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THE HILLTOP

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Mars Hill, North Carolina

Friday, April 26, 1991

National Commission Reveals Future of MHC

By Deaton

Writer

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...ents to lead and set an intellectual

tone for the campus. "Everything the college does," explains president Fred B. Bentley, "should be done with this mission statement in mind."

Forging new leadership was the second element touched upon and perhaps the most publicized. This would occur by increasing the college's base of leadership and financial support.

"Let us hope that our Baptist principles are indeed Christian ones," stated Dr. Bentley during the convocation service. "The rise of fundamentalism in the Southern Baptist Convention has created havoc with two seminaries. The ability of teachers to teach, conduct research and publish has been stifled." Therefore, the commission suggests that the current Board of Trustees "work with the (NC Baptist) convention to effect a change in the charter which can broaden the leadership and financial

members, no more than six members from one church and nine must be from churches with 400 or fewer members; additionally, they should represent a good geographical and professional sample from the state. Therefore, the NC Baptist Convention currently has complete (100%) control over the school while the institution only receives 7.45% of its budget from this source; this percentage is estimated to decline to 4.8% by 1996.

Meetings on April 25 and May 28 will become the base of further action. However, the current board is suggesting an expansion of the number of trustees to fifty. These extra fourteen would be chosen by the Board (not by the convention), and would not require as many stipulations. They could be from various denominations and states. This would allow for many alumni, businesses, corporations, and foundations across the nation to make donations and also be on the policy-making board of the college.

The convention will decide whether or not they will approve this amending of the charter. "If the convention is not receptive to such negotiations on a timely basis, the Board should take unilateral action to the end that the Board of Trustees is unilateral and self-perpetuating." This would be a separation from the North Carolina Baptist Convention, not the Southern Baptist Convention in its entirety.

All in all, this would not change Mars Hill as a whole.

The only possible outcome would be for more money to be available for the improvement of the campus. "The college will only become better and better. The Board is taking a stand and not allowing a "takeover" by anti-education fundamentalists," encourages Dr. Bentley.

Additional improvements to develop student-focused programs were also suggested. This would include creating a Christian community and giving students leadership opportunities. The growing opportunities for women in leadership positions would be addressed through role models in the faculty. Dr. Bentley states, "If we have a more diverse student body, we may

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Hutt Wins National Fellowship

Becky Horner
Co-editor



Senior biology major Michelle Hutt was awarded a prestigious H. Y. Benedict Fellowship at the National Convention of Alpha Chi in Orlando, FL on Saturday. This award, in the form of a \$1500 stipend to be used for graduate study, is presented annually to five college seniors nationally.

No Mars Hill College student has ever been the recipient of one of these awards, although Vickie Howell (Class of 1990) was an alternate designee for last year's fellowship.

Competition for the award is very stiff, and the winner is selected from among those students who submit an original graduate-level research paper in their field of specialization. (Creative arts students may submit artwork/music in lieu of a paper.)

Additionally, the scholarship committee considers such things as extra-curricular and co-curricular activities and leadership responsibilities. Hutt has served as an officer of the Mars Hill North Carolina Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Chi for the past two years. This year, she is president of the chapter. She has also been involved in numerous other activities.

For the competition, Hutt submitted her senior seminar paper, which dealt with Multiple Sclerosis.

After graduation in May, she will enroll in the two-year Physician Assistant Program at Bowman-Gray School of Medicine.

Alpha Chi is a National Honor Scholarship Society which recognizes the top five percent of juniors and seniors. New members are inducted each fall. Membership in the organization is based not only upon scholarship, but also upon moral character.

For more information on the Benedict Fellowship or Alpha Chi in general, contact official sponsor Winona Bierbaum in the Home Economics Department.



Left to Right: President Fred Bentley; Commission Member Robert Graham; Commission Chairman Dr. John Chandler; and Ed Beach, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

base of the Board."

The current system of choosing trustees for the governing board is a "cumbersome system...that places the college at risk," admits Dr. Bentley. It severely limits the college and subjects its to the potential of "takeover." Dr. Chandler comments, "The college has no intention of separating itself from its founding Baptist traditions, but the Board of Trustees should be a board that chooses its own successors."

The Board of Trustees is a body of 36 members elected by the NC Baptist Convention, each serving 4 years. The system currently requires these members to be Southern Baptists from the state of North Carolina, active church

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