



**PATRICIA TAKALA**, soprano, Crystal Falls, Michigan. Received BM degree from St. Norbert College and MM from Cincinnati Conservatory. Has appeared with Milwaukee Operetta Company, Cincinnati Opera, and the University of Cincinnati Opera. Her roles include Magda in *THE CONSUL*, Fiordiligi in *COSI FAN TUTTE*, Liu in *TURANDOT* and others. With the National Opera Company she will sing the roles of The Marchesa of Poggio in *KING FOR A DAY*, Lady Harriett in *MARTHA*, Isabel in *EL CAPITAN* and will alternate as Mimi and Musetta in *LA BOHEME*.

### Opera Company a Miracle

By Scott Singletary

If twelve talented, professional artists perform an opera almost every night — and in a different city — that's not only news, that's a miracle!

Miracle or not, the National Opera Company, the professional troupe that has brought opera to over one million people, has missed only four performances in twenty-eight seasons; twice when a virus hit the troupe and twice when snow storms kept the audience away!

The National Opera Company will perform *LA BOHEME*, one of Puccini's most attractive works, at Dunham Auditorium on February 15 at 8:15 p.m. The production is sponsored by the Brevard College Life and Culture Series.

The professional ensemble,

founded in 1948 by A. J. Fletcher of Raleigh, North Carolina, is dedicated to presenting well-known operas in the language of the audience. They have proven that "Opera in English" is both fun and exciting by receiving excellent reviews from students and professional critics all across the nation.

In annual tours covering most of the United States, the Company has performed over 2,000 times bringing opera to small towns and communities that have never before witnessed a live operatic performance.

If the performance by the youthful cast is like their others, the audience will surely go away saying, as one student did, "If this is opera, let's see more of it."

### Valentine's Day Inmate's Idea

By Carol Miles

St. Valentine's Day, the traditional time for hearts and flowers, is nearly upon us.

On February 14th, millions of Americans will give and receive Valentine cards with messages like "Be My Valentine" or "I'm Nuts Over You." Even the dedicated Brevard College student will join in the spirit of things. Flowers, candy, and funny little cards will be the order for the day.

Nevertheless, Valentine's Day is not all hearts and flowers. It is the feast for St. Valentine, a Roman priest who suffered martyrdom during the persecution of the Emperor Claudius. Historians also attribute Valentine's Day to the death of a Roman bishop and his subsequent martyrdom.

The custom, however, of sending "Valentines" has an accidental connection with St. Valentine himself. According to legend, St. Valentine was in prison awaiting execution when he sent his true love a note expressing his affection. The note was signed "From Your Valentine."

So now that you know the true meaning of the Valentine wish — **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**

### E. McDowell talks about Brevard

By Tom Snyder

## 'The Perfect Place for Me'

I was able to finally contact Mr. Eugene McDowell via a campus pay phone. He was kind and patient in speaking to me about his position at Brevard College. The changes he's noticed during his stay, his involvement with PTK, his advisorship, his plans for the future and his feelings concerning the students here.

"I attended undergraduate studies at Wofford College and then completed my graduate work at Yale. I wanted to return to the Asheville area and had always dreamed of teaching in the mountains. Brevard has proven to be the perfect place for me. There's always been a little part of me that's wanted to be a renaissance man, and here I can teach religion, philosophy, mountaineering, and still have time for study and research.

"I've been here three years now and I have noticed some changes. As a whole, I feel the school is improving. The students have a better understanding of what they want out of college, and they're enjoying being here more. I feel the academics are more challenging news and offer a wider variety of subjects from which to choose. Brevard is preparing them well if they choose their courses well and pick their directions carefully.

"As for being an Advisor, this is my second year as one, and it's some of the hardest and at the same time important work to be done. You have to be on your toes

all the time and I'll admit, sometimes mistakes are made. I enjoy it, though. It's a very good way to meet and get to know students."

At this point I noticed a peculiar noise over the line and stopped to ask him about it. It turned out he had just lit his pipe and was busily puffing away. The interview continued:

"Yes, I'm married. We have a little girl of about 9 months. Yes, my wife teaches — and I suppose there are a few problems having a two-teacher household. You see, teachers are used to being out front and in control, and having two people together who are like this sometimes causes friction. We both enjoy reading and using weekends to further our professions, and I suppose the hours we keep are a little rough sometimes, but there are advantages too. For example, we both have basically the same professional problems and can relate easily to them.

