

The Mercer *Cluster*

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MERCER PLAYERS TO PRESENT DRAMA

ANDERSON'S PLAY JOAN OF LORRAINE TO BE PRESENTED

The Mercer Players will present Joan of Lorraine, a two-act drama by Maxwell Anderson, on Monday and Tuesday, May 12-13, at 8:30 p.m. in the Willingham Chapel. Miss Vivian Burton, head of the speech department, will direct the play.

The theme of the Maid of Orleans has been used by writers for many years. Among those who have written of her are Voltare, Schiller, Mark Twain, Bernard Shaw, and now, Maxwell Anderson.

Anderson's version of the story is simply and shortly told, using the theatrical device of a play within a play. The action begins on an unmet stage, with the actors in half-complete costumes or street clothes. The action shifts from the rehearsal to the play and back again many times during the performance. This device gives Anderson an opportunity to engage in analytical discussions of Joan and her character and to present important episodes in her life.

Speaking of the unusual way in which the play is presented, the author has said, "I have always wanted to write a play about a play in rehearsal, because I have wanted to share the excitement of seeing a play come to life on a bare stage. Over and over again, I have seen this miracle happen in an empty theater,



LILLIAN MOYE

with no costumes, no sets, and nobody looking on but the actors not in the scene, the stage manager and myself. It's a kind of miracle, a new living world set out on a bare floor with a devilish worklight shining in everybody's eyes and constant interruptions and most of the actors reading their lines from blue-backed parts. And this first magic, this first flash of fire, is never quite repeated. The sets and costumes actually seem to get in the way. I wanted, when I wrote Joan of Lorraine to catch this fire for an audience to give them a glimpse of that first miracle. The only way to do it was to show a play in rehearsal and hope that the magic that I had so



VAL SHERIDAN

often seen would be repeated for many people.

"And in choosing the subject for the play in rehearsal, I took one that came close to the question that has been my own torment—along with most of the human race—during the last decade. The problem of what to believe, and how a man defends his belief in a world of power politics and disillusion, is hard to write about directly, but it's not a new problem. It was Socrates' torment, and Lincoln's and Joan of Arc's, and many others. I chose Joan because she was far from our time and the scenes from her life would offer a complete contrast with the rehearsal—would give the actors a

real chance to make a new world and set it down on a bare stage."

The cast of the play includes Lillian Moye as Joan, Val Sheridan as Master of the director, and Jesse DeFore as the Dauphin.

Almost all of the other roles are dual ones because of the nature of the play. Mary Boone will take the part of the assistant stage manager and Aurora Luther Williams will appear as Al, the stage manager. The character of Mary, the costumer, is played by Alice Sheridan, Macon, and the role of the electrician is taken by David Morgan, Ellenwood. Abbey, Bishop of Beauvais, will be portrayed by James Leitch, British West Indies, and Charles Elling, who is Durant Laxart in the play, will be played by Marion Lipps, Augusta.

Other students appearing are Weston Plymale, Macon, as Dollner and Pierre d'Arc; Hank O'Neal, Macon, as Jo Cordwell and Jean d'Arc; Joan R. Stanton, Macon, as Quirke and St. Michael; Cornelia Ashley, Eastman, as Miss Reeves and St. Catherine; Alice Crimmins, Macon, as Miss Sadler and St. Margaret; Claire Silas, Jacksonville, Fla., as Farwell, the Executioner; Hamilton Kellam, Dublin, as La Hire, a noble; and Ralph Clance, Macon, as Sheppard and Alain Chartier.

Jesse DeFore, Dry Branch, will appear as one of the major characters, the Dauphin. W. H. Pool, Winder, will act as the character of

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MINISTERS ELECT NEW OFFICERS FOR COMING YEAR

The Mercer University Ministerial Association at its weekly meeting elected the following officers for the coming year of 1947-48: Woodrow W. Richardson was elected President; Donald Mavity, Vice-President; Eugene Dailey, Secretary; James R. Leitch, Treasurer; Cecil Archie Smith, Chairman of the Counseling Committee; D. J. Stoper, Chairman of Athletics; Horace Gilbert, Chairman of Evangelism; Lucius Hall, Jr., Reporter; Jimmy Waters, Chorister; and Miss Margaret Garrison, Pianist.

Dr. Batts of the school of Christianity was the speaker for the weekly meeting. His topic was very timely in dealing with the moral situation now prevailing in the state of Georgia as against the nation as a whole. His challenge was a clearer preaching of the Gospel and a more righteous living.

An announcement was made to the effect that Dr. Price would speak at the next weekly meeting. Visitors are invited.

Any student desiring his grade before grades are compiled and mailed, please give to his instructor a self-addressed postal card, with a blank for the grade. It will be mailed to him as soon as the paper is graded.

