

Growth Of College Exemplified In Music Department

Department Has Enriched Campus Culture, Produced Musicians

BY LOUISE JACKSON

The progress of North Carolina College can be markedly traced in any field, but no where can there be found a better indication of growth and development in the school than that exemplified in the Music Department.

The Department is playing an essential part in broadening aspect of a student's education. For those students enrolled in the Music Department, talents are developed, personal reassurance is increased, and practice is given in conducting groups or training individuals. For the student body the understanding of the aesthetic value of music is greater enhanced.

The two major divisions of the Music Department, the band and the choir, have interesting and somewhat parallel origins: each is grounded in aiding the student in his educational development. Both now occupy integral parts in our college life. Whether it is at a football game when the bands beats the tempo for the lusty yells of the students, or at Vespers when the choir sets an inspirational and beautiful background for the messages delivered.

BAND STARTED IN '45

The band was organized in 1945 by Stephen J. Wright with twenty-five pieces. Mr. Wright, a former pupil of Mr. W. I. Howard, present bandmaster, organized the band on a small pittance, with little monetary assistance, few instruments, and no room for storage or equipment or practice. Such was the condition of the band when Mr. Howard took the helm. Over a period of several years, the band has grown from the point at which it consisted of twenty pieces to its present status in which it consists of sixty pieces, an annex of six pieces, an annex assigned to afternoon class room and room for practice. The band was successful in acquiring new uniforms which greatly improve its appearance. Lately new instruments have been secured including kettle drums and an oboe.

Of the band's sixty members about fifty percent are Freshmen. Others are veteran members some of whom were with the beginning band in 1945.

