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New Faces

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EDITOR

New faces have arrived on campus for the new school year. One addition is Warren Taylor, our Director of Residential living. The other two exciting additions to Mars Hill are in the fine arts departments of Music and Theatre. These are Dr. Joel Reed, Choir Director, and Dwaine Skoog, Technical Theatre Director.

Warren Taylor is a 1981 graduate of Mars Hill College with a B.S. in Physical Education. He is coming to us straight from Catawba College where her served in various positions. He started by coaching soccer. This job eventually led to working with students as Director of Student Activities. He then started gaining experience for his current position by working as an assistant in Housing. Taylor thinks it is great to be returning back to his Alma Mater where he always enjoyed Mars Hill. He especially likes the friendly atmosphere here on campus along with the strong Christian commitment.

Housing for Taylor is challenging and rewarding. He wants to work with his staff as a group to make residential living a comfortable and enjoyable experience. Current projects involve upgrading dorms and reorganizing the custodial program. One of his main objectives is to achieve a positive image for Housing. He is here to help students in any way he can.

Taylor's sport background is going to be very beneficial in helping an O'Brien coordinate intercollegiate sports this year. He is a Lions fan and supports enthusiastically all Mars Hill athletics. He loves to see the students get involved. Taylor adds, "Contribute to the college community and ask not what the college can do for you, but what you can do for it. You will gain a rewarding experience."

Dr. Reed is a member of Mars Hill's graduating class of 1968. Music Education and Voice are his B.A. degrees. After graduation he returned home to Greenville, S.C. where he taught in the public school system for one year. After some experience with the National Guard, Dr. Reed went back to school to earn his Master's degree in Church Music and his Doctorate in Education at Central Baptist Seminary in New Orleans. Beginning in 1976, he spent nine years as the chairman of the Music Department at Central Wesleyan College.

Returning to the "Hill", he is glad to be back in the mountains. Mars Hill is especially significant for him in that Dr. Reed met Ginger Eddleman here who became his wife the December following their graduation in 1968. They now have two lovely daughters age 14 and 8. Adding another personal link to the college, is the fact that his three brothers, (including his twin), also attended Mars Hill.

Dr. Reed has worked with Robert Shaw in Atlanta, Ga, singing in the Atlanta Symphony orchestra/chorus. "This has had a profound influence on my musical development," he says, proclaiming Robert Shaw as his favorite musician.

Dr. Reed's favorite music is from the Renaissance and Baroque periods. He also finds 20th Century composition musically exciting. Along with his love of music, Dr. Reed enjoys golf, tennis, and yard work. He says, "I don't enjoy running, but I do it." This fine addition to the college's faculty is enthusiastic about MGC's choir and its potential. His goal is to help the department attract quality students for both the music and the entire college.

Dwaine Skoog, a new face in the Theatre department, grew up on a farm in northern Indiana, 20 miles outside Lafayette. Throughout high school he was involved in acting and theatre arts. So it is not

