

Merry Christmas, MHC! Have a great break!

SPIDER WEBBS TELLS A CHRISTMAS STORY ABOUT LOVE

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HILLTOP

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CABLE TV COMES TO MHC

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of the work, and as of this past October, work began across the campus to lay the cable. The computer master plan of the college also played a role in the construction by calling for the four inch conduit being placed in the trenches to carry the cable. In the future, this will carry more than enough fiber optics which will computer link the campus (see separate article).

One of the most attractive features of the new cable television system is the addition of two channels devoted to the college. The first of these channels will be used as an educational channel for students. The college will be linked with the GTE Spacenet 2 satellite and also to the SCOLA international news service.

The second channel will be used as a college information channel. The college will have a character generating computer to run a constant stream of useful information across the screen. The possible uses for this channel are endless in that there can be information displayed concerning pre-registration days and registration days, the weather

forecast, cancellations of classes or events, even what will be served that day in the cafeteria. Another possibility will be an addition to the college media by way of an MHC student news program and associated specials.

For use by the television system, there will be three new satellite dishes placed around the campus. One in the Harris Media Center will be used to down-link educational programs, while two others will be set up overlooking the soccer field on women's hill. By May of 1992, there will be a third dish and a tower also set up overlooking the soccer field.

The cost of the cable system for students is much less than the cost to the general public. For example, the town of Mars Hill pays an average of \$25.00 per month for basic service, while MAXTEL Cablevision / Institutional Network Communications, Inc. will be charging Mars Hill students only \$17.75 per month on the average. Another advantage over the townspeople is the fact that there will be several more stations available to the campus through

this different cable server. A premium channel (HBO or Showtime) may be added to the cost at just \$9.25 for one or \$14.25 for two per month. The total cost of the package ranges from \$71.00 to \$138.00 for the entire spring semester. MAXTEL Cablevision will have a booth at registration in January to answer any questions and also to take payments for the spring semester. Note: for televisions which are not cable ready, there will be converters available by deposit.

Although there have been several concerns raised by the faculty and staff of the college, the communications system will prove very useful to the college in that it will help keep Mars Hill on a level equal to or higher than other comparable institutions. With the implementation of this addition to the college, not only have the present needs and demands of the campus been met, but the future's needs of the campus will be easier to meet. The four inch conduit will eliminate the need of the campus to be dug up for many years to come.

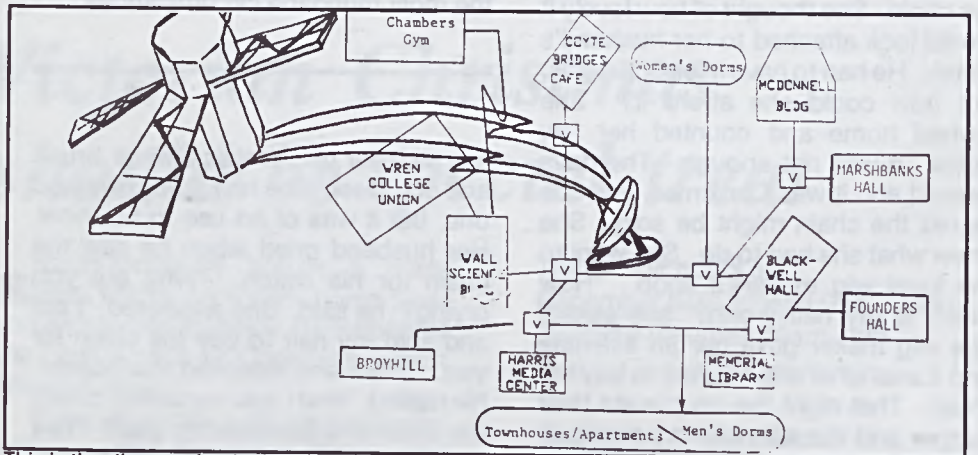
Computer-link explained

From staff reports

Plans to install facilities for cable television in the individual rooms of the various residence halls around the campus came as a fortunate coincidence. College officials decided to take advantage of the installation of the cable to "wire the campus" for computers. In September, a contract was signed with the installer, who is providing two channels in the cable dedicated for college use. These will enable the college to broadcast from Harris Media Center educational films, messages, and/or special programs into the classrooms, lounges, and student rooms across the campus.

College personnel are developing a comprehensive proposal to retrofit the library so that students and faculty will have the ability to access all library data at any time-day or night-via computer. A file server for the library will have three or four times the capacity of any other computer on the campus.

The library is already linked to Solinet for inter-library lending. It ex-



This is the diagram for the linkage of the campus by the master plan. One file server will control the west end of the campus (which includes Wall) and one will control the east end (which includes Cornwell).

pects to add Internet, a major research network, in January. It also hopes to hook into Bitnet, a communications network for teachers, in the near future.

Dr. Bentley estimates that it may take two years to complete these technological advances around the campus. When they are achieved, he explains, all buildings of the campus will be linked, all file servers will be available to students and faculty/staff. Using modems, they will be able to access data from every resource on the

campus and from other repositories around the world.

"Change-radical change-is coming to the academic world," Dr. Bentley predicts. "I believe Mars Hill College is preparing for this change. In fact, I believe our computer master plan and other initiatives we are taking are actually helping to bring about change. It's exciting to think about, and I'm extremely proud that the college is in the forefront of this technological revolution."

College officials are coordinating the installation of cable television in all the dorms (see separate article) with the implementation of a computer master plan for the campus. The expected result will be a world-class, state-of-the-art computer system which will boost the college to the leading edge of computer-assisted teaching and learning.

"When the entire plan becomes fully operational within two years," President Bentley explained, "Mars Hill College will literally be at the information center of the world. Every dorm room on the campus, every classroom and lab, every faculty office-plus the library and the media center-will be linked by computers, which can be linked to every other learning resource in the world. This will put Mars Hill in the same class with the major colleges and university across the nation and far ahead of most schools our size."