VOLUME VIII, NO. 1 JANUARY, 1987

the mountain
HIGHLANDS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

841 Highway 106 Highlands, NC 28741 704/526-5838

WINTER NEWSLETTER

1987 Youth Camp - Register Early!

Dates have been set for THE MOUNTAIN's 1987 Youth Camps, and pre-registrations are being accepted. This highly successful Youth Camp program, under the direction of its founder, Dr. Pamela Phelps, encourages personal growth in children ages 6-18 The schedule of camps for this year is:

Ages 6-8: June 14-20

Senior High: June 21 - July 4

Junior High: July 5 - 18

Work/Adventure: July 19 - August 1

Ages 11-14: July 19 - August 1

Ages 7-11: August 2 -15

To pre-register for a camp, just send a deposit of $95.00 per child and a letter giving your child's name, age, grade in school next fall, choice of camp date, and the name and address of the parent to whom we should send the official registration packet. All pre-registrants will receive ther registration/confirmation materials no later than February.

Full details regarding the Youth Camp program will be available in our new brochure, which will be mailed to our entire mailing list in February.

IN MEMORIUM

Al Halsband, beloved and faithful member of The Mountain, died December 9. Al gave The Mountain Board of Trustees able leadership as our Treasurer. We express our deepest sympathies to Sandy and family. We will miss you, Al!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER by Dr. Gary Blaine

Emily Dickinson's poem No. 130 speaks of summer as a fraud. Emily sees the summer, not so much as the epitome of life's fertility, but as the prelude to fall and winter. Life does not end blissfully in the carefree, lazy days of summer. Life pushes us through the autumnal years, into the elder years, and finally into death. Yet Emily confesses that summer bears sacred emblems of an immortal nature.

Emily could lead us to the conclusion that there is something fraudulent about summer camps. (Gulp!) Even The Mountain. After all, we are removed fron the "real" world of traffic jams, bank balances, and broken washing machines. Admittedly our one and two week encampments are contrived, idealistic communities. We do not spend the other 50 weeks of the year climbing mountains; rafting down whitewater rivers; rambling along country lanes on the backs of gentle steeds; or eating out every meal with no dishes to wash. In the real world we are carried to great heights by elevators in buildings named after corporations and entrepreneurs. At The Mountain we walk the spines of mountains named Satulah, Rabun, Whiteside and Chinquapin. Nature, for many of us, is a city park named after a politician, bounded by statues of the war dead. Nature at The Mountain is silent vistas overlooking valleys and gorges with Indian names like Nantahala and Cullasaja, bounded by giant poplars, oaks and pines.

I think Emily Dickinson would also see the emblems of an immortal nature on The Mountain. She would see the child's renewed self-esteem. She would cherish the space The Mountain gives for a family to bond anew. I can think of no greater gift The Mountain can give to a child than the sense that he or she can be responsible human beings in the choices he or she makes. And what of the youth who has been challenged by those rivers and rocks to discover a source of inner strength long hidden by the "real" world. There is something sacred in a renewed respect for the inner light of another's being. What is immortality but the joy of life that is shared in a nurturing community?

The Mountain encourages you to indulge "the days when skies resume/The old-old sophistries of June." They are necessary if we are to enter the fall and winter of life with dignity, strength, and serenity. Emily concluded that these summer days were essential:

"Oh Sacrament of Summer days,
Oh Last Communion in the Haze--
Permit a child to join.
Thy sacred emblems to partake--
Thy consecrated bread to take
And thine immortal wine!"

Come to The Mountain this summer. Imbibe the immortal wine.

With Peace,

Gary

Coming Attractions

FEB.



FEB. 6-8. THE LAST GREAT SKI WEEKEND.

Limited space is still available for families and singles during this learn-to-ski weekend. Special group rates will be in effect for Mountain guests at Ski Scaly. Join us on the slopes and around the fireplace.

FEB. 13-15. TJ DISTRICT SENIOR HIGH WORK/SKI

Senior High group leaders are registering kids now for this popular weekend. Senior high age UU's from Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia are eligible to attend this event. See the Senior High group leader at your church or fellowship, or call The Mountain for details.



FEB. 20-22. WINTER BACKPACKING.

Space is still available for those hardy souls who would like to learn or practice cold-weather camping skills. An overnight trip is planned. Call for details!

FEB. 28-MARCH 1. MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL.

Getcher popcorn in the lobby! A few of the films slated to be screened at our first-ever film festival are Elephant Man, Gandhi, Local Hero, and Chariots of Fire. Film buffs will want to register early.

MAR.



MARCH 6-8. YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING.