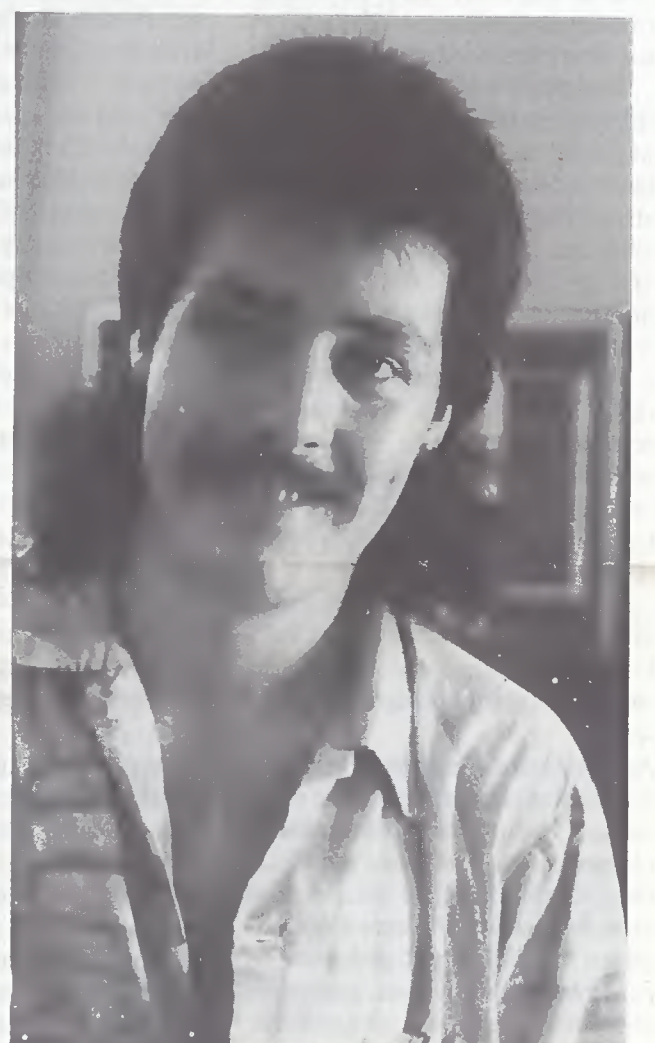
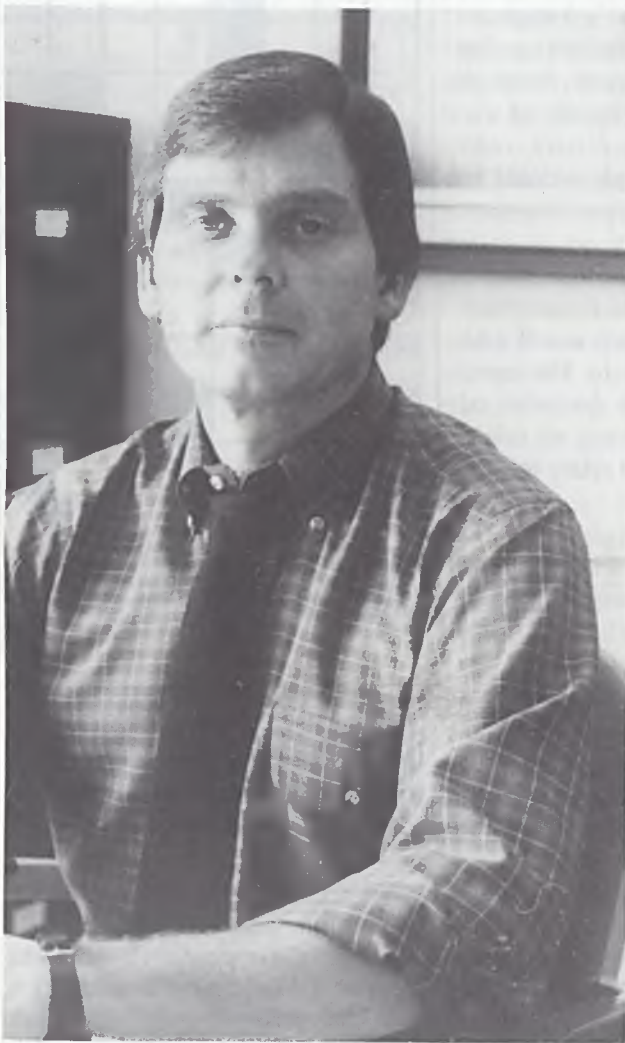
surprising that he entered the University of Texas on a scholarship for the theatre and acting program. During his undergraduate years, he worked in several theatres, including "Center Stage" in Austin where he was Technical Director. He returned to Indiana to finish his studies, earning his Master's degree in Fine Arts at the University of Indiana. He is presently awaiting critique of his thesis which he completed in May of this year. This summer he worked with the Santa Fe Opera in Nashville, Indiana as set designer and carpenter.

He describes his preference for set designing as an escape from the "hubub of theatrical work." "Acting is an interpretive art, interpreting what the playwright has already created; but designing is a creative art." Designing is his "big passion" and he is grateful he has the opportunity to be in a profession where he is able to utilize his creative energy doing what he truly loves to do. An innovative approach to plays both old and new are what he enjoys. To display the playwrights message in ways not so traditional is a challenge he meets with playful confidence and serious skill. Mars Hill's Theatre department will surely benefit from his candid style.

About Mars Hill, Skoog says, "this is a beautiful, beautiful place to live." he notices many similarities to his hometown as he is now being reacquainted with small town life. "There are many opportunities here," Dwaine Skoog says with positive sincerity. He sees the potential of his work at MHC as theatrically exciting.

Mr. Skoog teaches Introduction to Technical Theatre and team-teaches Theatre History, covering the scenic and technical history of theatre. In addition, he will be selecting shows that will be done in Owen Theatre.

As much as he loves theatre, his other "passions" are basketball, flying, and Bruce Springsteen Music.



"Culturefest" To Begin Soon

Mars Hill College's "Culturefest" of visiting artists and lecturers will begin Monday, September 30, with a performance by Lionel Hampton and his big band. Hampton, whose roots in music go as far back as nearly any other living, and who can only recall gigs with musicians as Charles Mingus, Clifford Brown, and Fats Navarro, got his big break in 1930, when Louis Armstrong played a Los Angeles recording session without his usual band and Hampton's group to back

up during a recording session the day, Armstrong asked Hampton if he could play the vibes. Hampton, who had been playing drums, was not about to miss out on playing with Louis Armstrong said that he could. The first time he played the vibes was on a recording with Louis Armstrong. He has since become known as the "President USA."

Hampton's appearance will be followed by another legendary performance, this time from the 1950's and 60's, The Kingston Trio. The group will bring their trademark three-part harmony and clean, acoustic sound to Mars Hill's upcoming festivities October 4-5. First formed in 1957, the current group includes a NC native, George Grove of Hickory, as well as original member Bob Shane and Tom Haworth, who has also worked with the Brothers Four. The group earned a Grammy in 1959,

as "Best Country Music Group," there being no folk music category.

