

Culturefest Series To Open Sept. 24

Six performing groups with an international flavor will comprise Mars Hill College's Culturefest series for 1981-1982. The international aspect of this year's series is in keeping with Mars Hill's emphasis on international studies and the college's Center for International Education, which was founded this year.

The series will open with a performance of Mr. Jack Daniels Original Silver Cornet Band on Thursday, Sept. 24. The band was first formed in 1892 by the boubon baron of Lynchburg, Tenn., to enliven political rallies and salon openings of the era. To recreate the band required importing horns from France, hand making others to order, and seaching through the attics of antique collectors to find others. What the audience hears, however, are the sounds of another age, the happy, naive sound of the last decade of the 19th century, before movies, before telephones, and before hi-fi by authentically costumed musicians complete with a crusty conductor/narrator.

The series continues on Tuesday, Oct. 13 with the Nikolai Massenkoff Russian Folk Festival. This group brings to the state "One Thousand Years of Russia." The sounds and history of the Russian people are well represented by the folk ballet, a balalaika ensemble, and Massenkoff himself, who possesses a rich bass voice that covers an incredible four-plus octave range. This group has appeared on television several times including last year's Jerry Lewis Telethon.

Mummenschanz, a Swiss company that has just completed three years on Broadway, will be featured Monday, Nov. 23. The translation of

Mummenschanz is masquerade, and this is a better description of what the company accomplishes than the traditional mime-masque theatre. The first half of the program is a retelling of the evolution of life on earth that is at one entertaining and inspirational, profound and funny. The second half is a more whimsical portrayal of relationships. The company has received rave reviews from the media and has appeared frequently on Sesame Street and Johnny Carson's Tonight show.

The Chinese Magic Circus of Taiwan will come to the campus on Monday, Feb. 8, 1982. This spectacular program features some of the most breath-taking acrobatics ever seen, as well as seemingly impossible feats of balance. One of the most well-known is Oriental magicians, Chen Liu, will also be on the program. The acts that this company performs were perfected over 2,000 years ago, and the brilliantly costumed performers provide a glimpse into the exotic Orient's past. The Chinese Magic Circus has been touring the U.S. for several years and have appeared most recently as Liberace's opening act in Las Vegas.

The Piedmont Chamber Orchestra, an ensemble of hand-picked professional musicians, has widely served the Southeast with an exceptional high quality of music and solo performers since 1968. They will make their second appearance at Mars Hill on Tuesday, March 2.

The final event in the Culturefest series will be the performance of "Deathtrap" by the Hippodrome Theatre on Friday, April 23. The Hippodrome Theatre is a non-profit professional theatre



RUSSIAN DANCER is a member of the Kikolai Massenkoff Russian Folk Festival which will appear at Mars Hill College in the Culturefest Series, beginning Sept. 24. The Massenkoff troupe will perform Oct. 13.

based in Gainesville, Fla., now in its ninth season. The play they will perform at Mars Hill, "Deathtrap," is still running on Broadway with Stacy Keach in the lead. It is a comedy thriller in the best tradition of "Sleuth" and "Dial M for Murder."

All of the events are open to

the public and tickets will be available at the door. Individual ticket prices have not yet been confirmed but according to Robert Kramer, chairman of the Visiting Artists and Lecturers committee, will run between \$3-\$5. A season pass is good for all of the events plus any extra films or artists

that may be picked up during the year, and costs \$20.

All of the performances will be held in the college's Moore Auditorium beginning at 8 p.m. Additional information is available on each group as well as tickets from Robert Kramer, P.O. Box 117-T, Mars Hill, N.C. 28754.



Photo by N. Hancock

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY — The foundation and steel beams are already in place as construction of the new Marshall-Walnut Elementary School begins on a

site adjacent to Madison High School in Marshall. Plans call for completion of the school by the fall of 1982.

Iredell Superintendent Cracks Down On Drugs

From AP and STAFF Reports
Iredell County School Superintendent Don Williams wants to crack down on the use of illegal drugs and alcohol on campus.

And if Williams get his way, parents of the 10,300 public school students for which he is responsible will soon get a letter saying that any student caught with alcohol or drugs on school grounds or at school activities may be expelled for the rest of the year.

The county school board is expected to discuss and vote Sept. 14 on policy changes that Williams said would take a "real firm stand" and clear up confusing and inconsistent punishment standards caused by current procedures.

Under current policy, Williams said, individual school principals decide how to punish students caught breaking the rules.

"We're just simply saying," he said, "that if you come to the schoolhouse, you can't bring drugs and alcohol with you. And if we catch you, here's what can happen to you."

Under the new policy, any students in grades nine through 12 caught possessing

or under the influence of any intoxicant would be suspended for up to 10 days, with the recommendation of expulsion for the remainder of the year. Williams would decide whether to expel the student.

Student violators in kindergarten through eighth grade would be suspended for up to 10 days.

Second offenders would be automatically expelled for the rest of the year.

Students charged with a violation would be given written notice and parents would be notified of any suspension. Students would be able to appeal.

Williams said student use of beer and wine is on the increase, mostly at school functions like games and dances, while use of marijuana appears to be tapering off.

He said the revised policy would remind parents of their role in preventing drug abuse.

If the policies are adopted, a copy of the changes will be sent to parents with a letter to be signed by student and parent.

Locally, Madison High School principal David Wyatt said, to his knowledge, there is

no board of education policy which pertains to students being caught with illegal drugs at school. He said the high school policy is stated in the student handbook and that policy is approved by the school board.

