



THE HILLTOP

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CAMPUS MINISTER TRAVELS TO NICARAGUA

By PAM KISH, Editor

sorrowful suffering
ity of revolution,
a Chaplain at Mars
spent eight days in
Central American na-
ragua. There she and
ligious, academic, and
leaders traveled the
met with government
opposition spokesper-
son leaders, and repre-
of the U.S. Embassy
auspices of the inter-
recognized peace pro-
cess for Peace. This
composed of thirteen
nominations from 48
e interested in the trip
ilings and newsletters I
states Marie Bean.
no knew of my interest
and raised money for
ed that it was time for
something for world
es talk about it," she
g that, "If we're going
ld peace, we are going
o put our beliefs in
or Peace is a movement
out of groups such as
al American Resource
Asheville. An organiza-
international reach, the
t, religiously oriented
ain goal is to aid in
the present U.S. military
Nicaragua.
urpose for the trip was
Chaplain Bean reveal-
press our solidarity with

the Nicaraguan Christians, and to protest American military involvement in this area."
This sensitive, but well informed woman had the opportunity to discuss these issues with many civilians, both peasant and affluent, and also leaders of the ruling military Junta, the Sandanista Party (FSLN), the Social Democrat Party, Christian Democrat Party and several labor unions.
Although 90% of the Nicaraguans are Catholic, there are protestants who are active in the CEPAD which is an umbrella service organization for 78 protestant and pentacostal denominations. Marie had dialogue with people of this organization as well.
Wanting to see the relationships between Christianity and the revolution, the effects U.S. military support is having on the country, and what role communism is playing in the formation of a new government, were three major concerns of the Mars Hill Chaplain.
She, along with 33 members of the Witness for Peace Southeastern states, concluded that religious freedom exists in rich diversity in Nicaragua, but that there were also serious differences within the church over support for the Nicaraguan government.
The Witness for Peace delegates were impressed with the diversity of political parties, and reported that the democratic process of elections was a year ahead of schedule.

with elections scheduled for November of this year. In 1983, "Political Parties Law" was passed which insured the right of all citizens to form or join a political party, hold public meetings, criticize the state, attempt to win power, own property, and use the national media to campaign.
The electoral law which established the rules and regulations for the election was passed in March of this year. In November, the citizens of Nicaragua will elect 90 representatives for a constituent assembly legislature as well as a president and a vice-president. For the first time in the country's history, according to Reverend Bean, this will give the poor of the country the chance to participate at all levels of society.
Other recent improvements that the Peace groups were informed about included the increase of health care. Seventy percent of the population now have access to health care and there is a great thrust of emphasis by the government to teach mothers how to care for their children properly and decrease the infant mortality rate.
Prior to the revolution, while the government was under the repressive Samosa Regime, it was against the law to teach a peasant how to read. Now, the illiteracy rate has dropped from 60% to 11%.
Also, the amount of the country's land that is in private ownership is currently 60%.
Another fact learned by the Nicaragua is a shocking 15. The group reports that it was not

Witness for Peace members, however, is that the median age in unusual to see cadres of youngsters marching to patrol community borders since local residents are responsible for their own defense.
"We are waging war against children," says Reverend Bean with a sincere shade of alarm and intensity in her eyes.
The group toured several communities where they saw the results of Contra raids. In Ocatol, a city near the Honduran border with a largely rural farming population of 15,000 and with no military installations, the Contras had destroyed a coffee processing plant, a lumber mill, a grainery, the radio station, and the electric administration building, allegedly with U.S. supplied arms and munitions.
About the trip back to Managua, traveling through areas of Contra activity, Reverend Bean reports, "It was very unnerving to see truck loads of civilians going in the opposite direction, being evacuated from the towns." The oppressed Nicaraguan people are burying friends and family members every day. Civilians are kidnapped in their fields or homes and pressed into Contra armies or murdered.
Although Reverend Bean and the others witnessed severe affliction, in the homes where members of the Witness for Peace delegates stayed, they were welcomed warmly by the Nicaraguan people.
Special food was prepared for them on clay stoves since most of these adobe homes have no elec-

tricity. Reverend Bean strongly emphasizes the openness of the Nicaraguans to the peace group members. "They are not dumb people! They realized that we were North Americans and that it is our government that is causing them so much suffering, but never once did I hear an ugly word or see an ugly gesture."
In Jalapa, A northern Nicaraguan village, the Witness for Peace group held a prayer vigil and worshiped with 400 Nicaraguans.
In an attempt to greet and have fellowship with the peace group, the members of the peace organization were often welcomed with simple, but eventful fiestas. Even in private prayer, the Nicaraguans participated and pleaded with members to return to America and intervene for them.
"They hold the same values that you and I hold," related the MHC Chaplain. "They want a government of Nicaraguans, for Nicaraguans by Nicaraguans. My observation is that Nicaraguans are trying to build a society that is neither communistic nor capitalistic, but one that involves the church and all levels of society in the country."
What she would like to do now is to share what she has seen and heard with others. Her three pleas to the American public are: First of all to become informed by various available sources; Secondly, to register to vote and find out what stands legislators take; and Thirdly, she challenges Americans to develop a simplified life style, so