The Norman Luboff Choir will return to Mars Hill December 2. The choir visited the college several years ago and Luboff was so impressed with the college's music program he agreed to return and conduct the school's annual high school choral clinic. The program at Mars Hill, given the time year, will be a special holiday concert, featuring the music of Monteverdi, Rachmaninoff, and Mendelssohn as well as traditional Christmas hymns and carols arranged by Luboff.

The first spring event on March 4, will be a lecture by Robert Short, author of the extremely popular "The Gospel According to Peanuts." One of the top ten all-time religious best sellers in the US, Short hit on the idea of using characters found in popular culture and literature to illuminate Christian values. As a seminary student at Southern Methodist University, he received permission to use the gang found in the Peanuts comics from author Charles Schulz. His other books include "The Parables of Peanuts," "A Time to Be Born - A Time To Die," and "Something to Believe In."

The final program in this year's series will be a performance by the Ballet Jazz de Montreal. This Canadian group has succeeded in synthesizing the basics of ballet with the earthiness of modern

dance, the loose look of jazz dance, and the excitement of Broadway. Their performance will be held May 6.

All of the culturefest events will be held in the college's Moore Auditorium and will begin at 8 p.m. Season tickets are available for \$15 each. Individual tickets will be \$5 for each event and will be available at the door. The exception will be tickets for The Kingston Trio concert, which will be \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Seating for the general public is also limited for this Homecoming concert.

For additional information and ticket requests, contact Robert Kramer, Chairman, Visiting Artists and Lecturers Committee, PO Box 117, Mars Hill, NC 28754.

Talent Search

BY DENISE GROH
COPY EDITOR

On August 3, 1985, Gregory Stewart, a Mars Hill sophomore and Music Performance major, won the first annual Blue Ridge Talent Search. Stewart, a resident of Spruce Pine, N.C. and one of twenty-five acts in the contest, took home a cool \$100 for his efforts. He also won the position of opening act for the T.G. Shepard/Pam Tillis country music concert also held at the Pinebridge Coliseum in Spruce Pine, on

August 16, 1985.

The talent search as well as the concert were two facets of the Blue Ridge Country Music Festival, sponsored by the Linville Charitable Foundation to benefit Sloop Memorial Hospital in Crossnore, N.C. According to Rose Hickey, the director-coordinator for the talent search, "this area (Western North Carolina and East Tennessee) abounds in talent, and we should show them off." Plans are already underway for a second edition of the 'Blue Ridge Talent Search.'

Lunsford Festival: October 4-5

When traditional "old time" music becomes the topic of conversation in the mountains, the instrument mentioned as unique to this style of music is the Appalachian dulcimer. On Friday evening, October 4, mountain music lovers will have an opportunity to hear the best of the dulcimer players as the 18th Annual Bascom Lamar Lunsford Mountain Music and Dance Festival begins at Mars Hill College.

The Mountain music and Dance Festival, begun by Lunsford and Mars Hill pharmacist Ed Howard, is a celebration of traditional mountain values, a time to share in the preservation of these values by passing on tall tales, home-making skills, and particularly the music of

ment. There are also those who display the dulcimer in admiration of its simple but classic design and the beauty of the wood used to make them.

The Friday evening concert will be held in Owen Theatre, which with its 200-plus seats, has the intimate atmosphere necessary for such a concert. Home made quilts have been secured and will form the backdrop for the stage.

The festival will continue on Saturday, Oct. 5. Saturday has always been the "big day" of the festival, with events beginning at 10 a.m. and ending around 11 p.m. Free workshops in musical instruments in the mountains. When the festival was revamped several years ago, the planners allowed for a special Friday night concert to help fulfill this "educational" aspect of the festival.

Thus, for the past several years, a single aspect of traditional mountain music has been featured during the Friday evening activities. This includes some of the finest musicians in the world, plus background information on the history and use of the particular feature of music. In the past few years, this has included fiddles, banjos, ballad singers, and string bands.

The Appalachian dulcimer has maintained a large popularity due to its unique sound, light weight, and relatively simple demands in learning how to play the instruments, crafts displays, and

home-making skills have highlighted the festival in past years and will continue to do so this year. The festival has gained an emphasis in community life in the last few years, and this year the Madison County 4-H has planned a fair for the day. There will be demonstrations of community quilting bees, along with the carving, weaving and cooking. Also available Saturday will be children's activities, "mini" concerts, dancing, and the opportunity to "jam" with the finest mountain musicians in the world.

Then "around about sundown" the best of the traditional mountain musicians, singers, and dance teams will gather in Moore Auditorium to celebrate the memory of Bascom Lamar Lunsford and to carry on the tradition he began nearly half a century ago in the 1985 "Minstrel of the Appalachians."

There will be a modest charge for the concerts Friday and Saturday evenings, but all events during the day Saturday are free. For additional information, contact Dr. Donald Anderson, Chairman, Lunsford Festival Committee, Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N.C. 28754.

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