summer, Elderhostel: North Carolina will offer noncredit college level courses and other activities at eighteen campuses across the state ranging from the Atlantic Seaboard to the Great Smoky Mountains.

Each campus hosteler may choose from at least three courses each week.

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