

HILLTOP

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Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, North Carolina

Friday, February 8, 1988

Impressions: Over-The-Rhine

...ust like a scene out of ...k Kotter. ...rows of abandoned or ...ildings line the dirty ...small and smog fill the ...cing the bitter cold with ...cket and maybe a pair of ...e of all ages are headed ...directions. You notice ...all over the ground. ...ems to permeate the at- ...here are you? You have ...Over-The-Rhine. ...incinnati's most poverty- ...hborhoods, Over-The- ...so become the destina- ...p of Mars Hill students ...mas break for the past ...s. This past winter was ...Dr. Tom Plaut and ten ...at twelve days living in ...y of Cincinnati to learn ...a and to help by serving ...many agencies set up to ...nditions and provide ...are. ...really surprised by the ...because I didn't know ...ct," said Pam Graham, a ...English major from ...m, North Carolina. "But ...by the sudden contrast ...o poverty in Cincinnati."

Describing the people themselves, Tiffany Danitz, a sophomore Communications major, felt, "They weren't really that different, except for maybe the way they dressed... their problems were just more evident because they didn't have money to cover them up."

The students seemed surprised that there were so many organizations set up to meet various needs of Over-The-Rhine residents.

"There were several soup kitchens, a day care center, medical clinics, agencies for housing rehabilitation, and a free store," said Tiffany, trying to remember some of the areas the students were placed in. Tiffany worked at the Elm Street Clinic with ten parents. "I'll always remember Donya, a nineteen-year-old mother—the same age as me—who already had two kids. I spent an afternoon at the hospital with her."

John Diego, a second-timer for the Cincinnati trip, has had two jobs: "The first year I went, I worked at the Alcohol Drop-Inn Center. That is a big asset to providing shelter especially for alcoholics. This past time, I was at Sign Of The Cross, which works to provide housing for those on low income."

My assignment was to work in the Peaslee Headstart program," said Pam. She helped care for children aged three to five, who were offered an opportunity to learn and two good meals a day through the program.

place to relax and get in out of the cold. Greg Googer worked with John Diego at Sign Of The Cross, and also helped prepare food at the St. Francis Soup Kitchen. Kirsten Marino worked

Davis and Melanie Childers worked at the Free Store and at a soup kitchen run single-handedly by one man in his own kitchen and living room.

The people who are in charge of these various organizations are phenomenal individuals, and quickly won the hearts of the students.

"They've given their lives to work with the poor... they're so dedicated to the people of the community," said Pam, the emotion showing in her eyes.

"To me, Jim Mullin is the ultimate Christian because he doesn't just talk Christianity... he lives it," said Julie Davis, a freshman from Charlotte, North Carolina, worked closely with Jim and developed a deep respect for his work.

"I'll always remember the legend of Buddy Gray and the Alcohol Drop-Inn Center," noted Tiffany. Buddy Gray gained much admiration because even though he was slandered and hated by many, he continued to work among the people in need.

Helen Francis was another notable leader in Over-The-Rhine. Sometimes enduring threats to her own well-being, this lady uses a sense of humor to keep situations from becoming too heavy a burden.

The trip to Cincinnati certainly introduced the group to some problems facing an inner city, and the students themselves had a chance to help provide some solutions. But what about the lasting impressions the students returned home with? These are some of the most memorable experiences for the group:

"It showed me that some problems you can't just make go away with a bandaid." —Tiffany Danitz

"I realized that you can't feed a starving heart until the belly is full. God said that to serve Him, we must serve 'the least of these'—and some of the people in Over-The-Rhine are 'the least of these.'" —Pam Graham

"I remember talking to Mary at the soup kitchen. She remembered me from last year. We started talking and explained how I could get a switchblade at the pawn shop. An experience like this will open your eyes a little so you can see the hurting. It'll give you a chance to really help people rather than just make excuses." —John Diego.

"When you come back and start noticing poor sections of other towns and wondering what's being done there to help, you know something's happened." —Pam Graham

I'll always remember Donya, a nineteen-year-old-mother—the same age as me—who already had two kids. I spent an afternoon at the hospital with her.

