

# Former English Dept. Head Dr. Robert Highfill Dies

Doctor Robert Highfill, chairman of the Mercer English Department from 1948 until June, 1962, died January 28, at the Monroe County Hospital in Forsyth, Georgia. Highfill had moved to Forsyth after his retirement from Mercer to become head of the Tift College English Department.

Highfill was born in Hickory Plains, Arkansas, 1889. He received his bachelors degree at the University of Arkansas, and his Master's from Northwestern University and his doctorate at the University of Chicago. He had taught in many colleges and universities throughout the United States. During World War I he served as second lieutenant in the Army.

Highfill recently published a book of poems, which he completed while at Mercer. This book, *The Magic Robe and Other Poems*, is an allegory on our world of wars—a world which, according to the author, must find solutions to the problems which brought these conflicts about.

The inspiration to write this work came in 1918, three years after the beginning of the war. Highfill was pestered by the idea until he put it on paper. This work shows his distinct awareness of mankind's present state. He both scorns and praises the actions of modern man. The book itself is a song of hope.

Highfill, listed in *Who's Who in America* and the *Directory of American Scholars* had contributed to the *Dictionary of American English*, was a member of the *Modern Language Association*, the *American Language Association of University Professors*, and the *Academy of Political Science*.

Highfill is survived by his widow, a daughter, and one grandchild.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, February 11, at the First Baptist Church. Friends will be invited as special guests.

Skill in Parliamentary Procedure is a national project of Phi Beta Lambda of which Future Business Women is the local chapter.

## FBW Sets Meet For End of Month

Future Business Women will have for its February meeting a film on *Parliamentary Procedure*, followed by a discussion led by Dr. Helen Thornton, Chairman of the Speech Department. The meeting will be held on Thursday February 28, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 316 of the Connell Student Center.

Presidents of all campus organizations will be invited as special guests.

## APPLICANTS INCREASE

# Mercer Admissions Office Is Enthusiastic About Attracting Better Students To College

By Sandra Williams

Why did you choose Mercer? This question is often thrown at freshmen and transfer students by fellow classmates and potential students that may decide to apply here. The answer comes in a variety of reasons, but more often than not the root of the answer is found in the Admissions Office.

John Mitchell, admissions director, and his assistants Miss Lynn Bradley and Dan Bradley, believe that enthusiasm and teamwork is the key that opens the door to interest of a potential student. But how does this office attract the initial interest?

One of the most obvious ways is to tour the campus with the student. When this is not possible or when the admissions representative is traveling to different high schools throughout Georgia and neighboring states, a new method has been devised. A twelve minute filmstrip with color and sound is shown of the University. Mercer is the first southern college to use this method which originated with Cornell.

Mercer also contributes to many

national magazines that attract interested students across the United States and foreign countries. Potential students as far away as California, Japan, or Israel may hear about Mercer first because of such an article.

The freshmen will remember filling out a questionnaire which asked them to list anyone they felt would be interested in attending Mercer. These names are carefully filed and referred to when the faculty and admissions officials hold conferences in the high schools.

As of February 2, the Admissions Office had received 275 applicants, and accepted about 200. This figure represents an increase of over 75 percent from last year's figure of 162 applications received at this time. The freshmen of 1963 will be about 550 strong, while this year's class is 396 members strong this quarter.

When a student is admitted

there should be some degree of certainty that he will succeed in graduating if he properly applies himself. It is necessary to have his high school transcript, rank in class, College entrance Examination Board scores, two recommendations from his high school teachers, preferably in math and English, and a recommendation from his minister.

The admissions office in short must be an interpreter of the college to the officials and the personnel of the secondary school, and to the general public. "It is a public relations department in which the University deals with students, parents, high school principals, counsellors, high school programs, alumni, the denominations, and the general public."

## ADPi Lists Pledges

Alpha Delta Pi initiated fifteen pledges on January 26, 1963. They are Jan Brantley, Tessie Bryan, Carolyn Campbell, Luey Cook, Coyle Dykes, Lynn Glasgow, Willis Holbrook, Lynn Loessner, Martha Meinders, Carole Anne Moore, Elaine Morris, Susan Russell, Linda Sue Sisco, Judy Strickland, Mary Lou Wike.

The annual Pledge Retreat was held on Saturday, January 26, at the home of Peggy Jones. The initiation banquet was held on January 27, at the Idle Hour Country Club. Mary Ann Massengill and

# VIEWPOINTS

STUDENT OPINION—REVIEWS—LETTERS



## Organ Recital Survives Blackout

By Davis McAuley

The second in the series of faculty music recitals—this one by Ronald Hill, organist—was plagued not only by a meager audience but an unscheduled intermission when a power transformer went bad blacking out the Chapel for about 30 minutes.

It is to Hill's credit that most of the audience saw fit to sit through the black-out in order to hear the second half of the program.

Hill presented a wide range of works from the organ repertoire. Appropriately, the program opened with an introduction—"Patria on 'Herzlich tut mich verlangen'" by Johann Pachelbel, a seventeenth century organist.

Next came the standard works "Toccat, Adagio and Fuge in C Major" by Bach and the "Praeludium und Fuge uber B-a-c-h," a musical

anagram by Liszt. The Bach seemed to lack the technical polish and fineness necessary to make Bach speak with its full inherent power. The Liszt work though colorful and flashy as Liszt often is cannot compare with the inner strength of Bach. Hill's reading was solid, calling all the range and color from the organ, as Liszt must have intended.

Following the long, black intermission, Hill played three contemporary French selections, which were obviously his favorites. These were done with feeling and empathy. Jean Langlais' "Dealogue sur les Mixtures" from "Suite Breve" was followed by the moving "Priere du Christ montant vers son Pere" by the Catholic mystic Olivier Messiaen. The program closed with Jehan Alain's "Litanies."

## Mercer Players

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"Mrs. Murphy." Accompanying them are "Jolly" (Frances MacLeod) and "Miss Mabel" (Ellen Schram). The three comforters, "Zophar" (the preacher), "Eliphaz" (the psychiatrist), and "Bildad" (the professional proletariat) are portrayed by John Johnson, Bill Dayton, and David Payne. Mike Tinkey, Pinkey

Gill, Carole Ann Moore, and David Payne also handle various minor parts. The play is directed by Miss Audrey Needles.

## Great Decisions

(Continued from page 1)

Discussion groups draw issues and alternatives of United States foreign policy and reach informed individual opinions on future U. S. policy. Background material topics this year are: the common market, Red China, Algeria, Spain, India, Laos and Vietnam, and Alliance for progress. All students are invited and encouraged to become fully acquainted with and to participate in Great Decisions—1963.

## Folk Program

(Continued from page 1)

their travel and singing engagements will help them discover new songs. The primary interest of the members is in early English and Irish ballades, West Indies folk songs, sentimental ballads of the 18th century, work songs and blue grass numbers.

If other students show interest, the group plans to organize a folk music club on the Mercer campus. The 2nd Annual Inter-collegiate Folk Festival will be held at Mercer some time in the Spring.

## Toby Tot

(Continued from page 1)

someone to represent Mercer spirit, and this is also the general consensus.

Toby and Tot rode in places of honor in the Homecoming Parade at 2:00 P. M. Saturday Feb. 3, and reigned for a weekend as the most spirited twosome.

Willisia Holbrook were presented with the Big-Little Sister Scholarship Award. Holbrook was also selected as the Outstanding Pledge. Ruth Nation received the Model Sister Award.

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