This weekend course will teach skills to improve interpersonal relationships, become more effective leaders, and win the cooperation of children and teens. RE Directors, RE teachers, youth group leaders, prospective Counselors and concerned parents will all find this workshop invaluable. Mountain Youth Camp Director Pam Phelps is the workshop leader.

MARCH 13-15. ANNUAL LOBSTER BASH.

A weekend of merrymaking that culminates in the ritual sacrifice of crustaceans! (Steak for those who don't care for lobster). The champagne will flow freely. Very limited space is still available at this writing.

Saturday night space only will be available on weekends in late March. Early spring can be a wonderful time to get away from it all for a day or two. Come alone or bring a friend to enjoy the budding trees and gushing waterfalls.

APR.

APRIL 3-5. NW/EMERSON RETREAT WEEKEND.

Northwest Church and Emerson Fellowship of Atlanta will be gathering for a weekend of hikes and fellowship. Register through your church or fellowship or call The Mountain.



APRIL 17-19. EASTER.

How can you match sunrise at our Meditation Rock as a way to celebrate renewal? Easter weekend will bring special services, delectable food, and children's activities, including the traditional egg hunt. Join us, and welcome Spring!



Looking Ahead...

SPRING FLING. MAY 8-10 will bring our annual weekend of fun and relaxation. Expect some surprises this year!

WOMANSPIRIT GATHERING. If you have not yet registered for this women-only weekend, there is still very limited space available at th writing. Workshops, hikes, rites and crafts are planned for May 15-17. Contact Christine Lucas, TJ District Wome n & Religion Committee, 2505 Hanover Ave., Richmond, VA 23220. Fee due with registration is $60.00.



"O, wind! If winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

Percy Bysshe Shelley

And after spring, it'll be summer in no time. Our Summer Program planning is just about wrapped up, and we are looking forward to offering you a great selection of programs for adults, kids, teens, families together, and seniors. Be on the lookout for our all-new MOUNTAIN brochure, scheduled to be in your hands in February. And don't put off registering for that Summer week of retreat, challenge and relaxation! Last year, we were forced to turn people away, especially in August. If you don't receive a brochure by March, please let us know.

A WORD ABOUT WORK WEEKENDS...

In past years, fond memories and warm relationships have been formed during those off-season weekends when friends of The Mountain gathered to help us with projects from winterizing to raking leaves. In return, The Mountain gratefully provided free rooms. Now we are facing a "success crisis"--we are able to book most weekends with guests year-round! While this is cause for celebration (The best of all possible situations would be a Mountain chockfull of happy paying guests 365 days a year!) we do not want to eliminate the pleasant tradition of work weekends altogether. Our solution is twofold. First, we will be scheduling Mountain Work Weekends next winter, when we will invite interested groups from many churches to come together to accomplish major projects. Work weekends will no longer be the unwanted leavings of the calendar, but a regular scheduled program. Secondly, we would like to offer "Mini-weekends" of Saturday night only to those who could arrive on Saturday morning and leave after lunch on Sunday. Some available dates are: March 21 & 22; March 28 & 29; April 11 & 12; May 2 & 3.

BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Board of Trustees, meeting at The Mountain November 7-9, 1986, elected the following officers:

PRESIDENT: Margaret Evans, a member of the Francis David Fellowship, has been an ardent supporter of and worker for The Mountain, as a representative from the Florida District. Margaret, husband Bud Evans, and son Justin Giacoletti live in St. Petersburg, FL.

VICE PRESIDENT: Walt Pirie, of Blacksburg, VA, is an active member of the Blacksburg Fellowship. Walt has been active in The Mountain community since its inception. Walt is the chair of the Long Range Planning Committee.

SECRETARY: Elissa Allen, of Dunwoody, GA, was appointed secretary. Elissa and her husband Manley are members of the Northwest U.U. Congregation and Life Members of The Mountain. Marisa Allen, their daughter, is a 1986 Mountain "Spirit".

TREASURER: Paul Clipp, an active member of the Clemson Fellowship, was appointed Treasurer. He is a business management consultant. Paul and wife Sandra have two children.

The Board regretfully accepted the resignation of Rev. Christine Robinson, minister of the Columbia, SC Fellowship. Christine, who has served The Mountain as SUUSI representative to the Board, and as an elected Board member for several years, left the Board to devote more time to her rapidly-growing congregation.

e Robison, of the Northwest U.U. Congregation, appointed to fulfill the remaining two years of Christine's term. Anne is a marketing consultant in Atlanta. She and husband Gerald are Life Members.

Jake Haun, former President of The Mountain Board and Director of Development, was appointed for another term to the Board. Jake has been a long and faithful member of The Mountain.

