

# THE HILLTOP

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## Schmeltekopf Steps Down

Machelle Cathey  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, March 29, Dr. Donald Schmeltekopf announced his resignation from his position as Provost of Mars Hill College. Dr. Schmeltekopf has been at Mars Hill since July, 1985, and his resignation will be effective June 15, 1990.

Dr. Schmeltekopf has accepted the position of vice provost at his alma mater, Baylor University. The new appointment is with the understanding that Dr. Schmeltekopf will become vice president for academic affairs in June 1991.

Dr. Schmeltekopf is pleased with the improvements he has seen at MHC since he came here. He feels that the most important recent accomplishment was the adoption of a new general education program in May, 1986. According to Dr. Schmeltekopf, this program "redefined the intellectual and spiritual center of Mars Hill College."

He also states that the overall behavior of students has been exceptionally good. He feels that the student body at MHC has a strong academic profile, due in part, he states, to the scholarship program. He also states that the overall conduct of students has been good in the past years. He says that Mars Hill students are good members of the community and is pleased with the few numbers of serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct. For example, Dr. Schmeltekopf is especially pleased that

there have been no drug related cases in the past two years.

Dr. Schmeltekopf has enjoyed becoming acquainted with the students at Mars Hill. He feels that a good, cooperative relationship exists between the administration and the student leaders of the college.

Dr. Schmeltekopf is happy about the progress that the band has made in recent years, as well as the stability in the athletic program. He stated that the coaches understood MHC and believed that the athletes are students first. He is happy about the high graduation rate within the athletic teams.

Dr. Schmeltekopf is also happy about the recent campus renovations. He states that he regrets leaving MHC before the completion of the renovation of Stroup Dormitory.

Dr. Schmeltekopf stresses how much he has enjoyed working with Dr. Bentley. He feels that they have shared a firm partnership of trust and confidence.

Dr. Schmeltekopf is excited about his work at Baylor University. He feels that Baylor aspires to be one of the leading Christian universities in the country and states that he is excited about the opportunity to work in a "thriving university that has a national reputation and is committed to the values of the Christian faith."

## AYAKO: A Taste of Traditional Japanese Culture

From Staff Reports

Thursday, April 19 at 8:00 p.m. in Moore Auditorium, MHC is in for a special treat—Kabuki dancing by *AYAKO UCHIYAMA*. *AYAKO*'s talents constitute a rare tableau of Japanese culture. Born and raised in Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan, *AYAKO* was recognized early in life for her original research into the culture of the *Ainu*, Japan's aborigines. For unique treatment of their songs and dances, she won national critical acclaim and the coveted 1955 "Hokkaido Cultural Prize. Later, under the guidance of *Kazue Mizuki* of the ancient family of celebrated *Kubuki* actors, *AYAKO* concentrated her artistic energy on mastering traditional Japanese dance and absorbing the principles of Japanese

drama. Finally at the *Hosho Noh* she learned *shimai*—or *Noh* dancing. When Martha Graham met *AYAKO* in Japan, she invited her to America. Recently, the

U.S. Government granted her a visa as a cultural exchange artist. Today *AYAKO* is well-known for her perceptive views on Eastern art as revealed in her Japanese theatre film-lectures as well as in her dance-drama concerts. For a night of entertainment at a rare event, come out on April 19 at 8:00 to see *AYAKO*. This event, free to MHC students, also carries Community Life credit.

This event is being presented by the Visiting Lecturers and Artists Committee. For ticket information, contact Robert Kramer at Box 117, Mars Hill, NC 28754, or call 689-1114.



## Choir Members Return from a Successful Tour

Andrea Deaton  
Staff Writer

Once again the mighty Mars Hill Choir members packed their bags and went on the road for the annual choir tour. The tour took them to Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and North Carolina churches and high schools. The choir was not only required to sing in performances, but also had to adjust and be flexible when unpleasant situations came their way. The choir faithfully practiced their music during choir rehearsal time every day and spent extra time in sectionals and individual practice. In order to go on tour, the members gave up part of their Spring Break to return to the Mars Hill campus during the week before other students returned. Some of the selected works from their repertoire were John Rutter's "The Lord is My Shepherd" from his Requiem, Vittoria's "O Vos Omnes," "An Old

English Prayer" arranged by a Morgantown, N.C. choir director, James Gossler and high church music "Ave Verum Corpus" by William Byrd. Several choir members were individually featured. Will Walker performed a prelude on clarinet, and Terry Moore and Ruth Thomas performed on the piano. Larisa Johnson, Scott Shields, and Freddie Combs also prepared solo and duet vocal music. A shaky start found the choir travelling through idle rush hour traffic with no air conditioning, and eventually resulted in very hot and tired travellers pushing the bus. Several housing misunderstandings resulted in somewhat uncomfortable accommodations for the evening and a rainy Saturday sightseeing day put a damper on plans, not to mention a cough and sneeze for the musicians to manage for

the rest of the tour and post-tour days. In order to save money, the choir spent their evenings with the high school members' families or church members. Choir member Leigh Angel reflects, "I enjoyed staying with the local families and learning about the area we were in." Each morning many stories of interesting families with whom the choir members had stayed the night before were told. Dr. Joel Reed, choir director, stressed to the choir members before tour, "You are representatives of Mars Hill College. Many of the people with whom you stay will make their entire judgment of our college from your behavior." The choir did enjoy the luxury of staying in a hotel one evening while in Washington, D.C. after trekking through pouring rain all day long while sightseeing. They visited such sights as the Na-

tional Cathedral, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Old Post Office, Union Station, Georgetown, Hard Rock Cafe, and museums of the Smithsonian. The highlight performance was the rare opportunity to sing for the 10:30 a.m. mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Many choir members witnessed their first Catholic mass. The acoustics were amazing! "The size of the cathedral was immense. You felt small and humble," shares Debbie Lynch. The choir performed several songs for the prelude and the service before accompanist Cathy Adkins delighted in the opportunity to play the postlude on the magnificent organ. Additional performances in Elkin, NC; Towson State University, MD; Manassas, VA; Warrenton, VA;

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