Other Mars Hill students stayed busy volunteering their time as well. Jennifer Ledford and Yancey Sanchagrin helped at Our Daily Bread, a soup kitchen which also provided a

with the Children in the Peaslee Headstart program. Kitty Sanchagrin worked at a place called Tender Mercies, an organization for the deinstitutionalized mentally ill. Julie

Forsake Me Not

Laura Smithwick
Staff Writer

A nursing home was the only alternative. My grandfather's health was so precarious that he needed nurses on hand all of the time, and his move to Tucker Center was a major adjustment for the whole family. Bit by bit he lost his independence (from being able to handle a checkbook all the way to mobility), but with utmost diligence my father paid him daily visits, taking him out whenever possible. I watched my father tend to his father much as he would care for a child, and I couldn't help thinking about my own possible future role as parent caretaker. Would I have to deal with agonizing decisions about what to do with aging parents? Would I face these same demands of time, stress and money, sometimes at the cost of my family?

Caring for older people is an emotional family issue we face personally, but since the fastest-growing age group in the U.S. is age 85 and over (already there are more Americans 65 or older than the total population of Canada), we also face the problem as citizens.

For those of us preparing for careers, dealing with growing numbers of old people takes on yet another dimension: ministers, businessmen, doctors, counselors, and most other professionals will have to meet the needs of the elderly.

What we as family members, citizens, or students can do now to get ready for changes that will take place as the older segment grows is one of the concerns of Mars Hill College's Gerontology Center.

The Center offers certification in

gerontology, continuing education in gerontology, training for clergy members, and in-house training and consultation for agencies and facilities serving the aging population. The Center also co-sponsors conferences and symposiums, the most recent of which was December 3 and 4, in Tampa, Florida.

About 70 ministers and social workers from all over the southeast met at the Harbour Island Hotel for the symposium. The only student among the professionals was Mars Hill sophomore Leah Pardue, who presented a paper entitled, "The Spirituality of the Aged is the Church Meeting Their Needs." Leah remarked that even though she was a little nervous, "it was the high point of (her) December."

Juliana Cooper-Goldenburger, Dr. Ken Sanchagrin, Dr. Tom Plaut, Glen Pierce, and Ann Flynn were Mars Hill College faculty members who participated in the symposium. They seemed in agreement that the whole session, as well as Leah's presentation, was successful. Dr. Sanchagrin commented that at a national meeting in Miami about the aging, he met people who praised the Tampa conference. "That conference reinforces (the college's) reputation as an academic institution," he added.

"Ministry to the Aging" was the theme of the symposium, and it was a topic pertinent to all of us. The front of the conference program read, "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your prayer to the next generation, your might to all who are to come. (Psalm 71:18)"

MHC Students Lead At Constitutional Caucus

"We went in with the big boys and we strutted our stuff, so to speak," said Tim Storey, senior at Mars Hill. "We've got as many good ideas there as in any of the large institutions in the state."

Such was the consensus among five MHC students who participated in "Constitutional Decision—1987" at the Research Triangle, Oct 24-25.

Our 150 students from 22 N.C. colleges and universities attended the experiential, a type of mock constitutional convention, held on N.C. Central campus, Durham, and sponsored by the N.C. Political Association and the N.C. Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

Students attending from Mars Hill College were Janice Dais, Sara Ann Hancock, Grant Marcus, Steve Robbins, and Storey.

Special speakers and faculty advisors included N.C. Chief Justice

once a month for a question and answer period. Storey, who had presented the idea in caucus, spoke before the entire assembly in support of the proposal, which passed overwhelmingly. Another proposal to extend the president's term to six years was defeated. Storey also spoke before the assembly in support of it, the only delegate to speak more than once before the entire body.

The second proposal, presented by the national/State/Local Relations caucus, dealt with nationalizing primary and secondary education. The idea, presented by a delegate from Johnson C. Smith College, Charlotte, was discussed heatedly by the assembly. The proposal passed only after Mars Hill's Robbins worked out compromise language with the Smith delegate.

