

# HILLTOP

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## Mars Hill College's Response to AIDS

Editor  
Writer

### The Policy

A fear surrounds the deadly AIDS, and sometimes institutional decisions based on faulty information and inadequate discussion.

Mars Hill College, however, has foresight to look ahead and policy to deal with the possibility of contracting AIDS. Mars Hill about a year plus ago a school policy. A student denied admission to Mars Hill will be treated no different than students," stated Dr. Fred Burgess, president of Mars Hill College.

A student would be expected to administration and the medical community so that they would be able to help the student in taking care of himself," Bentley said. "They work with the student as far as his concerns." Bentley also hoped the student would know everything he could about the ways he could protect himself and other people.

A student had AIDS, his condition kept in confidence, according to Bentley. Only the people that wanted to know would be informed.

Burgess, dean of student development, supported this policy. "If a student who came to me and said he had been diagnosed as having AIDS, it would be kept in strict confidence," she said.

Bentley said she would advise the student to tell the doctor and nurse in the hospital as well as the academic advisor would work with the student to find alternate housing and help him or her on methods of self-defense.

When the fall semester started, Bentley showed a film on AIDS at the shop for residence superintendents. Programs are being planned to help educate students. A film program is being shown either in Belk Hall or possibly as part of education classes.

Bentley stated that she would be happy to answer any further questions about the college's policy.

AIDS is a deadly disease that by the end of 1985 had afflicted approximately 15,000 Americans. In the next few years the disease is expected to strike additional tens of thousands of people in the United States. Academic communities must expect that some of their members will be affected by the disease. In the absence of preventive vaccines or effective treatments, the primary response of Mars Hill College to the AIDS epidemic must be education, which can equip individuals to take reasonable precautions against transmission of the disease.

Current knowledge indicates that students or employees with AIDS, ARC (AIDS-Related Complex: a milder manifestation of AIDS) or a positive HTLV-III (Human T-Lymphotropic Virus, Type III) antibody test do not pose a health risk to other students or employees in an academic setting. AIDS is thought to be transmitted by intimate sexual contact or by exposure to contaminated blood. Although HTLV-III can be found in many body secretions of those who are infected, its presence there is not necessarily correlated with disease transmission by those fluids. There has been no confirmed case of transmission of AIDS by any household, school, or other casual contact. The Public Health Service states that there is no risk created by living in the same house as an infected person; caring for an AIDS patient, eating food handled by an infected person; being coughed or sneezed upon by an infected person; casual kissing; or swimming in a pool with an infected person.

These facts, derived from the best medical data available, are the basis for the following guidelines, which delineate Mars Hill College's response to the AIDS epidemic:

1. Students or employees of the College, who may become infected with the AIDS virus, will not be excluded from enrollment or employment, or restricted in their access to College services or facilities, unless medically-based judgments in individual cases establish that exclusion or restriction

is necessary to the welfare of the individual or other members of the College community.

2. The College will provide an active program of education addressing the AIDS phenomenon through residence hall programs and human sexuality components of basic freshman classes (e.g., PDS or College 101). The attached brochure, provided by the American College Health Association, contains information of extreme importance and is the basis for the College's educational program related to AIDS. The education program will be addressed to all segments of the College community: students, faculty, staff, resi-

such knowledge, for the protection of others. Such individuals are required to share that information with the Director of Health Services, so that the College can provide them proper medical care and education. Such information will be disclosed to responsible College officials only on a strictly limited, need-to-know basis, unless the individual consents in writing to other releases of the information. The College is obligated by law to disclose to public health officials information about all confirmed cases of active AIDS.

5. College health services personnel are familiar with sources of test-

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dence hall personnel, and so forth.

3. Consideration of the existence of AIDS, ARC, or a positive HTLV-III antibody test will not be part of the initial admission decision for those applying to attend Mars Hill College; neither will the College undertake a program of screening of students or employees for antibody to HTLV-III.
4. Individuals within the College community who know, or have a reasonable basis for believing, that they are infected, are required to seek expert advice about their health circumstances and are obligated, ethically and legally, to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with

ing for antibody to HTLV-III and are able to refer students or employees requesting such testing. Testing should be done where it is confidential, where positive results can be confirmed by specific tests, and where both pre- and post-test counseling are available.

6. Decisions about campus housing of students with AIDS, ARC, or a positive HTLV-III antibody test will be made on a case-by-case basis. In making such decisions, Residential Living officials will keep in mind that AIDS is a condition present in an individual and not one that inhabits a building. The best currently available medical information does not support

the existence of a risk to those sharing residence halls with infected individuals; there may, however, be, in some circumstances, reasonable concern for the health of those with AIDS, or ARC, who might be exposed to certain contagious diseases (e.g., measles, chicken pox or influenza) in a close living situation. Health services personnel may wish to recommend that students with AIDS or ARC be assigned private rooms in the interest of protecting the health of those students.

