

THE HILLTOP

The Student Source for News
Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, NC 28754



Opinions

Starting in this issue, Dwayne Kennedy will be updating you on the Presidential campaign. But, leading the page is an editorial from Julia Brittain about involvement.

Sports

Find out who all the new faces around the gym are in the article about New Coaches. Football, Volleyball, and Soccer are all highlighted this issue.

News

MHC enrollment is up, the new cafeteria is causing some headaches, and all the latest on the world front are all right here.

Features

Culturefest and the theatre department are cooking up some great shows for this fall, while some of the other organizations are focused upon.

The Back Page

Check out our new cartoonist, CHAOS, while making plans to see one of the Timberline's Sunday Night Movies.



MARS HILL
COLLEGE

Hurricane Andrew Hits Close To Home

by Kelly McElveen
Assistant Editor

Editor's note: On Monday, August 24, Hurricane Andrew roared ashore South Florida around 5 a.m. with sustained winds at 140 mph. The storm, the most powerful to hit Florida in 60 years, is the nation's worst natural disaster causing over 20 billion dollars in damage and 34 deaths.

As Monday, August 24 dawned a beautiful day around Mars Hill, most students were busy unpacking and preparing for the long tedious process of registration. They saw old friends, chatted about summer, and talked about the hurricane that hit Florida that morning.

But registration wasn't on the minds of Kathleen Lynskey, Jennifer Forgan, and Mark Mangrum as they raced toward their South Dade homes, dreading to see the results of Andrew's merciless fury on their city.

"We had no clue that the hurricane was going to hit," Lynskey said. "They [hurricanes] never hit. People always tell us 'This is going to be the big one' and after a while people aren't concerned."

Andrew was the Big One as the three Mars Hillians found out when Mangrum's sister managed to get through on a cellular phone at 7 a.m. Monday morning. Mangrum's and Forgan's families were all unharmed, but Lynskey was unable to contact her family due to the damaged phone lines.

Mangrum decided quickly to make the trip to his hurricane ravaged home. Lynskey and Forgan soon followed.

"When you don't know if your family is okay, you can't concentrate on anything else," Lynskey said. "I just couldn't sit through

classes not knowing," Forgan added. "It was one of the hardest decisions I ever made."

At 9 a.m. the trio left Mars Hill, despite the protests of their families, with a carload of bottled water, canned food, paper towels, paper plates, and other supplies. After an exhausting, worry-filled, 13-hour drive to South Dade, they finally reached their destination only to be stopped by the National Guard, which had blocked off the area and established a curfew. After showing their ID's, they were allowed through to get their first glimpse of Andrew's wrath.

"You couldn't even recognize the streets. That is how bad it is. We had to weave between trees and power poles that were laying in the roads," Lynskey said.

Mangrum arrived to find his house damaged very badly; Forgan's house had severe roof damage, no doors, and blown out windows; Lynskey

found her parents unharmed and extensive external damage to her house.

"Our damage is such minor stuff compared to others. My sister lost her entire house, and she's nine months pregnant," Lynskey said.

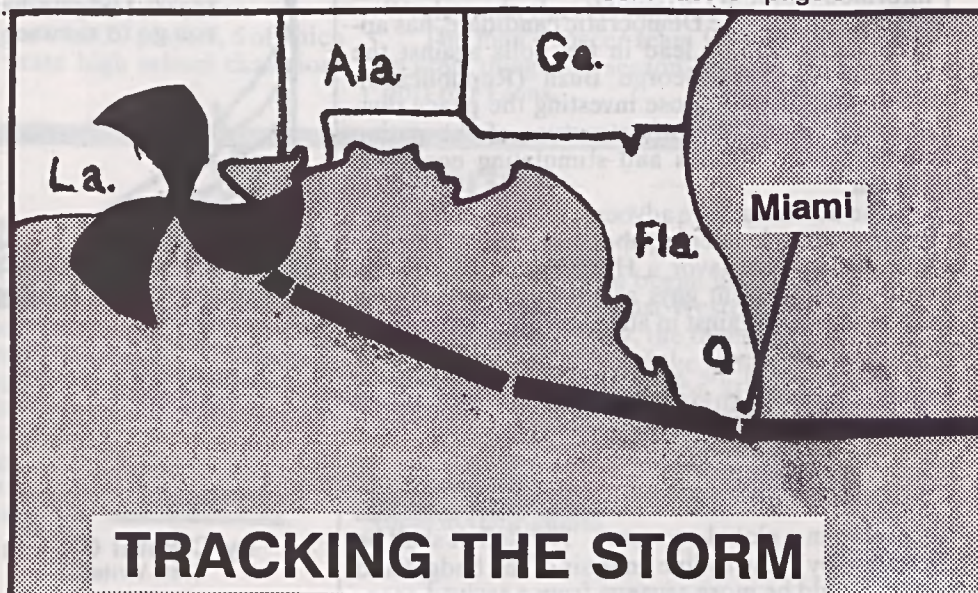
"There is no way to explain it. You just have to see it to understand the complete devastation of it."

"It just makes you want to cry," Lynskey and Forgan said repeatedly. "That's all we did for the first day."

"You think the news is showing you pictures, but it's nothing. It's nothing compared to what it is really like," Lynskey said. "It looks like a bomb hit," Forgan added sadly. "I think people will now look back on things as before or after Andrew."

Fighting no electricity, contaminated water, price gougers, 90 degree weather, and mosquitoes, the three-some stayed four days to help their parents try to put their homes and lives back together. "My mother was washing clothes in a bucket and hang-

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Artwork by Belinda Edwards

About The Hurricane Relief Efforts

As Americans open their hearts and wallets to help the victims of Hurricane Andrew, Kathleen Lynskey and Jennifer Forgan, two Mars Hill students who live in South Dade, warn of the pitfalls that the relief effort might experience.

"It was amazing to see the truck convoys when we were driving back here from Florida," Lynskey said. "But in three weeks from now, people still need to keep giving. This isn't going to go away. People will need help for months to come."

Lynskey and Forgan, who recently visited their hurricane ravaged city, say among the most needed items are all kinds of baby products, bottled water, personal hygiene products, can openers, batteries, flashlights, trash bags, coolers, bug repellent, over the counter medications, and building supplies. Both also stressed the importance of volunteers, which is a plea echoed by the Salvation Army and medical officials.

Lynskey and Forgan would also like to see Mars Hill College organize something for the hurricane victims. Forgan suggested having a sorority or fraternity to adopt a family to help during the rebuilding process.

Sherri Dyshuk, a resident of Davie, Fl., said that she hoped the Student Union Board might be able to hold a dance on campus with the proceeds going toward the relief effort.

One apartment complex has already taken steps to do their part. Kevin Watkins, Resident Manager of Dixon/Palmer Complex C, organized a collection of canned food and bottled water during the first week of the disaster.

"I thought it would be good to help out people less fortunate than ourselves," he said.

Lynskey emphasized that every little bit helps. "When you go to Texaco to get a hamburger, all you have to do is buy a gallon of water," she said. "Just don't forget that in two months from now, people will still be living down there and will need your help."