These were the only two proposals passed by the assembly.

"...We Strutted Our Stuff..."

James Exum; Rhoda Billings, who ran against Exum; and scholars and professors from political science departments across the state.

Students were grouped in 25-40 member caucuses, each to develop proposals to be voted on by the whole body as amended to the U.S. Constitution. Each caucus group had an issue paper to study beforehand. The media department to UNC-Greensboro videotaped all proceedings so that it could be packaged and sent to high schools.

"We were dealing with the very fabric on which this nation is based. We went down there with what is a living document. The American people feel it is their right and duty to constantly review and try to improve their government," Storey said.

The Parliamentary vs. Executive caucus presented a plan to require the president to meet with Congress

Other MHC delegates also played key roles in their respective caucuses. Sara Ann Hancock lobbied against a proposal from the Church and State caucus dealing with restricting religions infringing on the rights of others. She felt this was a dangerous and unnecessary change. Janice Davis lobbied against a proposal from the Citizen Participation caucus and Marcus denounced it in a speech before the whole assembly.

MHC delegates were unanimous in support of this type of mock convention, feeling they grew in their understanding and appreciation of our 200-year-old Constitution.

"For one thing, we learned that the status quo has tremendous momentum. The Constitution and the Government as it works now is the status quo. People don't want to tinker with it because they feel it works," Storey said.

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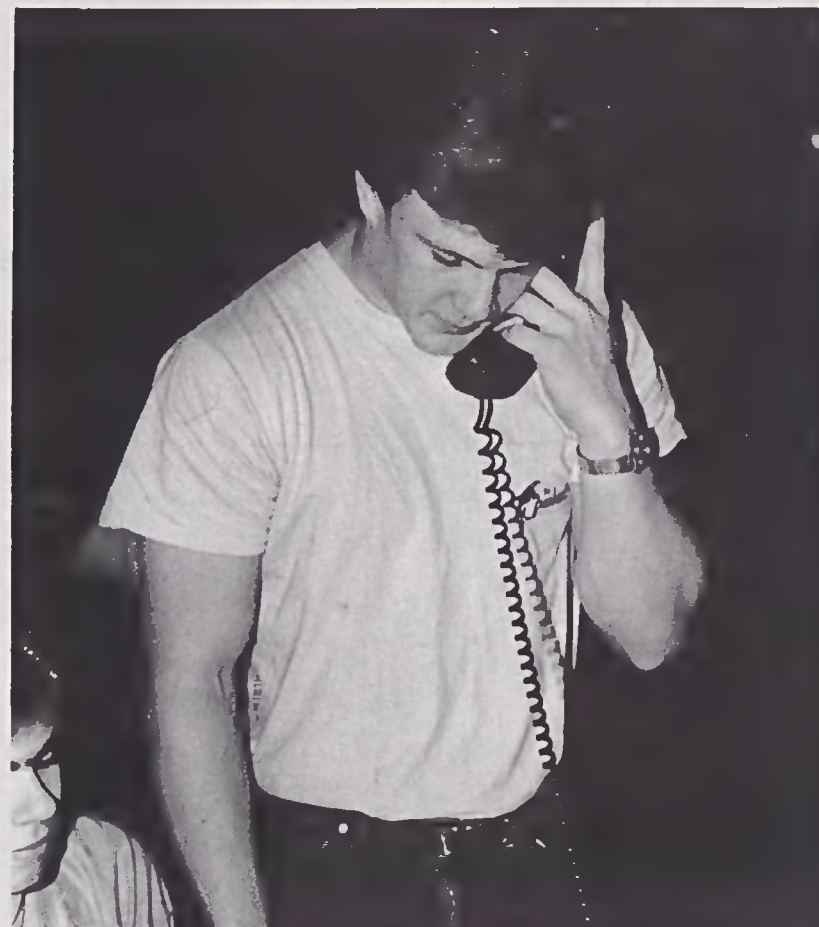
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"Chris Thompson, '89, participates in last year's fund drive."