7. While the duty of College health officials to maintain strictest confidence with respect to any diagnosis is universally recognized, it is also recognized that this duty is superceded by the necessity to protect others in every specific, threatening situation. The number of people at the College who are aware of the existence and/or identity of students or employees who have AIDS, ARC, or a positive HTLV-III antibody test will be kept to an absolute minimum, both to protect the confidentiality and privacy of the infected person(s) and to avoid the generation of unnecessary fear and anxiety among other students and staff.

8. The College will not inform a roommate or other students in the residence hall or elsewhere of the presence in the residence hall of a student with an AIDS-related condition. Sharing that information would only cause needless fear and anxiety and may result in unnecessary, painful, and isolating consequences for the afflicted student. It is not necessary for the protection of other students, because AIDS is not transmitted by ordinary casual residence hall contact.

9. College health service personnel will encourage regular medical follow-up for those who have AIDS, ARC, or a positive HTLV-III antibody test. Special precautions to protect the health of immunologically compromised individuals will be considered during periods of prevalence of such contagious diseases as chicken pox, measles, and influenza.

10. Those who are known to be immunologically compromised will be excused from institutional requirements for certain vaccinations, notably measles and rubella vaccines, as those vaccinations may lead to serious consequences in those with poorly functioning immune systems.

11. The College will adopt those guidelines as proposed by the Public Health Service for the handling of blood and body fluids of persons with AIDS, ARC, or a positive HTLV-III antibody test. Further, the College will provide educational programs about AIDS and risk reduction to College health services personnel.

12. The College health service will use disposable, one-user needles and other equipment whenever such equipment will puncture the skin or mucous membranes of patients.

13. Laboratories used in a teaching context, such as those required in biology courses, should be safe experiences. Given the fact that the existence and identity of those with AIDS, ARC, or a positive HTLV-III antibody test may not be known, procedures for the decontamination of environmental surfaces and objects soiled by blood body fluids have been adopted and implemented. Laboratory courses requiring exposure to blood, such as finger pricks for blood typing or examination, use disposable equipment, and no lancets or other blood-letting devices are re-used or shared. No student is required to obtain or process the blood of others. The Public Health Service guidelines include information about disinfection of environmental surfaces: a simple method they recommend is the cleaning of contaminated surfaces with a household bleach freshly diluted 1:10 in water.

14. The President of the College or his designee will respond to any inquiries related to AIDS-related phenomena as may occur on campus.

These guidelines may be revised in appropriate ways in light of new medical information.

## Producing: The National Players

Editor  
Writer

Most people think of acting as the first thing that comes to Hollywood — or at least, they do. Although the "big" is a major place of employment for many of those in the profession, the stage is a larized but more demanding of acting. Theatre requires much more preparation and concentration on the part of performers, for every they make during a show the audience — in combination with screen performance — are filmed in sections together, and mistakes are not allowed or re-shot.

Groups range from the very large, and has a slightly different feel. There are big companies that perform a single show in one of the cultural world — New York City, perhaps, shows like the King and I. There are all community theatre companies across the country, form one show for several years usually in a very small before switching to the last major type of production, which is the professional group, which travels the country, performing at each stop on their

National Players is one of the largest. Established in 1937, the company is currently made up of 14 members, and is in its 50th consecutive season. In 1987, the group has more than 5000 "great" productions by Shakespeare, Moliere and Sophocles. They are putting on the premiere production of the thriller favorite, "The Usual Suspects," which was sponsored at Mars Hill College on November 11. The group is so small, each member has a variety of tasks for

### National Players Dracula



which they are responsible, in addition to performing. The company works as a team in each location where they perform, arriving early to perform the various technical preparations necessary for a stage production: checking the sound equipment, the arrangement of the lights, and putting up the set. Likewise, they break down the set after each performance in order to transport it to the next stop on their tour.

The National Players is a stepping stone to careers in other branches of acting. Originally, it was composed of the most talented graduates of the Drama Department at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., but the group now includes current students and graduates of other schools. Most of the actors and actresses have been involved in the arts — acting, singing and dancing — since they were young, and some have hopes and dreams of careers in professional theatre or film.

The company is a diverse lot, hailing from all over the country and enjoying a variety of backgrounds. The directors, costume designer and scenery designer all have long lists of experience in working in the theatre around the world. The group is known for its high quality productions, complete with beautiful costumes and sets.

## Homecoming Highlights

### Alumni Come Home

Laura Smithwick  
Staff Writer

Hundreds and hundreds of reminiscing alumni covered the Mars Hill campus on October 30 and 31. Vivid autumn colors and unusually warm weather greeted graduates who came from as far away as New Mexico, Connecticut and even Canada for the 1987 Homecoming festivities.

