



# THE NEWS

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## Mars Hill College Facing \$500,000 Deficit Faculty And Staff Layoffs, Increased Tuition Fees Proposed

By ROBERT KOENIG  
Editor

Faced with a projected deficit of \$500,000 for the current school year, Mars Hill College president Dr. Fred Bentley last week unveiled a plan designed to return the Madison County college to sound financial footing.

In a nine-page report presented to members of the faculty, Bentley outlined the causes for the present financial squeeze and his recommendations for correcting the situation. The austerity plan calls for a freeze on faculty salaries and tenure, a reduction in the school's work force and an increase in student fees and tuition.

Bentley pointed to a reduction in full-time enrollment as the chief reason for the deficit. The report states that projections for the current school year forecast a full-time student enrollment of 1,225 students. Current full-time enrollment of 1,140 students, 85 short of the projected figure, resulted in a loss of \$425,000 in revenues.

In addition to the loss of full-time students, the report also states that the school's Continuing Education program has fallen \$200,000 short of projected revenues. As a result of these losses, Bentley told faculty members that the school faces a real deficit of \$500,000 and a cash flow problem of \$850,000.

Adding to the school's financial problems are a \$200,000 debt owed on a short-term note which financed the school's new Media Center and cash flow problems involving one of the school's trust funds.

Compounding the present difficulties are projected decreases in student enrollment for the next school year. Based on demographic studies and the number of application received, the school is projecting a Fall, 1983 enrollment of 1,100 full-time students, down an additional 40 students from current enrollment. Due to the continued decrease in enrollment, Bentley warned that the school faces a \$750,000 deficit next year unless significant cuts are made.

The plan, as outlined in the report to the

faculty, calls for the elimination of 22 faculty positions in the next year. The reduction in faculty will increase the school's present 11-to-one student/teacher ratio to 15-to-one in the 1985-86 school year, by which time the administration forecasts a full-time enrollment of 1,000 students.

The school will encourage early retirement of faculty members in order to reduce the number of teachers who will be fired. Bentley detailed the early retirement proposal at a meeting with faculty members Thursday afternoon. Those faculty members eligible for the early retirement option will have until Mar. 15 to decide to accept or reject the option.

Response to the early retirement proposal will determine the number of faculty members who will face termination. Notification of dismissal will be made April 15 when contracts for the 1983-84 school year are sent out. In accordance with guidelines of the American Association of University Professors, faculty members to be dismissed will be given 12 mon-

ths' notice of their termination. Those faculty members who will lose their jobs due to the current financial crisis will remain on the faculty through the 1983-84 school year.

Although the cuts will not affect faculty until the end of the 1983-84 school year, the plan outlined last week also calls for a number of cuts at the conclusion of the current school year. The plan calls for the elimination of three office personnel, two administrative assistants, five positions in the Continuing Education program, five hourly employees, four and a half jobs among support staff and a reduction of part-time instructors in the adult education program.

The plan projects a saving of \$128,717 in faculty salaries for the '83-84 school year to be attained through retirements and attrition. Administrative salary cuts will realize an additional savings of \$15,000 in the coming year. In a telephone interview Friday morning, Bentley reported that three members of the ad-

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## County Commission Told Postal Service To Crack Down On Loose Dogs

Postal authorities will be putting teeth into regulations designed to safeguard mail carriers. That was the message delivered to the Madison County Board of Commissioners Friday night by William Hoover Jr., sectional center manager-postmaster of Asheville.

Hoover explained a new policy being instituted by the postal service to identify homes where dangerous dogs are present. The policy was begun in Asheville last year after a carrier was hospitalized following a dog bite. Hoover told the commissioners that Madison County post offices will soon begin identifying homes where dogs pose a threat to mail carriers.

According to Hoover, this program is the first of its kind in the U.S. He told the commissioners that 5,700 mail carriers suffer dog bites each year. One California mail carrier died as a result of being bitten by a pit bulldog in 1981.

To combat the problem in Madison County, the postal service will begin a program to identify homes where dangerous dogs are present. When a mail carrier encounters a dangerous dog on his delivery route, mail will not be delivered to the residence at which the dog poses a threat.

The owner of the dangerous dog will be notified by telephone, or in writing, when a dangerous situation is

present. Owners of dangerous pets will be given three notices with requests that the pet be tied up during delivery hours. Should the dog remain unrestrained, the postal service will cease making deliveries at the residence.

The postal service has purchased stickers which will be placed on mailboxes to alert mail carriers that a dangerous dog is present. A yellow sticker will be placed on mailboxes where there is a dog who has interfered with mail delivery. A red sticker will be placed at residences where there is a dog that is considered extremely dangerous.

The commissioners also heard reports from several

## M.H. Town Council Ok's Modernization

By JENNIFER YOUNG  
Fire prevention was the main topic of discussion at the Mars Hill town council meeting Monday night.

The board of aldermen unanimously approved a modernization fund for 1983 proposed by the Mars Hill Housing Authority. In a letter to the board, the authority suggested adding doors and partitions to the second floor of the three-bedroom units of housing for the elderly. The authority also suggested in-

stalling pre-set thermostats and screen enclosures for the archways. Plans call for the replacement of the roofs of the housing units in 1985. The modernization fund will also pay for the installation of smoke detectors.

Fire Chief Doug Randolph reported to the board on the activities of the Mars Hill Fire Dept. in 1982. His department responded to 76 calls, down 13 from the year before. Twelve calls were within the city limits and two were outside

Madison County. The remainder were inside the county.

