

PG & E Fades Away Requiem Succeeds

The Mercer Choir, under the direction of Mr. John Van Cura, presented "Brahms, A German Requiem," April 12 and 13 in Willingham Chapel.

The Requiem was performed in its entirety. This is not commonly done. The two-plate, English version was first performed in 1871, and was arranged by the composer himself.

The production comprised of thirty-eight voices was a tremendous success. The strength and endurance of baritone Ed Davidson's voice added a distinctly human quality to the regal music. Particularly noteworthy was piece VI, "Here on earth have we no continuing place" which combined the force of Davidson's voice with that of the choir in their best form. Soprano soloist Geraldine Neeley gave the audience full appreciation of her rich voice. She sang well though her enunciation was not as characteristically clear as the rest of the concert. Her range, as usual, was superior. This remains her individual strength. It is obvious that Mercer's music department has acquired some future professional talent as seen in their performance of Brahms.

The text of the Requiem itself, though dealing with death, encouraged "joy and gladness" rather than sadness during the performance. The technique of co-mingling words and phrases characteristic of Brahms brought to life the intrinsic value of the word's message.

Costuming and staging was simple. Mr. Van Cura donned

formal tails, while the rest wore tuxedos. The young ladies wore full white blouses and ankle-length satin skirts, which, if not bringing the scene back to the time of Brahms himself, struck a chord as universal as the Requiem itself.

Laughably, at the offset of the Sunday performance James Carmichael and Kim Van Cura, pianists, had their music reversed, but the slip caused little more than a few restrained grins in the choir. Sunday's audience was comprised mainly of Macon's senior citizenry who apparently took the Requiem program to be a serious if not religious experience. The choir was more relaxed during the second performance, having got over their first-night jitters. They departed little from their standard of excellence either day. It was obvious to those who attended that the Mercer Choir, with Mr. Van Cura at the front, struggled for perfection and as far as this opinion is concerned, succeeded.

There were mixed emotions on campus after Pacific Gas & Electric performed one hour and 12 min. in Mercer's Chapel then faded away.

According to Jerry Stone what was heard was all there was. Apparently PG & E has not mastered the finesse of a definite ending. They ceased playing, fiddled with their amps and eventually informed the waiting audience that the concert was over. Contrary to rumors, the group did not blow an amp and end the concert at that point.

Lovers of the blues rock sound found PG & E terrific, what there was of them. They used such appropriate adjectives as "great," "tremendous," and "really good." Those who are enthusiasts of other styles, be it soul, acid-rock or the classics, claim they tired quickly of the "monotonous noise."

Highlight of the group was the bass guitarist and drummer who apparently keep the group with it. Each member of PG & E, however, was highly skilled in his position. Attendance was three hundred or four hundred which indicates either that their style isn't consonant with the desires of the majority of the Mercer community or that the majority of the community was not aware of PG & E's concert on campus. Little descriptive advertisement was seen around campus before hand. Few people knew what was happening in the Chapel judging from the name alone and as someone said, "Pacific Gas & Electric? - I paid my bill this month."

Letters to the Editor (Continued from Page 2)

task it is to create poetry for printing; the *Dulcimer* staff generally works with material that has been contributed by others. Second, the final literary word on material that appears in the *Dulcimer* rests with certain professors in the English department (the Steges, for example) who have volunteered to critically examine these contributions. Plainly, then, the *Dulcimer* has

been and will be a literary magazine that has had intrinsic literary value as adjudged by competent persons.

A final word on the so-called 'undependability' of *Dulcimer* issues. First, and foremost, the *Dulcimer* stresses quality, not quantity. An issue of the *Dulcimer* can only appear when sufficient contributions of quality have been turned in. The printing of a set number of issues per year without regard to quality would be a prostitution of the *Dulcimer's* basic orientation. The *Dulcimer* must be judged by its own criteria, not by the criteria of other Mercer publications.

In conclusion: the *Dulcimer* encourages any and all literary contributions by any member of the Mercer community. If one accepts the basic thesis that a literary review is a must for any college, then one should perhaps lay personal prejudices aside and contribute to or, at least, support the review. There will be another *Dulcimer* out this quarter and all students are invited to address their contributions to Box 270, Box 1422, or personally to either Mr. David Bottoms or myself.

John Valentine

Harris Awarded O.B.E.

Mercer's President, Dr. Rufus Harris has recently been named to receive the Order of the British Empire by the Queen of England. He will receive the award next summer. Very few Americans have ever received this honor.

Go casual for spring

by jwright

Thanks to the recent stay-out and wear-in under the auspices of RWGA Mercer women now have the choice of wearing whatever they choose to classes, Sunday dinner and chapel within bounds of appropriateness and decency.

Spring clothes, according to national sources, feature simple knit dresses, knit romper suits with matching skirts for play and pleated, cuffed pants for those who have taken to wearing pants to class.

The color for spring and summer is red, white and blue - boldly striped or gypsy-printed. It is found in dresses, culottes, scarves, romper suits and the all-time favorite - the bikini.

Bikinis, are, of course, The Thing. Whether they take the form of clingy tank suits ornamented with beads of obscured by crocheted maxi dresses, Bohemian pinafores or hooded stretch terry romper suits, striped, of course, there remains the stand-by bikini - worn with a springtime tan. Add sandals and go anywhere.

In lieu of a beach scene, Mercer women, choose jungle print pants for your next outing into the Macon rain forest. That is, for head hunting, what else? Combine with a blouse with the appropriate print: SHIRT.

Whether you go pastel and frilly or swinging and striped, go casual with the new rules and the warming weather.

Course Changes

The following faculty members have announced their resignation or retirement. Mr. John W. Holding, who has worked in the Business Office and as associate professor of Chemistry, will retire at the end of this year. Mr. Bradford Greene, instructor in Political Science; Mr. Alan Himber, instructor in English; Mr. Timothy Ireland, instructor in French; Mr. John Lazzara, instructor in French; and Mr. William Nelson, instructor in German, will continue graduate study. Miss Lynda Jones, instructor in health and physical education; Mrs. Clara Mae Miller, instructor in biology;

and Mr. Edmond Williams, instructor in speech and drama, have announced their resignation. Including the loss of Dr. Benjamin Griffith, Pollack professor of English and chairman of the Department, to West Georgia College, Mercer has lost ten faculty members this year.

To partly offset these losses Dr. Harris has announced the appointment of Dr. Donald P. Wiesler, assistant professor of Chemistry; Ph.D., Purdue University and Dr. Walter C. Dowling, Visiting Professor of Political Science and Ambassador-in-Residence, Spring quarter 1970; A.B., LL.D.

YOUTH

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Carl Sanders Listens - and Answers

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Transportation Provided

Students Committee For Sanders
Gary Brenner, Chairman