Four hundred graduates (from years prior to 1920 to 1987) packed the alumni luncheon, and Marsha Holmes Walker, Director of Alumni Activities, said attendance this year was the best she had seen. The "Golden Anniversary" celebration, organized by Miss Frances Snelson and Dr. Otis Duck, was well-attended: 35 class-of-'37 graduates and their spouses came, including an alumna who had not visited the campus since her graduation.

Groundbreaking for Broyhill Chapel and English Prayer Garden was an especially significant event for many alumni. There were also reunions for fraternities and sororities, dances, a parade, and, of course, the football game to enjoy.

Fond memories of various graduates ranged from "meeting my wife" to "hiking Bailey Mountain" to "living in Treat Dorm with Mother Sparks." Some shared about pranks they played while at Mars Hill, like putting a cow in what used to be Moore Building, and moving an entire bedroom suite to the top of a tree outside Myers. The organizer of Mars Hill's first panty raid in 1956 (the year of the college's 100th birthday) laughingly remembered his mischief, too.

For many alumni, Mars Hill was barely the same. The addition of Pizza Inn, the tanning salon and the Yogurt Bar surprised a few, and most lamented the loss of the elm in front of Blackwell Hall. Alumnus Jeff Morgan remarked that the looks of the campus were much improved, and Jeanne Goin Hagen was impressed with new facilities. Jay Hirst commented that Security must have bought new vehicles. "You can't hear them coming, now," he said.

Getting graduates back to campus to visit is important to the college. The Alumni Office, having worked since June to put the events together, helped make Homecoming a meaningful time for graduates who returned. One alumnus had this to offer to Lions currently at the college: "I guarantee these students that when they're 60 years old, their fondest memories will be of this school."

### Royalty

Lisa Ramsey  
Staff Writer

This year's Homecoming Queen and King were very excited and somewhat shocked to have been chosen even though the rest of the student body at MHC obviously felt their election was well deserved.

The 1987 Homecoming Queen was Elaine Ensley, a psychology major and a senior at MHC. "I was in shock when they announced my name. I couldn't believe it," Elaine said. "I wasn't expecting it. . . I was listening for the name of one of the other girls on the field." Elaine said that she felt happy and surprised at the same time.

Elaine is a member of a psychology club, Director of Student Activities for the Union, and President of the Student Admissions Committee. "I'd like to thank everybody, Elaine commented, I really appreciate it."

The 1987 Homecoming King was Charlie Edwards, a physical education major and also a senior at MHC. He was excited about being chosen. He is a member of the fraternity, Zeta Chi Theta. He is also a member of the Mars Hill College Lions football team.

The choosing of a homecoming queen and king was done by the student body of MHC who voted during the week before Homecoming.

### Parade

Michelle Barber  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, October 31 at 1:00 p.m. Mars Hill students and alumni came out to watch the homecoming parade.

Led by the security car, the parade consisted of the former homecoming queen's car and cars representing each class. Next came our own Mars Hill marching band followed by various clubs, sororities and fraternities including Delta Phi Zeta's allegator, Omega Kappa Alpha's raisins singing "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" and Lambda Chi Omega's theme, "Wash Out." The parade ended with a guest high school band, cheerleaders on the fire truck, and the security van.

Instead of the usual first, second and third place winners, a grand prize winner was selected based on the winner of the Lion Growl and participation of a float in the homecoming parade.

This year that winner was Delta Kappa Theta fraternity. The float, with the theme Flame Broil the Bulldogs, featured French fries in a MHC box, a large coke with the fraternity's Greek letters on the straw and bulldogs between hamburger buns.

According to Mark Monfalcone, a member of Delta Kappa Theta, the meaning was to serve the Bulldogs to our Lions. Congratulations to Delta Kappa Theta on winning both the Lion Growl and the float contest.

### New Chapel

Heather Osen  
Staff Writer

"For 131 years Mars Hill has been without a chapel so its about time we got one."

So said President Bentley at the Oct. 31 ground breaking ceremony for Mars Hill College's new chapel.

The first to break ground for the new chapel was Ralieggh English who with his wife, Edna donated the property for the chapel. He was followed by Student Body President Chip Thompson; Dr. Otis Duck from the Board of Trustees; Rev. Marie Bean, Chaplin, and several other representatives from various other organizations. Members of the audience were also invited to spade the earth.

Special thanks were given to the Broyhill family, who donated almost \$400,000 to cover the cost of materials, and to the Englishs.

Thanks were also given to the Brotherhood of North Carolina, a group of 75 to 100 carpenters, electricians, masons, etc. who have volunteered to construct the chapel for free and to the many students and faculty members who have volunteered to help.

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