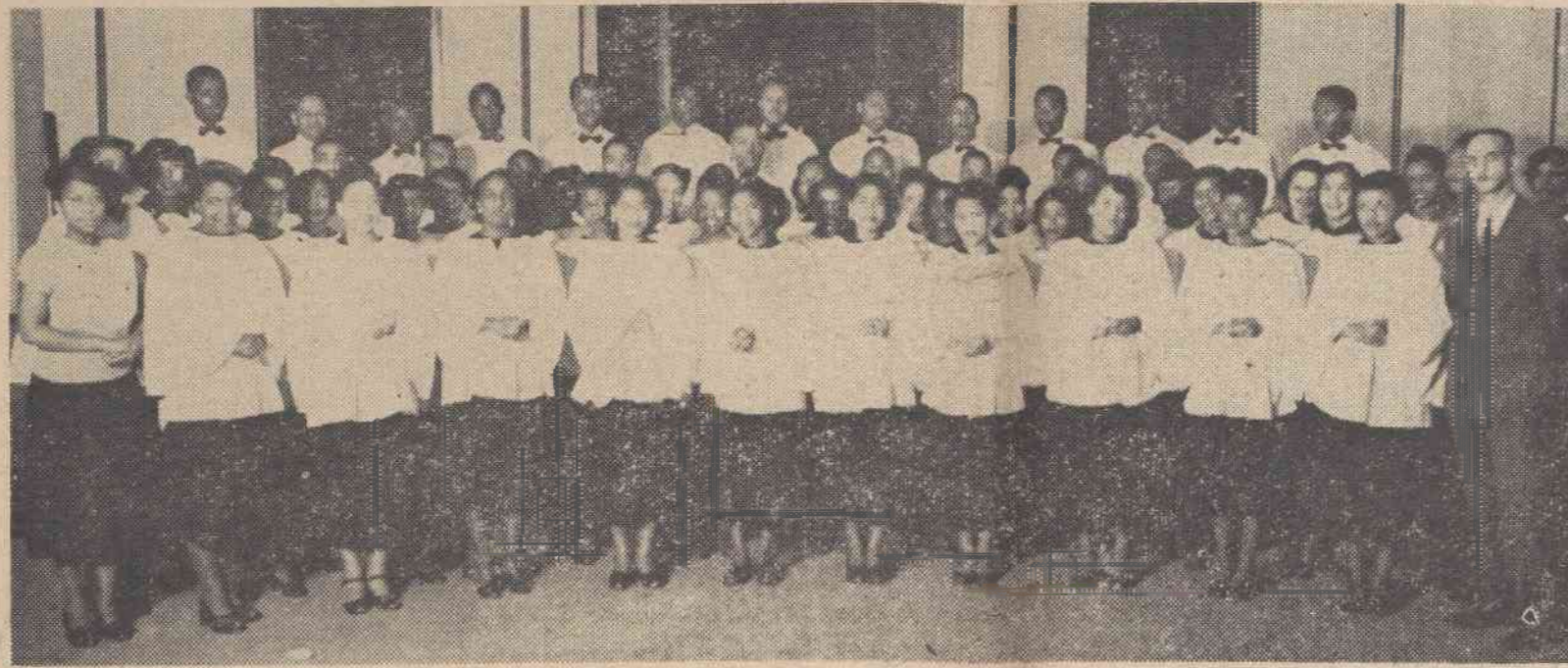
COLORFUL ADDITION

A recent and colorful addition to the band personnel was the several junior majorettes. These young ladies deserve special merit for their performances, and it might be mentioned that they almost "stole the show" at the "Classics." Special mention should be given also to William Torrence, versatile drum major, who, aside from being adept as a drum major, plays at least seven instruments, including the Alto Horn, Trumpet, Baritone, Flute, Piccolo, Saxophone, and the Clarinet.

Mr. Howard pointed out that usually the band has some conscientious members who taken non-prescribed courses in the order to develop better efficiency for the good of the band. Such students are Emma Thompson, Dorothy Price, Pearlletta Russell, Thomas Dawson, Ivory Smith, William Torrence, Clarence DeBerry, Myrtle Horrington, and Twilda Daniels.

There are several smaller component units of the band among which are the orchestra, Dance Band, and small ensembles.

The trumpet quartet, composed of Thomas Dawson, Henry Michaux, Joel Martin, and Albert Williams, and the clarinet trio are two small ensembles which are useful and available for occasions on which one or more short musical numbers are required. Several members of the college band are capable soloists, and occasionally two soloists combine as a duet. These small groups are able to give a varied and full program with piano accompaniment.



The North Carolina College choir, directed by Samuel Hill, has become an integral part in the college life, affording opportunities for expression of musical talent and the providing music for several occasions. The choir was heard last Sunday in its annual Christmas program at vespers.

"COLLEGENTS"

Last year the Dance Band, known as the "Collegents" was organized under the direction of Walter Best. The organization had no real affiliation with the Music Department except in the use of equipment and room for practice. The Collegents were well received and enjoyed a year of much success.

The College Orchestra consists of a group of string players (four violins, one viola, one cello, one bass viol) as a nucleus to which will be added as many wind players as may be needed to balance the strings. This group is in its elementary stage and its development depends mainly upon the number of stringed instruments available. Another important musical group is the String Ensemble consisting of around ten players. But this group is still in its infancy.

The band under the supervision of Jasper Bell as President, John Allison, Secretary and Treasurer, Ivory Smith, Sgt.-at-Arms, Mr. Wesley I. Howard, Director, and Albert Williams, Assistant Director, is

lum and Dr. Elmo Dorsey.

Today the choir has become an integral part of the students' life, and under the supervision of Mr. Samuel Hill it has reached new heights. Many talented students are finding furtherance of their musical career in the choir, among whom are Mary Ellen Rivers, Mary Banks, Lena Mills, Richard Dye, Lillie C. Jones, and Pearl Weaver.

The choir under the leadership of Thomas Dawson is subdivided into Women's and Men's Glee Clubs, both under the direction of Mr. Hill. Its yearly program is broad and inclusive. The Alumni Association will present the choir in concert in February. This concert will serve as a prelude to a Spring tour which will take the choir to Virginia State, in Petersburg, Virginia, Armstrong High, Richmond, Virginia, Washington, D. C., Philadelphia, New York, and Winchester, Massachusetts, excluding a few local concerts in the state.

