

INSIDE: Forgiveness Policy
Senioritis
Enrollment Rises
Social Work Club

THE HILLTOP

Volume 62, Issue 10

Mars Hill, North Carolina

Friday, April 14, 1989

MHC Welcomes Peking Acrobats

By Becky Horner
Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, April 12, 1989, the Moore Auditorium is certain to be packed. No, that night is not graduation, and no, people are not being paid to attend. Rather, in a performance defying the laws of physics, the Peking Acrobats will return to Mars Hill as part of their fourth major US tour. The Peking Acrobats, who held a nearly-packed Moore Auditorium speechless for two hours last April, are bringing their amazing talents to western North Carolina. Their feats have meaning to the phrase "you have to see to believe it"--and then, seeing is not necessarily believing. The 25 Acrobats, who come from the People's Republic of China, performed their 100-city tour of North America in January. The tour will conclude in May. Next week's show is certain to be as thrilling as last year's, but with an additional member to join the troupe,

which ranges in age from fifteen to thirty. The star of this show is Che Li, a sixty-one-year-old veteran of the art, who has been training, teaching, designing and performing since age eight.

In addition to performing with the Acrobats, Che Li also regularly tours around China in his own one-man show. He is both an acrobat and a comedian, and he excels at both. His comedy provides a release from the tension built by the astounding and death-defying feats of the Acrobats.

Describing the feats that this troupe performs would not do justice to their abilities and the nature of the entertainment. Chris Pasles of the Los Angeles Times summed up their show in stating, "The Peking Acrobats regularly passed from the seemingly impossible to the virtually unbelievable." They are, in a word, amazing.

This style of

acrobatics is deeply rooted in Chinese tradition, dating as far back as 225 BC. The art became widespread during the Warring States Period on the belief that, among other things, acrobatics increased willpower, physical strength, and accuracy of movements.

Acrobatics has flourished throughout the ages, and it captures the essence of the rich and ancient folk-art tradition of the Chinese people. Today, both professional and amateur troupes perform throughout China.

Training for acrobatics is very rigorous, and being an acrobat is a high honor. Children usually begin to study at around age eight or nine, and after six years of extensive tutoring, join a professional troupe. Only the very best of the 100,000 students currently studying the art will eventually become members of an elite troupe such as the Peking

Acrobats.

Each generation adds its own improvements and embellishments to the art and to the show, and each new movement or action takes at least six months to practice and perfect. Therefore, each new year brings with it new and exciting additions and twists to performances of the past. The Acrobats simply refuse to be predictable.

This performance of the Peking Acrobats is sponsored by the Visiting Arts and Lecturers Committee, and is part of the 1988-89 Culturefest Season. Tickets are available from Robert Kramer and can be reserved by calling 689-1114. Advance tickets are \$5, and tickets will also be available at the door on the night of the show at a cost of \$7. Admission is \$4 for children age twelve and under. MHC students will be admitted free with a valid college ID and this performance is a green-card event for the Community Life Program.

Radio Reading Service

by Lisa Ramsey
Staff Writer

WVMH, Mars Hill College's radio station, is now airing a new program called "The MHC Radio Reading Service," which is aimed at the handicapped, illiterate, and older citizens of Mars Hill. This program was organized in this area by John Oliver, a retired gentleman without whose perseverance and persistence the red tape could not have been cut to get the show started. James Williams, a sophomore communications major at MHC, was appointed the student coordinator in charge of student volunteers by Oliver and other organizers. The program airs each morning from nine to ten and is aired by two volunteers, each reading thirty minutes from sources such as the Asheville Citizen (donated by the paper), Reader's Digest, and Guideposts. Volunteers serve as hosts of the show and are students and adults from this area. Oliver is in charge of the adult volunteers, and those who cannot climb the stairs are given a studio on the stage level in which to read. This program will air year-round, but is now in its trial period. Upon completion of this period, a survey will be taken to measure its success. Williams said, "I think the program is very important and whether there are a lot of handicapped people in Mars Hill or not, if it benefits five to ten people in the area, it's worth the time and effort that's been put into it. However, this service can be beneficial as a news program and points of general interest."

New Food-Service Company to Arrive May 8

By Becky Horner
Editor-in-Chief

On May 28, 1989, members of the Mars Hill college community will step into a new world as they enter Coyte Dining Hall. The cafeteria, which was built in 1948, will undergo extensive interior renovations under the new management of Marriott Corporation. The new company is a major food-service organization, as well as owning and operating a national hotel chain and a national pizza chain. After the departure of the cafeteria will close on May 8. Renovations will be com-

pleted before the first summer session begins. Marriott has planned a complete redesign of the serving and dining areas, bringing the dining room up-to-date.

"We felt that it was time for a change," said Dr. Donald Schmeltkopf, college provost. He explained that the change to Marriott had not been made because of dissatisfaction with the service that Epicure provides, but because the college was looking for a change of pace--a different approach to the resident dining program.

The existing serving lines will be removed, and the serving area

will be redesigned into a set of serving units. Each unit will provide a certain type of food; for example, hot foods, deli meats, breads, etc. The serving area will have one entrance and a separate exit.

The new dining program also features a soup and salad bar, ice cream bar, beverage island and cold cereal island. The current system of checking student ID cards when entering the cafeteria will continue.

Special monthly themed meals, food specialties called Trendsetters, weekly Pacechangers and twice-monthly premium entrees will also be offered. Examples are

deep-fried mozzarella, french bread pizza, a milkshake bar, top sirloin steak, beef teriyaki, and chicken cacciatore. Special events may include such themes as Oktoberfest, English Fish and Chips, and Frontier Days, as well as holiday celebrations.

One of the major highlights of Marriott's service is a health-oriented Nutrition Awareness Program. This will feature special vegetarian entrees and food items for the health-conscious. Additionally, nutritional information for single portions of each item

Continued on page 5