VETERANS URGED TO USE BENEFITS

Veterans who have not had the benefit of Advisement and Guidance should urge themselves to take advantage of the facilities of a Vocational Guidance Center which is available for veterans through the Veterans Administration.

Set up by educational systems, the centers have well demonstrated their worth in helping veterans to utilize their best abilities in their favorite fields of occupation. Headed by trained men, the centers are primarily an aid to veterans to determine which occupations are most suited to their individual capacities, aptitudes and interests.

There are, at present, four vocational guidance centers in Georgia. These are located in Mercer Uni-

versity, Macon; Georgia Tech, Atlanta; University of Georgia, Athens; and Armstrong Junior College, Savannah.

The Mercer University Center is well established and since it was opened in 1945, over 3,000 veterans have been processed, helping them to get started in a suitable occupation.

The chief objective of the advisement and guidance center is to help veterans and this includes the following categories:

- 1. Disabled veterans who wish to train under Public Law No. 16.
- 2. Veterans taking training on-the-job under Public Law No. 346 who are not making satisfactory

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TOMMY McLANE

BLUE KEY HOLDS ANNUAL ELECTION

The Mercer Chapter of Blue-Key Honorary Fraternity held its annual election at a supper meeting May 6 in the Chapter room.

Tom McLane, Avondale Estates, was elected president for the year 1947-48. The other officers are: Richard L. Dismuke, Albany, Vice-President; Stanley Stinson, Macon, Secretary; and Thomas H. Morton, Queens Village, N. Y., Treasurer.

A resolution was passed commending the retiring president, Doug Barnard, Augusta, for the work that was done under his leadership during the past year. This was passed by unanimous vote of the group.

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MERCER OFFERED ROTC PROGRAM

Students entering Mercer for the 1947-48 school year may have the opportunity, for the first time in the history of the school, of enrolling in a Reserve Officers Training Corps unit, if the Board of Trustees authorizes the University's Petition filed with the War Department in 1940.

This statement is made in connection with the Associated Press dispatch dated April 26 which appeared in the Macon Telegraph, stating that a Mercer ROTC field artillery unit would be officially activated, effective July 1.

The ROTC course runs concurrent with the four years of academic work in the university, being divided into two phases: The elementary and the advanced. During the ele-

mentary work for two years the military aspect of the enrollees' college life will have to do with basic military subjects: drills, customs, courtesy, sanitation. Army uniforms and equipment will be furnished throughout the entire course. Drill periods of one hour duration, three days per week, will be held. The pay for the freshman and sophomore years is 66 cents per diem.

During the second phase—the advanced study—the ROTC men will learn the finer points of their branch of the service, in this case, the field artillery. In their final two years they will be furnished daily subsistence allowances in accordance with Regular Army schedules. Annual (Continued on Page 6)

CARVER, MORGAN HONORED RECENTLY AT ATLANTA ALUMNI'S FIRST MEETING

Dr. Gail L. Carver and President-Elect Cloud Morgan were honor guests at a meeting of the Atlanta alumni, April 29, to reactivate the Mercer Alumni Chapter of Atlanta.

Judge Jule Felton, an associate judge of the Georgia Court of Appeals, and a graduate of the Mercer Arts and Law schools, brought the principal speech at the dinner meeting.

He was introduced by Hon. Eugene Cook, Attorney-General of Georgia, who is vice-president of the

Alumni Association. Dr. George Sparks, president of the Georgia Evening School, where the meeting was held, was toastmaster.

Seventy-seven alumni attended this first meeting of the Atlanta chapter since the war, with classes from '98 to '47 represented. Many of the recent graduates were present. A committee was appointed to bring back nominations for officers and plans for continuation of the chapter activity at their next meeting.

HIGH SCHOOL PILGRIMAGE HITS MACON; COLLEGES SERVE AS HOSTS TO 420

A total of 424 persons took part in the annual Student Pilgrimage for Georgia high school students May 2.

The day's activity began at Mercer, where a brief reception program was held. Warren Timmerman, Mercer trustee, presided. A welcome address was made by Dr. Spright Dowell who explained the history of the University and commended "the spirit of Mercer."

Dean R. C. Burts was in charge of the tour of the campus. Mercer

students who acted as guides on the tour included Harry Trulove, Ed Holmes, Charles H. Hall, Marion Brantley, Paula Howard, Jimmy Christian, Carl Shealy, Lee McDaniel, Ann Harrison, J. T. Minor, J. H. Sheehan, Jean Kinnett, Hamilton Kellam, Elaine Deason, and Jean Feagin.

At noon the students were guests at a luncheon provided by Mercer and Wesleyan, who with the Chamber of Commerce, sponsored the event.