Structure fires and brush fires comprised most of the calls. Mars Hill firefighters also made three rescue calls and answered eight false alarms. The value of property lost from fires was estimated at \$65,130. Randolph estimated the value of property saved by the department of \$229,970. The

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## FmHA Approves Marshall Plans

Although final approval of the plans has been received from funding agencies, the start of the Marshall sewer project is still at least six weeks away, according to an engineer on the project.

Bill Leggett of Butler Associates, the engineering

firm on the project, addressed the monthly meeting of the Marshall Board of Aldermen Monday night. He told the aldermen that the necessary right of way agreements have been received from Southern Railway and several private citizens and that the Farmers

Home Administration, the agency who will purchase bonds for the project, have approved the plans. Leggett said that he expected that the town could advertise for bids on the

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## Wolf Laurel In Full Swing



By STEVE FERGUSON

Wolf Laurel Resort, located in Madison County along the Tennessee line, offers much for the traveler coming to Western North Carolina as well as local residents. In the Winter, many enjoy skiing at "The Wolf." In the summer months, golfing, fishing and other outdoor activities are offered, and in the Fall, many visitors come from all over to enjoy the natural beauty of Fall in the Appalachians.

Though the ski season began on a sour note with record high temperatures, recent snowfall and cold weather have brought Wolf Laurel's ski operations back into full swing. Ski Lodge Manager Mike Bustin notes a "dramatic increase" since they reopened

on Jan. 4. "Since then, business has been on the increase," says Mike, "and we're very optimistic about the rest of the season."

A Madison High School Senior Day is planned tentatively for mid-February. On that day, seniors from the high point will receive a free pass to ski and a complete set of rental equipment. Bustin feels it important to interact with the community.

With an average number of 10-15 snowguns in operation at a time, The Wolf can lay down 2 to 3 inches of man made powder in a night. This helps a great deal since Mother Nature has only sent them 16 inches so far this season.

Wolf Laurel Inn is open year round and offers spectacular

views from almost every room. Elevation is at 4,600 feet, and many agree that it is the best view of the mountains found anywhere in the county. The Inn contains 76 rooms, with a capacity near 300 guests. Inn Manager Betty J. Rice is also looking forward to the rest of the season. "Things have been looking up since after Christmas," says Rice, "and for several more weekends we're already booked to capacity. "I'm looking forward to the rest of the season."

Spring and Summer at Wolf Laurel offer much for those who enjoy the great outdoors and crisp N.C. air. The restaurant is open all year, and offers outstanding meals for visitors coming to the

resort as well as those who'd just like to come up and dine on the mountaintop.

Wolf Laurel's championship golf course is one of the highest East of the Rockies, with a complete 18 hole layout. It features the spectacular No. 15 hole, with 150 feet between tee and green and 160 feet drop! Many "flatlanders," used to more tame, level golfing, really enjoy the challenge they find here, nestled in the hills.

A fully stocked pro shop is available to sell quality golfing equipment or to pick up a souvenir with the Wolf Laurel logo on it. Anything from caps, to button down shirts to golf tees can be found at the shop.

Whether your favorite type

## Gunter Receives Suspended Sentence

Judge Phillip Ginn sentenced Gregory Shane Gunter to four months in jail Wednesday after conviction of charges of reckless driving. Ginn suspended the sentence for two years and ordered Gunter to pay a \$100 fine plus court costs and attend Alcohol Drug Education School and pay the school's \$100 tuition fee.

In other case heard in Wednesday's session of Madison County District Court, Judge Ginn ordered Timothy Eric Elkins, found guilty of injury to real property, to pay \$258.23 in restitution and gave Elkins a 90-day sentence, deferred for one year.

Assault charges against Roger Davis were continued until March 15 at the request of the defendant. Also continued were DUI charges against Bobby Eugene Ball.

Judge Ginn deferred sentencing both Randall Ernest Cody and Stuart Griffith. They were convicted of driving under the influence. The judge referred the cases to Judge Alexander Lyerly for sentencing.

of water is the swimming kind or the fishing kind. Wolf Laurel has it. A fully stocked trout pond is near the entrance to the resort, and you are charged a fee per pound of fish you catch. For guests on the

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## Burley Growers Form Organization

More than 300 burley growers unanimously agreed to form the Western North Carolina Tobacco Growers Association following Burley Day Wednesday at Lake Junaluska.

The organization is designed to work with the North Carolina tobacco association, and Dr. T.C. Blalock, executive secretary of the state association says that burley growers have always been a

part of the association but due to the many problems burley growers feel they now face, they will be able to meet together and speak with one voice.

Ray Ammons of Madison County said there are only one or two burley growers on the state board, and they have been unable to make themselves heard. He is vice president of the Tobacco Growers Association and will

serve as interim director of the newly formed burley group until officers are elected.

Ammons said people have said he is trying to run things but that he wants to be sure every county has a voice. That way, he said, when a decision is reached for him to carry to the state board, it will represent what the majority of the burley board decides.

In addition to Ammons, the new board of directors includes Frank G. Green and Jack Leatherwood of Haywood County. Other directors are Jimmy Ramsey, David Plemmons, Emory Wallin, Wayne Willis, O.H. Duckett, Morris Hensley, Joe Ramsey, N.T. Plemmons, Ray Clark, R. G. Shipley, Phillip Elliott, Richard Waldrop, Roger Shelton, Harry Silvers, Robert Davis, Wiley DuVall, Kenneth

Reams, Bob Breland, and Raymond Norton. Ashe, Graham and Avery counties did not have representatives at the meeting but also have directors. Vance is expected to elect representatives in the near future. Hensley and Shipley are also on the state board.

Members of the association are expected to meet at the state board meeting the Wednesday following the state board meeting. (Continued on Page 3)