



THE HILLTOP

The official student newspaper of Mars Hill College
Mars Hill, NC 28754

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Issue 11

INSIDE:...

Opinions:

Mr. Sams says goodbye in a letter to the editor, and a new statewide cartoonist makes his debut in the Hilltop. Spider Webbs remembers a friend as well.

Campus and Community:

The bands and choirs recently returned from tours and we have the story. A look AROUND THE CAMPUS reports the date for the cafeteria's second ground-breaking, as well as some good news about a library worker, and more.

Features:

What did Todd Starkey do over Christmas? Betts reports his trip to Europe. And what seems to be one of the best jobs in the area? Robin Vines worked there for 2 years; check it out.

Culture and Entertainment:

The Mars is a hit! And International festivities intrigued students.

Endnotes:

Who is the strange stalker? What is his next move? Will Michael survive the ordeal? Sylvia tells part IV of the five-part Spring serial.

DEADLINE FOR FAF AND MMY IS MAY 1, 1992!

Live Band and More Headline Formal

Doug Searcy & Jeff Wakefield
Guest writers

On April 11th from 9:00pm until 1:00am at the Haywood Park Hotel Atrium, Mars Hill College will hold its annual Spring Formal. Music this year will be provided by the live band, 10 til 11:30 who performed at Mars Hill during the fall semester Gateway orientation. The band plays a variety of music and should contribute greatly to the festivities.

Haywood Park was the location for the '89 Spring Formal and many students requested that it host the event again.

The Student Government Association is excited about sponsoring the Spring Formal and hope the evening will be enjoyed by all, according to President, Doug Searcy.

The final day for buying tickets for the formal is today (April 10th) in the cafeteria during lunch. The cost is \$2.50 per person.

GOODYBYE, DR. GRAYSON

J. Wesley Grayson, Mars Hill college's greatest benefactor, died at his home in Laguna Hills, California, Tuesday, March 31. He was 95.

Grayson gave Mars Hill \$1.1 million in 1978 to establish a scholarship program which bears his name. Subsequent gifts to the Grayson Scholars Program by him and his wife, the former Pauline Wall of Mars Hill, increased the total to \$9 million. He was appointed to the school's Board of Advisors in 1977, and a grateful college awarded him the Doctor of Laws degree in 1979.

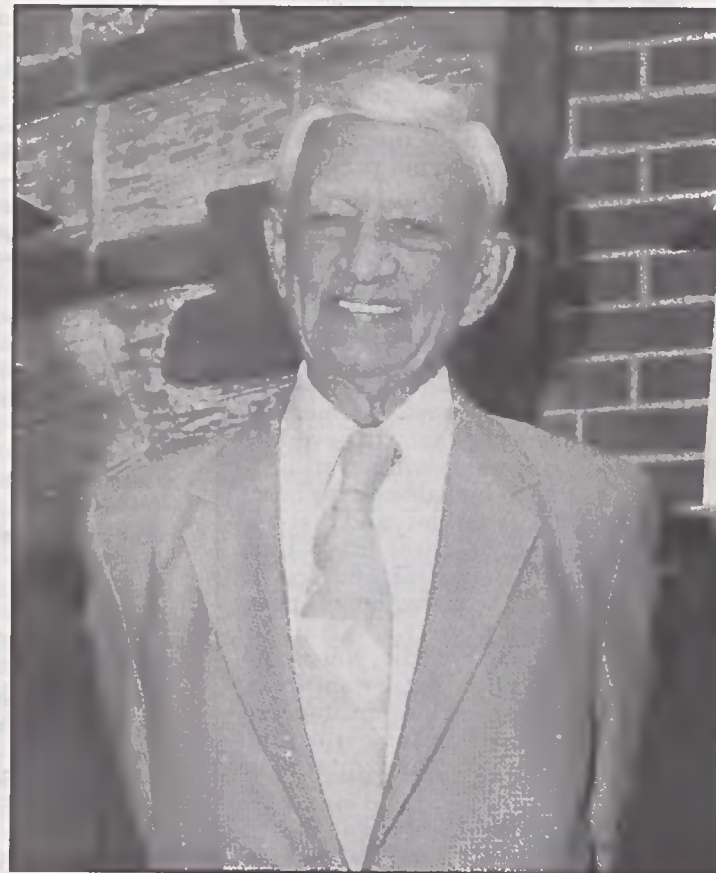
"Dr. Grayson's contributions should not be measured simply by the millions of dollars he gave Mars Hill College," said college president Fred B. Bentley, "but by the lives of the young people he touched through the Grayson Scholars Program."

