

# The Mercer Cluster

VOL. XXXIII

MERCER UNIVERSITY, MACON, GA., MAY 1, 1953

No. 17

## McElveen To Be Cauldron Editor; Sophomores Make Peterson Veep

Carolyn McElveen was elected editor of the Cauldron last Thursday in a run-off election, held as a result of a tie vote in the major election between Carolyn and Ray Neal.

Over 375 students voted in the special contest, which also involved the naming of a vice president for the sophomore class. Well over one-third of the voters were members of next-year's sophomore class.

In this race John Peterson defeated independent candidate C. C. Lynch, Jr., who had obtained a plurality, but not a majority, over Peterson and Glenn Joyner in the major election, a situation which necessitated the run-off between Peterson and Lynch.

Carolyn was the candidate for the Cooperative Party, and Peterson was the choice of the Progressive Party.

Tuesday's chapel period was the occasion of the installation of all the newly elected student government officers. Jamie Buckingham, acting president of the student body, first gave the oath of office to Wallace Harrell, who takes over as student body president.

Then each other officer was asked to stand and signify their willingness to carry out the duties of

their individual offices. An obvious vote of confidence in the newly elected leaders was extended by the students who proudly applauded when each was introduced.

## Grogan-Johnson To Rule May Day

Romance will be theme of the day at Mercer on May 5, with that subject being the theme for the annual May Day and Campus Sing festivities. The Women's Athletic Association will sponsor the May Day celebration during the afternoon, with the annual Campus Sing scheduled for that night.

The May Day celebration will begin with a procession from the upper part of the campus to the May Pole and stand which are to be erected in front of the gym. There, the King and Queen of the May, Lee Grogan and Mary Nell Johnson, will be crowned, and the court will celebrate their crowning with a dance around the May Pole. The court will consist of representatives of the four classes, who are as follows: Senior, Elaine Rankin and Merrill Murphy; Junior, Marilyn Money and Mary Lee Green; Sophomore, Barbara Senft and Wilma Mendoca; Freshman, Barbara Alford and Dot Poole.

Ann Cumer, President of the WAA announced that the campus-wide picnic originally scheduled for the day has been cancelled.

## Mercer Mimics

*Student board muttering in his sleep: "Now, wait a minute! Is that a casual gym I see on your face?"*

*The girls' basketball team, that has developed a series of players with charity houses!*

*The Saturday morning after the announcement of the new President and the spontaneous and enthusiastic welcome accorded him when he walked in the Co-op!*

*Members of the basketball team getting the "misty" tan in the Co-op making soap bubbles with a wire loop!*

## 'Vagabond King', Spring Operetta Given Last Time Tonight in Willingham Chapel



"Tabarie" (Wade Hiltabidel) gets arrow removed in last night's production of the Vagabond King. Assisting are Harry Barner, Mary Louise Kilmer, Aurelia Campbell, and Charles Haffenden.

## "Romance" Theme Second Annual Campus Sing Next Tuesday Night

By Theresa Mann

"There's music in the air"—and of course there should be. Although there's usually some type of music going on all the time, now it seems that everyone is going around singing. That's because the campus organizations are preparing for the second annual Campus Sing, Tuesday night, May 5.

The theme this year is Romance, and each organization is planning a ten minute program around this theme. The program will start at 8:00 in the Chapel.

Last year's winners were Phi Delta Theta, first; and Chi Omega, second. The trophy that is given must be won three consecutive years in order for the winner to keep the trophy. This year there will be a first and second place winner with honorable mentions often given. The trophy will be awarded by the May Queen. There will be five judges. One is selected by the I.F.C., one by Pan Hellenic, one by Independents, and one each by the two sponsors, Mr. Haines and Mr. Ware.

While the judges are making the decisions, Jim Oglesby will sing, accompanied by H. S. Sauls.

The program is made up entirely of the members of the various organizations, including conductors, etc. The music will be entirely a capella.

Those organizations that are participating are: M.I.C.A., Phi Mu, Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, Phi Delta Theta, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Alpha Tau Omega, Sigma Nu, and Kappa Sigma.

## Admission Tonite

Mercer students will be admitted without charge but will need identification cards to pass the door for the Vagabond King Thursday and Friday nights. Faculty and staff members will also be admitted free. Wives and husbands of Mercer students and their children will be charged 50 cents, same as high school students and students from colleges other than Mercer. Regular admission prices are \$1.00. Tickets may be secured at the Alumni Office.