Larry Landrum of Blacksburg, Va, was re-elected to the Board by The Mountain membership for a three-year term.

The Mountain's staff and membership join the Board in looking forward to a sucessful year in 1987.



Elegance and ceremony were the hallmarks of the Installation Banquet Nov. 8th. Pictured are: Jake Haun (at podium), Gary Blaine and his wife, Karla (seated).

Photo by Eveyln Carter

SUUSI

JULY 26 - AUG. 1, 1987

The Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI) is a weeklong gathering of over 1,000 UU's from thrughout the Southeast and across the continent. For the 13th consecutive year, SUUSI will be held on the campus of Radford University, which is nestled in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains of Southwest Virginia.

The dilemma you will face is choosing from over 200 general workshops and nature/adventure trips. Other available activities include intergenerational, family, youth and teen programs; morning theme talks; evening worship services; and a full range of nightlife activities. Come join our UUNIQUE SUUSI Community. For more information, contact: Phil Sterner, Director. 4136 Admiral Dr., Atlanta, GA 30341. (404) 451-8949.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Address _____

_____ _____

Youth _____ Age___ Sex ___ Phone _____

_____ Age___ Sex ___

_____ Age___ Sex ___

Anticipated Arrival _____ For First Meal _____

Anticipated Departure _____ Last Meal _____

Rooming Preference (Give First, Second and Third Choices):

Category I
__Double Occupancy/Lodge
__Bedroom - 2 BR Cabin
__1 Bedroom Cabin

Category II
__Lodge Dorm Style
__Living Area-2 BR Cabin
__1 Bedroom Cabin(Shared)
__Program Center or Staff Cabin

Category III
__Unheated Space

Roommate Preference _____

Any special requests or needs _____

Weekend reservations require a $15 per adult deposit. Weeklong reservations require a $30 per adult deposit.

THE GREAT TRANSCONTINENTAL BUILD-A-CABIN BIKEATHON UPDATE

Our intrepid bicyclers, Chris Purcell and Shane Benedict, set out Sunday, November 30 on the first leg of their epic journey. Now, most folks would look for a way to lay back on vacation, especially after a year of hard work on The Mountain staff. But Chris and Shane are heading for the West coast-San Diego to be precise--riding their trusty Mountain bikes. These are bikes with extra gears, big knobby tires--bikes capable of climbing trees, just about.

So after all the turkey they could eat, they rode away into the wind (it blew hard for three days), the rain (it drizzled for three days), and the cold (30-40 degrees for, you guessed it, three days). Fortunately, after making 50 miles to Brevard, NC the first day, Ellen Zahoric and Alex Hughes put them up, thawed them out and fed them hot food.

Two days later they made Charlotte, where they were well taken care of by Betsy, Roxie, Jane and Andrew Towns. Food, movies, and the red carpet treatment! Their confidence was starting to build. They next day they set out for Myrtle Beach.

Myrtle Beach? Isn't San Diego the other way, you may ask. Yes, indeed, but you can't go coast to coast unless you start at a coast. From Myrtle Beach the boys began to make some time; they were hardening up, spending nights camping, days pedaling. In Columbia, SC, Chris Robinson and William Baker put them up in high style, with wonderful food, showers, more showers, and then more showers.

From there it was on to Athens, GA, where instead of the Acropolis, they were glad to find Alice McKinney, who put them up handsomely and on very short notice; they didn't want to leave. But adventure called, and the next day saw them enter the gates of Atlanta, having been on the road 14 days and 739.7 miles. From Atlanta, Chris would go to The Mountain for the holidays, while Shane joined his family in Knoxville, TN. Then on Jan. 2, the second leg, from Atlanta to San Diego, would begin.

After this shakedown trip, which included a broke axle, encounters with semis, dogs, shoulderless roads, and foul weather--as well as incredible beauty, joy and a vast numer of wonderful people--they were ready to head into the sunset--literally.

So, dig deep all you pledgers! That 1, 2, 3 or 5 cents a mile you pledge will build the first of the new Youth Camp cabins. If you haven't sent your pledge yet, do it now--use the coupon below. 1¢ per mile would be only about $40. A special series of newsletters will be mailed to all pledges with many more details of the trip, to let you know how the Mountain's very own cyclists are doing.



☐ YES! I want to go the distance with Chris and Shane. I am willing to pledge _____ per mile. I understand that the entire proceeds of the Bikeathon will go towards the building of a new Youth Camp cabin. Mileage will be recorded on a bike-mounted computer and I will receive a bill at the end of the trip.

☐ YES, BUT...I cannot make a pledge myself, but am interested in gathering pledges at my fellowship. Please send more information and promotional materials.

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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