The son of a Methodist minister, Grayson earned both bachelor's and master's

degree from DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana. His professional experience included teaching positions with the University of Kansas and Ohio State University, managing an office of a N.Y. Stock Exchange member, as a financial analyst for private corporations and various government agencies, and as a tax economist for the Internal Revenue Service. He retired to California in 1950.

His ties to Mars Hill were established through his wife, Pauline "Polly" Wall of Mars Hill. She is an alumna of the school's Class of 1934 and her uncle, Robert Lee Moore, was president of the college from 1897 until 1938.

A memorial service is planned at the college on Thursday, April 16 in Broyhill Chapel. After the service, the Grayson scholars will lead the assembly to the site on the campus grounds where Grayson's ashes will be buried and a tree planted in commemoration.



Dr. John Wesley Grayson, (1896-1992)

Administration Vows to Hold Down Costs

from administration

To avoid the possibility that Mars Hill's financial aid program might be severely diluted by yearly boosts in tuition charges, the college administration has pledged to hold down tuition increases.

"Although Mars Hill is among the least expensive fully accredited private colleges in the Southeast," said President Bentley, "we feel it is important to try to keep tuition increases to a minimum and to raise financial aid as much as possible. I am strongly committed to keeping tuition down. We are doing several things to assure that it will not rise above \$7,000 within the next four years." (The current tuition charge is \$6,150, and an increase of \$250 has been projected for 1992-93).

A 29.25 percent increase in financial aid for new students beginning this fall was reported earlier by the Hilltop. This increase, which will cost the college almost \$250,000, is intended to offset anticipated decreases in state and federal assistance to students. This increased financial aid to new students will take the form not only of scholarships and loans, but will also include grants-in-aid for athletes in four new intercollegiate sports which will be

added to the colleges athletic agenda at the start of the 1992-92 school year.

"We have the best program of endowed scholarships of all the small colleges in our area," Dr. Bentley said. Statistics show that almost 80 percent of Mars Hill's students receive some form of financial aid. The college boasts \$10 million worth of endowed scholarships.

The college was founded to provide educational opportunity for young people lining in the area immediately adjacent to the campus, and it has long acknowledged a special obligation to assist such students financially. Currently there are several special programs to accomplish this goal. One is the Madison, Mitchell, Yancey (MMY) Assistance Program, which offers graduates of high schools in those three counties a 75 percent discount on tuition. Another aid program provides a \$1,000 tuition grant to graduates of high schools in both the Asheville City and Buncombe County systems.

Additional information concerning financial aid, tuition charges, and similar matters may be obtained from the Financial Aid Office, third floor of Blackwell Hall, or from the Admissions Office, second floor.

Senior Testing Arrives

Michael S. Roten
editor-in-chief

The annual Senior Assessment Program has already started and will continue until graduation. Dr. Larry Stern, who is directing the efforts, reminds seniors of the importance of completing their forms.

"Each senior is required to complete one of these assessment instruments," Dr. Stern reminds students. One unit of community life credit will be given for completion of the survey.

The Assessment Program was formed to help MHC continue to improve their curriculum. Through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the regulating body for many institutes in the Southeast as well as Latin America and Africa, requirements have been credited for institutes to show how effective they are in achieving the goals of the mission statement of their college.

For completing SACS requirements, MHC helped form the Appalachian College Assessment Consortium six years ago. This consortium makes decisions on testing and surveying students, as well as acts as a forum to talk about the colleges and share data on senior responses. Several surveys created by the ACAC were reviewed by the office of Assessment and the Cur-

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