The policy in the handbook states: "Any student . . . possessing or using illegal drugs . . . at school or any school activity will be subject to indefinite suspension." The policy also includes drinking intoxicating beverages. "In-dulging in alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs . . . is not only a violation of school regulations, but is also in violation of state and federal laws," the handbook states.

Wyatt said if a student is caught with drugs at school the usual procedure is to notify the parents and punish the student. However, when asked how the student would be punished, Wyatt was not specific when he said, "That depends, we treat each case individually." But, he added that the student could be suspended for up to 10 days from school. "Expulsion would be a matter to be considered by the school board," he said.

West Madison

News From Up The Creek

By LORI PARKER

This column may need to be renamed "The 'Baccar Patch News," according to one witty subscriber, Helen Willett of Spring Creek, who says the only news she's making is in the 'baccar patch all day.

Anyone interested in joining the team may contact a team member.

COFFEY HOSPITALIZED
Joe B. Coffey of Asheville, pastor of Meadow Fork Baptist Church, was admitted to the VA Hospital at Oteen for close observation in the Intensive Care Unit on Sept. 2. Preacher Coffey had recently returned to full-time duties after suffering a heart attack on April 13.

COUGARS IN MADISON

Cougars in Madison County? That's what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is trying to determine from the "kill" discovered Aug. 8 by Lewis Fish while walking through the woods on his property in Meadow Fork. Mr. Fish found a large, suspicious-looking pile of leaves covering the remains of a 125-lb. buck, which had been dragged approximately 150 yards and covered with leaves in the manner of a large cat, which is to stand on the deer and scrape leaves

from as far out as it can reach in a circle around the remains.

Mr. Fish notified his neighbor, Stan McElroy, and they contacted Robert L. Downing, a wildlife research biologist with the Eastern Cougar Survey team from Clemson University, whose speciality is studying cougars in the eastern United States for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Mr. Downing and another expert examined the scene thoroughly during the following weeks, including tracks, hairs, and all available evidence. Their finding was that there was not enough evidence to produce an absolute conclusion that the cat was actually a cougar, but they left with the "99%" conviction that it was.

The cougar, also known as the panther, puma, and mountain lion, grows to lengths of 9 feet with a tail of 3 feet, weighing to 200 lbs. They are uniformly yellow-brown, but darker above and lighter beneath; a large, slender, smallheaded cat with fur relatively short, close, and

uniform; which for the most part are found in forested areas where deer are abundant, but also in rocky canyons and even desert lands.

Cougars are almost exclusively a night creature, so don't worry about being attacked by one because you're asleep while they're prowling. And remember that it's against federal law to shoot them because they are rare and qualify as an endangered species.

So if your dogs howl all night but are afraid to stick their heads out from under the porch, you might want to take a walk in the woods the next day and look for cougar signs.

If you find a "kill," be careful not to disturb the scene, especially tracks, and immediately notify Mr. Robert L. Downing, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. 29631; phone (803) 656-3285, or (803) 654-1647.

All you residents of "Painter Branch" especially, keep on the look-out.

Keep a good thought: A heart with love always overflows.

CULTURAL JOURNALISM

The seventh and eighth grade students at Spring Creek School have started on a very exciting and interesting project in conjunction with their social studies, language arts, and reading, which will enable them to learn something of their own ancestral and community heritage.

This "roots" study is headed up by Ethyl Kirkpatrick, and will be participated in by the students of Howard Trimble's homeroom, who will gather the information and put into a written "Community History" document. Sources are cemetery surveys, church histories, and family histories contributed by members of the community. The study would trace the heritage of the people, buildings, lands, ect. as far back as the original settlers, if possible.

Anyone having information that might be helpful to the students in this study, please contact any of the seventh or eighth grade students or Ethyl Kirkpatrick at 622-7300.

SPORTS ON WHEELS

John Herndon and Danny Edwards of Spring Creek have joined Kevin Shelton and Joel Knailey of Mars Hill, and George Scott of Marshall, to form a professional Skateboard/BMX/Unicycle team called the Cemetery Rats.

The team started in 1978 in Mars Hill as the "H-Boys," and since then have performed in parades and other festivities; most recently performing in the Blue-Cherry in Asheville. The team practices and performs on Saturdays, mostly in Asheville.



EASTERN COUGAR — Terra, the 11-year old Cougar in the environmental habitat on Grandfather Mountain, gently licks her day old female kitten born this week. The young Cougar (Panther, Mountain Lion) opens its eyes after three weeks and loses its spots in a few months. Terra is from the Eastern strain of Cougar that is one of the most endangered native animals in the United States, while her mate Rajah belongs to the Western species. (Photo Courtesy of Hugh Morton)

Secretary Of The Month

The Florist Of Madison County Will Be Sponsoring A New Service To The Readers Of THE NEWS RECORD. A Secretary Of The Month Will Be Chosen And Honored With A Flower Or Potted Plant From One Of The Four Florist In The County. All Secretaries Are Eligible. To Enter, The Management Of The Business Must Mail In To THE NEWS RECORD The Name Of The Secretary, Her Place Of Business And A Few Sentences Of Why Their Secretary Should Be Secretary Of The Month.

In Addition To A Flower Or Potted Plant, The Secretary Of The Months Picture, Name And Place Of Business Will Be In The Paper, In The Form Of An Ad, Sponsored By The Florist, In The First Weeks Issue Of THE NEWS RECORD Each Month.

The Florist Participating In This Service Are Four Petals Florist And Mars Hill Florist, Both Of Mars Hill And Shady Side Florist And Sunshine Florist, Both Of Marshall.

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