Don't forget May Day festivities Tuesday, May 5. Procession from upper campus to gymnasium will mark the beginning in the afternoon. Campus sing held Tuesday night will end the days activities.

## Taylor, Stanford; Neal, Watson Sing Leads

Rudolf Friml's ever popular musical comedy "The Vagabond King" will be given Thursday and Friday evenings April 30-May 1 at 8:14 p.m. in the Willingham Chapel, this being the annual joint offering of the music and drama departments.

Damon Taylor will sing the role of Francois Villon and Mary Wall Stanford that of Katherine de Vaucelles for the Thursday evening performance, and Ray Neal and Dixie Watson will have the same roles for the Friday evening performance.

The production will use more than 150 people; there are more than fifty in the cast, a singing chorus in the pit of more than sixty, an orchestra of thirty, and a full crop of behind-the-scenes and house-functionaires.

Dr. Arthur L. Rich will conduct the performance, Mrs. Rich having trained the soloists, Dr. Helen Thornton having prepared the dramatic and staging aspects, and Miss Lucille Pollard having prepared the choreography.

The story tells of Francois Villon, the French poet, who is overheard by the King Louis XI telling his friends that the government officials, and particularly the King, are ineffectual, cowardly and corrupt. The incompetence of the King is the cause of disastrous war with the Duke of Burgundy which has reached the catastrophic stage in which the city of Paris is under siege.

Villon runs afoul of the law, and his death sentence is delayed by the King of one day to give him the chance to make good his boasts that he could defeat the Burgundians. At the end of one full day, he is to be hanged unless the Lady Katherine de Vaucelles whom he has been admiring from a distance will consent to become his wife.

Villon is successful in defeating the Burgundian armies by clever strategy and the siege of Paris is lifted. The King, however, is determined to punish him for a former crime and orders his execution, but when Katherine announces that she will wed Villon the king has to pardon him and all ends happily.

Supporting the principals will be most of Mercer's best musical and dramatic talent including Harry Barner, Wade Hiltabidel, Elizabeth Morgan, Barbara Toward, Charles Stewart, John Rabun, Charles R. Haffenden, Darlene Heritage, Marlene Timmerman, James C. Lewis, George Deadwyler, Mary Louise Kilmer, Aurelia Campbell.

Allen Williams, Ruth Nelson, Grady Newberry, Willis Foster, Clifford Burgess, Bill Wingfield, Jan Carol Adams, Richard Forrester, William Cooper, William Lane, Gene Thomas, Barbara Baxley, Don Lewis, Eddie Trent, Sara Hall, Joyce Abbey, Norman Jean Sayer and Odille Phelts.

There will be another staff organizational meeting Thursday afternoon, 3:00 p.m. in the Cluster Office. If interested in helping in any way please be at this meeting.

## Auxiliary Fetes Retiring Dowells

Dr. and Mrs. Spright Dowell were the honor guests at a banquet held for them Tuesday night, April 29 by the Mercer University Faculty and the Mercer Auxiliary at the MEP dining hall.

During the course of the evening's program appreciation of Dr. Dowell and Mrs. Dowell's contributions to Mercer were presented by T. Baldwin Martin, president of the board of trustees; W. T. Smalley, professor of English, representing the faculty; Mrs. Thomas E. Turner, Jr., president of the Mercer Auxiliary; and Mrs. R. B. Plymale, representing Dr. and Mrs. Dowell's numerous friends.

Others taking part on the program were Dr. Hansford Johnson, Dean of the Roberts School of Christianity, and the Rev. Clifton Forrester, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church. Music was arranged by Dr. Arthur Rich.

Special recognition was given to those faculty members who have been at Mercer 25 years or longer.

The joint banquet was presided over by Ed Wilson, professor of law and president of the faculty club, and Mrs. Turner. Among the guests were the local trustees.

## Major Geo. B. Connell To Assume Mercer Presidency on September 1

Mercer's president elect George Boyce Connell assumes official title September 1, 1953.

Most students do not know of our presidents activities up until the time he came to our institution. Here are a few facts that might be of interest.

Major Connell received both A.E. and M.A. degrees from Mercer. While at this institution he played on the basketball squad four years, was an inter-society debater, a member of Kappa Phi Kappa fraternity, Phi Delta Literary Society, Blue Key, Phi Eta Sigma, and Sigma Mu.

The present activities of Mercer's next president include, his vice-presidency which he has held since 1948, teaches one English course, teaches Bible class at Vineville Baptist Church where he is a member, member Macon Rotary



President Elect G. B. Connell makes acceptance speech to trustees.

Club, member of State council on Teacher Education.