"This is my second year working with Phi Theta Kappa. The kids have really come alive about it lately. PTK takes people who are good students, serious minded, and know how to laugh at themselves too. It gives them a chance to meet people from all over the country. I'm proud of the Brevard students — they tend to stand out. We have one of the top chapters in the nation, and you can tell that by the way our

representatives handle themselves. I like to see bright young people taking a look around them at the world and wanted to do more than just make a living...Hello?"

"Oh, I'm sorry," I explained, "if you're wondering about these long pauses — I'm just trying to get all this down. What about your plans for the future?"

"Hmmm...I'd like to stay here. Some students have told me that I should go somewhere I can do more research, but I like Brevard's attitude. I like Brevard's open-door policy. I can be serious with the students, but I can have fun too. There's an element of graciousness here. I guess I learned about that working under some professors at Yale who were the same way. I would like to go back Northeast someday and get my PhD."

"Is there anything you like to say to the students at this time?"

"Mainly that they realize how fortunate they are to be here at Brevard. Theoretically, they can come here right out of high school not knowing what they want and find themselves. They still have a chance to be whatever they want to be. They should hold on to their dreams.

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### David Holt Impressive

By Donna Mulford

Why does a pigeon-toed woman love a bow-legged man?

David Holt, a mountain folklorist, asked this question and others in song and verse at the Life and Culture Series program on Feb. 1. He sang old mountain songs such as "Ragtime Annie," "Goover Peas" and "Don't Let Your Deal Go Down." Not only did he sing himself, he had Brevard College students singing "I Wish I Was a Mole in the Ground."

Old time instruments such as the hammered dulcimer, the fretless banjo, the squeeze-box and the autoharp were played with an incredible display of coordination. The hammered dulcimer brought to mind pictures of warm summer days, bright flowers and clouds over mountains. When he played "Cripple Creek" on the banjo, every foot in the house was tapping.

It is surprising that someone able to play mountain music the way David Holt does, doesn't come from the mountains (originally.) He was born in

Texas and developed an interest in traditional music through old cowboy ballads. While going to college in California, he heard of a fiddler's convention in the mountains. After coming east, he became deeply interested in mountain folklore. He kept coming summers till the call of the mountain music made him decide to move here. Most of his contacts for learning this music came from going to old time music festivals!

Perhaps this shows the heart of this music because most of the songs were made up by people getting together to play and sing. He learned many of the ballads and songs by just listening and recording the old-timers as they played. He had no trouble getting them to play or teach him because they don't want their music lost out of disinterest. Listening for one short hour to this lively and sometimes just plain beautiful music made me hope too that there are others like David Holt who will try and keep oldtime mountain music alive.

- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**  
Delphians, 6:30 p.m., West Beam Study Parlor
- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15**  
Westminster, 5:30 p.m., Weaver Room  
S.G.A., 6:30 p.m., MG 118  
Social Board, 7:00 p.m., MG 138  
General Judicial Board, 7:00 p.m., MG 118  
Life and Culture: "La Boheme", 8:15 p.m., Dunham
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17**  
Visitation Day, 10:00 a.m.  
S.G.A. Disco Dance, 9-10 p.m.
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18**  
Contemporary Church Services, 7:30 p.m., F.U.M.C Chapel
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19**  
Christian Council Prayer Breakfast, 7:00 a.m. Weaver Room  
PTK, 5:30 p.m., Rutherford Room  
Spanish Club, 7-8 p.m., Library Seminar Room  
F.C.A., 8:00 p.m., S.U. Lounge
- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20**  
Art Series: Randall Jaxell, 6-8 p.m., MG 125
- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
Kappa Chi, 5:30 p.m., Weaver Room  
Delphians, 6:30 p.m., West Beam Study Parlor
- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
Westminster, 5:30 p.m., Weaver Room  
S.G.A., 6:30 p.m., MG 118  
Social Board, 7:00 p.m., MG 138  
General Judicial Board, 7:00 p.m., MG 118
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
Disco Dance, 9-12p.m.
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
Contemporary Church Service, 7:30 p.m., F.U.M.C Chapel  
S.G.A. Movie "It Lives Again", 8:00 p.m., Dunham
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26**  
Christian Council Prayer Breakfast, 7:00 a.m. Weaver Room  
PTK, 5:30 p.m., Rutherford Room  
F.C.A., 8:00 p.m., S.U. Lounge.

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