



Inga Brditchka registers for classes at her new school.

Student Profile

# Inga Swims Way To Mercer

## By Katie Koellner

There is a tale of some sort behind most students' reasons for coming to Mercer, but few can match the story of Inga Brditchka, a girl who enrolled here largely because she was stranded after missing a bus. Inga is a charming 20-year-old "fraulein" from Wurzburg, Germany. She lived in the United States during her freshman and sophomore years as a foreign student and returned after her graduation in Germany. Inga came back to the United States under the sponsorship of an American Army officer and his wife who lived in New York. She stayed with them for eight months, working as a secretary and interpreter in New York City. Later she moved in with another German girl, an arrangement which lasted for 10 months. Inga then joined a traveling group of synchronized swimmers and dancers. She toured the United States with the show, and soon a range series of coincidences led her to Macon. Inga became separated from her traveling show, and while catching a bus she missed bus connections and became stranded in Macon. Knowing one in Macon, she called the police and later made friends with a Macon policeman and his family. Inga mentioned to the officer that she was interested in attending college while in the United States, and he suggested Mercer. So one morning this summer, Inga climbed the steps to Dean Spiro's office and announced she would like to be admitted to Mercer. She was quickly accepted. Sports are the main interests of the German girl, she enjoys bowling, ice and roller skating, water skiing and swimming. She taught swimming in New York in addition to her full-time employment. At present Inga is on an International scholarship, as well as a student loan, and is being partially sponsored by the Lutheran Church in Macon. She plans to remain at Mercer for four years if further scholarship arrangements can be made.



KATIE KOELLNER

# AROUND CAMPUS

This week begins a brand new Social Column feature series on Mercer's Fraternities and Sororities. Each week a group will be picked at random, and its history and activities discussed.

Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity for Women was founded on May 30, 1904 at Syracuse University in New York. Among the first eleven founders, two sisters, Marguerite and Estelle Shepard were of primary importance in establishing the first chapter. Dr. and Mrs. Coddington served as advisors to the new organization. The following year, a second chapter was established at the University of Wisconsin.

At present, there are ninety-one chapters in the United States and Canada, and two more chapters are soon to be chartered.

The Mercer chapter, Gamma Iota, was founded on campus on February 27, 1960, with a membership of 20 girls. Today, three years later, the membership has increased to thirty-seven.

Among the many activities of the group, the most important are held in the Spring. These include the annual Achievement Recognition Banquet at which the sister with the highest grade

average is honored, the "Big" Weekend, the Senior Banquet, given by the alums, and the Mother's Day Tea. Other annual events are the Pledge Banquet, Feast of Roses Banquet, held after winter initiation, the Annual Alum Tea, and the International Reunion Day. This year Gamma Iota will serve as hostesses for this meeting of all the chapters in the province. Last year, Breanau had this honor.

Alpha Gam's Altruistic project contributes money to such worthy causes as Cerebral Palsy and Cleft Palate. These funds are raised by a quarterly "Breakfast in Bed" service given by the chapter to residents of the Women's Dorm.

The President, Mickey Roberts, is in her second year as Alpha Gam's leader. She is a senior from Statesboro, and in addition to the presidency, has served as Altruistic Chairman, Chaplain, and local editor of the Alpha Gamma Delta Quarterly.

Other Chapter officers are: First Vice President, Dianne McCommons; Second Vice President, Reba Patten; Corresponding Secretary, Anne Bracewell; and Treasurer, Jackie Dean.



# Where Are The Caps?

What's become of rat caps this year? In times of yore, an assemblage of Mercer freshmen during the first few weeks of the Fall quarter resembled a field of orange poppies, but now it seems that the little item responsible for the phenomenon hangs dejectedly in the closets of Sherwood, Boone, Dowell, and M.E.P. instead of resting upon the little round heads of newcomers to Tatnall Tech.

The prevailing impression seems to be that rat caps will have an extremely short blooming season this year. In fact, nothing more than a half hearted, sporadic appearance during Rat Week; or perhaps I should say the ghost of Rat Week, since (like the caps) that occasion appears to have dwindled to a sort of meaningless formality.

Twenty or thirty years ago, I understand, the orange-and-black beanie (then augmented by a green tie) served its purpose in identifying the new Mercerian as such. Rat Week was a "festive occasion" culminating initiation, established as a formal acceptance by the students of the freshman as a full-fledged member of the student body. In addition to this, an admirable (but now forgotten) tradition required Mercerians to offer polite greetings to any fellow students passed on the street, campus walkways, and in the halls; and to extend the same courtesy to anyone else encountered on the university grounds.

All of this built up to an attitude with which the student body considered itself a sort of exclusive club, a grande clique supported by all sorts of sub-cliques (Fraternities, student organizations, etc.). This attitude seems to have been dealt a mortal wound. The only apparent culprit is the anti-hazing regulation, despite the reams of arguments in support of the present position on that matter.

The rule has not only done away with abusive, degrading hazing, but it appears to have ended the whole idea of student initiation. Acceptance into the Mercer student body is now largely out of the hands of Mercerians, and left up to whatever machines grade the various entrance exams. The student body no longer functions as a whole, the unifying factor once symbolized by rat caps, green ties, Rat Week, etc., is absent.

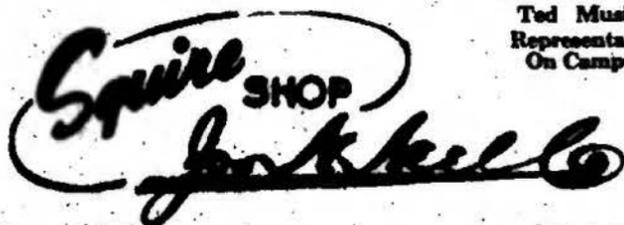
Humiliation is one thing (and a thing the school is better off without), but Initiation is very much something else. The being of a University involves a particular relationship of students to students in addition to the relationship between administration, faculty, and students. Initiation is an integral part of the immensely important student-to-student relations, but it is ineffectual unless its trappings are meaningful; and at Mercer, that meaning seems to have fallen by the wayside, with the trappings themselves about to follow.

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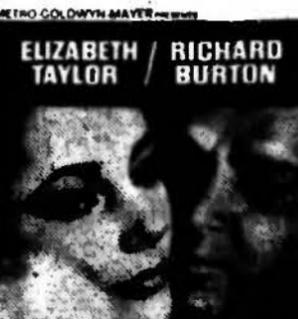
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