

SEASON'S GREETINGS



THE HILLTOP

VOLUME LVII, Number 7

Serving the Mars Hill College Community Since 1926

Wednesday, December 7, 1983

Bentley Elected President of SACS

JOHN CAMPBELL

Fred B. Bentley, president of Mars Hill, will be elected president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools when the association holds its annual meeting in New Orleans next week.

Bentley began a long and close relationship with the accrediting agency in 1979, as one of his first jobs as Mars Hill's new president, he participated in the association's initial evaluation of Mars Hill as a senior college. Since then he has continued to contribute his considerable abilities as an educator and administrator to the on-going operations of the association. In 1979 he was named chairman of the commission on colleges, one of the agency's major divisions. His appointment as president of the association marks the first time that a North

Carolina educator has served as head of the college section and then as president of the entire organization.

"Dr. Bentley's election to the presidency of SACS constitutes the ultimate recognition of himself as a college administrator and of Mars Hill as an educational institution," explains Dr. Richard Hoffman, vice-president for academic affairs at the school. "It is a high and well-deserved tribute to him personally as a leader in post secondary education, as well as a significant recognition of the achievements of Mars Hill College."

SACS was founded in November, 1955, by representatives from six southern colleges: Vanderbilt University, UNC-Chapel Hill, the University of Mississippi, Duke, the University of the South, and Washington & Lee University. Its original purposes were to organize southern schools and colleges for coop-

eration and mutual assistance; to elevate the standard of scholarship and effect uniformity of admission requirements; and to develop preparatory schools, freeing the colleges from that area of education.

The role of the organization has gradually expanded over the years so that it now functions as the chief accrediting agency for 9,638 elementary and secondary schools, 723 colleges and universities, and 214 occupational educational institutions - mainly technical schools - in 11 southern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. The association also encompasses some institutions in Latin America.

In order to win official accreditation by the association, an institution must meet certain prescribed standards in its academic programs, its financial opera-

tions, its philosophical basis, and its physical facilities.

Dr. Bentley is a native of Roanoke, Virginia. He was one of those rare students who attended school on an athletic scholarship (track and field) while earning a degree in Music Theory and Conducting. Following his undergraduate career at Baylor University, he enrolled in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he earned the Master of Religious Education degree. He also holds a doctorate from Indiana University.

He was assistant dean of the college of arts and sciences and assistant professor of education at the University of Louisville before coming to Mars Hill. When he assumed the presidency of the college in 1966 at age 30, in addition to being the youngest college president in the nation, he was only the third president of Mars Hill since 1897.

Let's Put Christ Back in Christmas

JOHN HARTZ

What is Christmas? Is it snow? Christ-mas? Presents? Snowmen and jolly elves? Maybe here - but south of the equator, Christmas is pinatas, balmy weather, midnight mass, palm trees. So, is Christmas easily defined by the traditional habits that have been established in that country or this country? I don't know.

Have you ever stopped to think about why we do we start celebrating Christmas before we even celebrate Thanksgiving? Remember that we celebrate Thanksgiving by the grace of God some 300 odd years past. Speak to God, how has a time set aside to remember the birth of His Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, become so commercial and trivial that Santa Claus (a character) becomes the focus of attention?

Christmas, as well as Thanksgiving, should be a time for reflection. After using the Advent season to prepare our hearts and minds to once again welcome our Lord into His world, we need to joyfully and gratefully acknowledge His birth. We need, and indeed should remember that His birth reminds us that Christ came to man as a

man, to be a High priest...who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet is without sin, so that we may approach the throne of grace with confidence and receive mercy and find grace to help us because He loves us.

Christmas is the remembrance of Christ's Mass, Christ's fellowship with man, and the gift of His very life that we might be saved.

Speaking of gifts, let's talk about that for a moment. Is it wrong to give gifts? No. Gifts remind us that as Christians we need to share with others. It also reminds us of the gifts of the Magi, that gifts can honor the recipients as well as show our love for them. We also need to remember that our giving is the direct result of God's generosity to His children. When we give of ourselves and the fruit of our labors, we begin to catch the tiniest glimpse of the magnitude of God's gift of His only Son to be sacrificed for our souls.

Finally, Christmas, like Easter, confirms that God is a God of the living. A God for today, not just for our ancestors.

The remembrance of Christ's birth tells us that there is hope. That, we, too, will grow as individuals, spiritually,

because God is here with us now. He cares, and He loves us just as much now as He did almost 2000 years ago. He has never abandoned us, and Christmas is a reminder that there is hope for a new birth, a fresh start, a joy-filled life with

our Lord.

Make it your commitment this year and every day of every year to put Christ back in Christmas and make Jesus Lord of your heart.

PHOTO BY DAVID WACHTER



"This won't hurt a bit," was a commonly heard phrase during the DKT and OKA blood drive last week, but judging by the look on Cynthia King's face it had to hurt at least a little bit.

REPORT
OUT ISLAND
NASSAU

TIME ALL BEGINS!

ARRIVE	DEPART
4:30	7:00
7:00 A.M.	6:00
1:00 A.M.	
3:00 A.M.	

STEREO SPEAKERS \$199

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488