that they can share something with this part of the world.
She would like to encourage people to talk and write to their legislators to resolve the difference between the U.S. and Nicaragua through diplomatic channels and to engage the Nicaraguans in respectful dialogue.
"It is not a perfect country," she states with a sensitive smile. "The government had made mistakes which they admit, but they are trying to correct their mistakes and form an independent government based on national pride, autonomy, and justice for all people."
MHC STUDENTS ACTIVE IN ELECTION '84
By GENA BARONE, News Editor
November 6, 1984 is Election Day. Campaigning for the Democratic and Republican parties has already begun nationwide, as well as Mars Hill College's campus.
Mars Hill College offers two organizations for politically aware students: Young Democrats and College Republicans. The Young Democrats, led by Kim Gasperson and Stuart Jolley, is open to all students who are interested in serving the Democratic party on campus. They are hosting, along with the Grayson Scholars and Student Activities, a presidential debate at 7:00 p.m. October 1, in Belk Auditorium. The debate will include student and faculty members for each party, and each party will address different issues.
The College Republicans, led by Robin Gentry, is also open to all students who are interested in getting students on campus involved in the upcoming election. This organization was responsible for hosting Bill Hendon, 11th District Congressional Candidate, at Mars Hill College on September 25, to speak to the community.
Besides having organizations on campus involved in the election, at least two students are serving their internships working in Asheville for different campaigns. Matt Miller, a junior Political Science and History major, is in charge of the absentee balloting for Buncombe County for the Reagan-Bush Campaign. He helps people who may be disabled or for whatever reason can not get out of their homes to vote for their candidate. Miller, who aspires to be a politician, feels that he has made important contacts working for the campaign. He stated, "contacts are important for a politician's career, and they definitely are an asset."
Kim Gasperson, a junior Political Science major, is doing her internship for the Jim Hunt Campaign. Her job includes anything from answering the phones to preparing for Hunt's rallies. Kim is also an aspiring politician who has made important contacts, but she feels the most important aspect is getting involved in the election and making people aware of their need to vote. She stated, "people may feel apathetic towards voting, but it is necessary to vote because one of these candidates will affect your life in some way. People should have a say in how their life will be affected, and if not their own life, then their children's."

SPORTS MEDICINE UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

By PAM KISH, Editor

from Durham, North Carolina to serve as the new director of the Sports Medicine Program at Mars Hill College is Dr. Renato Amato, an NATA Certified Athletic Trainer. He has a doctorate degree from West Virginia University and a master's degree from James Madison University. This man possesses confidence, and it is this confidence that he has exciting plans for the Sports Medicine Program. He has been extremely busy since he came to Mars Hill keeping the program in prime condition for performance.
NATA Certified Sports Medicine Program at Mars Hill is one of only 60 programs in this country. In these programs, more are found in large, state universities in correlation with a Medical School Program or a hospital facility. Mars Hill College, being a small college, has done what most colleges could not even attempt to do. In the aid of a Medical Program, the efforts of the program are highly commended.
At the present time there are four students participating in the curriculum in addition to six students who are currently working as student trainers. If the program were not reauthorized, the program would become an apprenticeship program requiring a minimum of 1800 hours under the direct supervision of an NATA Certified Athletic Trainer. There would be no course requirements, however, the courses would still be offered so that those students presently enrolled in the curriculum would be able to complete the requirements.
Under curriculum conditions the enrollment in the program is competitive based on the student's individual ability to perform in the program. The apprenticeship would be open to all students.
The Hilltop expresses its support for the program and a warm welcome to its new director.

credited by NATA, graduates of the program are not automatically certified by the NATA. Such certification is only achieved by passing the NATA certification examination.
As a graduate of an NATA approved curriculum, the student needs to have successfully completed a NATA approved Athletic Training Education Program from a college or university sponsoring an NATA approved Graduate or Undergraduate Program. Mars Hill College offers this for its students. The students enrolled in this curriculum are required to have a minimum of thirty hours of coursework and are also required to have at least 800 hours under the direct supervision of a NATA Certified Athletic Trainer.
Every five years, the Sports Medicine Programs are reevaluated by the NATA. In the Spring of 1985, the MHC Sports Medicine Program will be reevaluated. There is a possibility that the curriculum may be discredited. However, the program is receiving much support from the administration, and the school is doing everything feasible to maintain the NATA standards, as well as meeting the demands of all those involved.
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PHOTO BY GLEN BOONE

Last week tragedy struck as Dallas Croom was eaten by his biology experiment. The snake, however, later experienced trouble digesting Dallas and was forced to spit him up. Hilltop sources have reported that Dallas is at home and resting.

ENCORE PRESENTATION BY SUSAN KING



By PAM KISH, Features Editor

Presenting the mysterious, and remarkable life of Emily Dickenson on stage in an incredible reproduction directed by C. Robert Jones of the Mars Hill College Theatre faculty. Susan King will perform a special one-hour version of The Belle of Amherst by William Luce. The production was mounted originally by the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theater in March of 1978 and has toured the southeast extensively

since that time. The performance will be on Thursday, October 4, at 8:00 p.m. in Spainhour Hall.
Mr. Luce, in his play offers the audience an Emily Dickenson who was passionate, sane, and whose intense energy prevailed every moment of her life, extending finally to the world through her brilliant poetry.
This performance is sponsored by the Elderhostel Program and the Center for Continuing Education for the Mars Hill Community. There will be no charge for admission.