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THE HILLTOP

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Mars Hill, North Carolina

Friday, March 10, 1989

Ohio Ballet to Play Mars Hill

The Ohio Ballet, acclaimed as "one of the delights of the ballet world" by critics, will be in concert at MHC on Sunday, March 16. Their performance will be held in Moore Auditorium and will begin at 8 p.m. Founded in 1968 by Heinz Poll, the ballet's repertorial core consists of his works along with others such as George Balanchine, Merce Cunningham, and Anna Sokolow. The company also commissions new works from

he looks for "speed, something kinetic that the audience can respond to. I'm motivated by energy and movement." He says, "dance ought to reflect modern experiences, where we are in the arts today."

The company has performed widely during their 11 years. Appearances have included both the Spoleto Festival U.S.A. and Italy, 166 cities throughout the U.S., and travel to Mexico as well as Central and South



Curtis Dick and Anne Shaheen in "Games"

best choreographers, and three new works have been added to the menu this year: two by Poll, and Paul Taylor's "Big Bertha." The most visible elements of the company are, of course, the dancers. Poll says that he looks for dancers with strong classical technique and an emphasis on contemporary dance values such as vitality, athletic ability, and personality. The company has dispensed with the "star" system, opting instead for an ensemble in which each dancer's power and versatility of the dances the audience discover the tremendous power and versatility of the dancer, as well as the approachable characterizations of the selected works. In those works, Poll explains that

America. Their current tour included extended engagements along the East Coast, particularly in North and South Carolina and West Virginia.

The Ohio Ballet's performance at Mars Hill is part of the school's Visiting Arts and Lecturers Series, and is jointly supported by a grant from the NC Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. Admission to the concert is \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Tickets are available from Robert Kramer, PO Box 117, Mars Hill, NC 28754. MHC students will be admitted free with college ID, and this event counts toward Community Life Program credit for students.

Symposium: Storytelling

Laura Simms will be returning to Western North Carolina after her recent appearance at the Asheville Storytelling Festival. She has been hailed as a guiding light in the contemporary renaissance of storytelling. She works with images and narratives from many cultures, which range from classical epic poetry to modern language. She has served on several storytelling festivals founding committees and since 1980 has been storyteller in residence at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Michael Parent's heritage reaches deep into French-Canadian roots. He grew up in Lewiston, Maine in a bilingual home and community. After teaching high school for seven years, he embarked on a new career as a storyteller, singer and juggler. It was clear that French-Canadian stories and songs play a large role in his programs. This has evolved into offering entire programs in either French or English or combination of both. He has recently returned from a storytelling trip to France.

Alice McGill is a native of Scotland's neck and has degrees from Elizabeth City State University and Towson State University. She is the historian for the Association of Black Storytellers and has a repertoire of over 200 stories featuring African-American folktales and songs from the pre-Civil War era. She is perhaps best known for her portrayal of Sojourner Truth and has performed the 83-year old character throughout the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean.

Stories, their effects on us and the techniques of telling them, will be examined as Mars Hill College's Symposium brings three nationally acclaimed storytellers to the campus March 14-15 to ply their crafts.

The Symposium, which provides a forum for "Knowledge in Transition," its overall title, was rejuvenated three years ago with an endowment created by funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation as well as gifts from alumni and friends of the school. The series seeks to provide a forum for issues affecting American society with implications for future generations.

"Why, in this 'television'ed, individualistic society," says Dr. George Perry, chairman of the Symposium committee this year, "is storytelling experiencing a major revival? What is the magic about these stories? How does storytelling help us understand ourselves and where we are going?" These are the questions the Symposium will explore.

Laura Simms, Michael Parent, and Alice McGill will headline the two-day event. The three will jointly appear in the opening session at 10 a.m. Tues., March 14, in Moore Auditorium. Storytelling performances from all three will be featured Tues. evening in Owen Theatre beginning at 7:30 p.m. The final session will be held Wed. afternoon, March 15, at 2 p.m. in Belk Auditorium.

The three will also be available for classes and at other times for students and faculty.

Residence Halls: A New Look

by Tammy Condrey
Staff Writer

Cary Poole, Director of Residential Living, hopes students notice a difference in six of the twelve residence halls on campus next year. Plans have been made to finish Huffman's renovations, begin renovating Stroup, redo apartments and townhouses, and make several other improvements.

The townhouses and apartments will be painted inside and out. Also, new furniture and carpet will be put in to give these buildings a new look.

Brenda Russell and Rebecca Kruk

will be working with Poole on the project so "there will be a sense of interior decorating going along," Poole said.

"It (the carpet) will be industrial or commercial grade carpet, but it won't be just plain colors," Poole said.

Bathroom and kitchen tile will be replaced in the apartments and townhouses and appliances will be replaced if there is the need. Stoves with burnt-out heating units and refrigerators that have quit will have replacements next year.