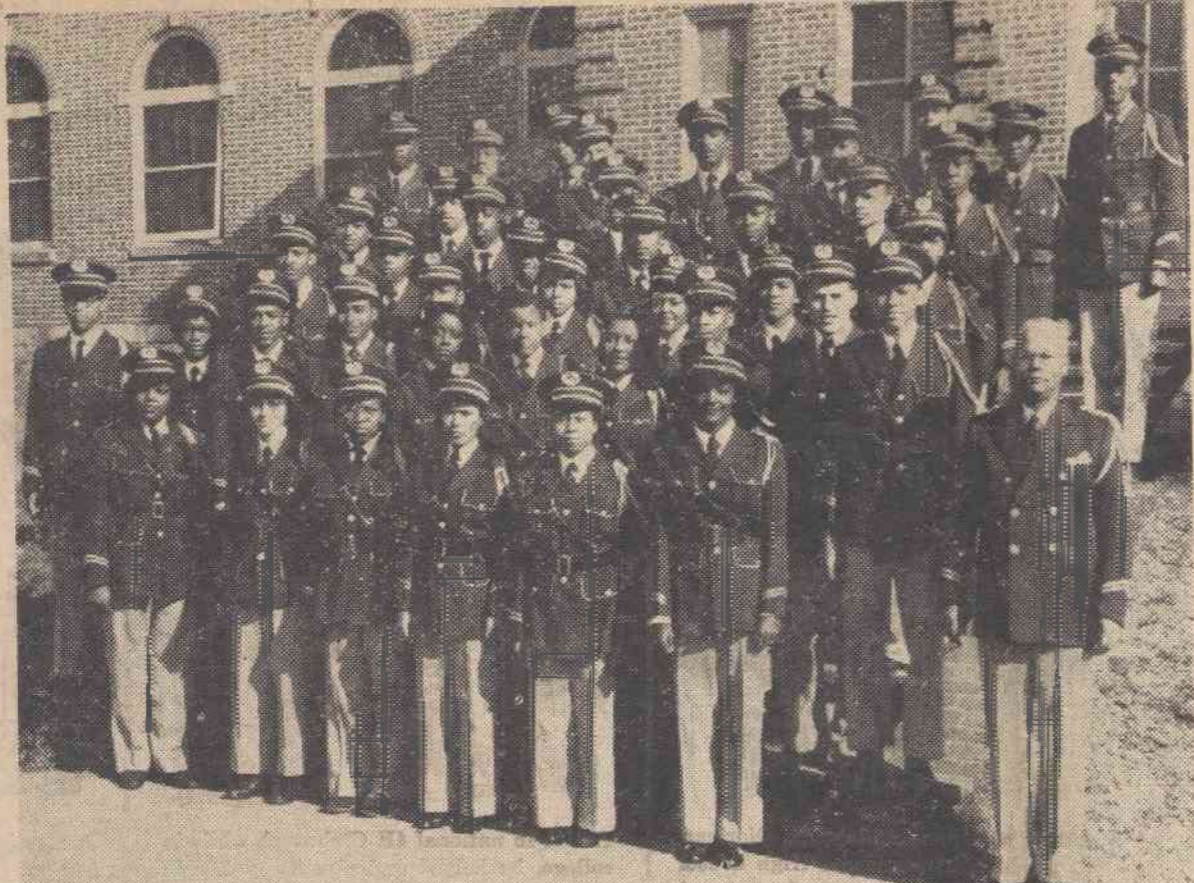
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On December 18, 1949 the choir presented its annual

lina College and finished under Mrs. Thomasina T. Green as piano instructor and Mrs. C. R. Edwards in Theory. He received his Masters Degree from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. Mrs. Victoria C. Davis, present visiting instructor at North Carolina College, who graduated from North Carolina College in 1944 and received her Masters Degree from Michigan University. Prior to coming to North Carolina College, Mrs. Davis taught at St. Augustine's in Raleigh.

MUSIC DEPT. GRADS

Pauline Marsh, graduate from North Carolina College in 1948 and is now attending graduate school at Michigan University. Ruth Morrison, Musa Steele, Lanier Shearin and Doris Jackson, graduates of the department are teaching in high schools in the state. James McLaughlin is teaching in Newport News, Virginia as band director of a high school. Johnny Holloway, composer and arranger of popular music, graduated from North Carolina College in 1947. He is now with the Ohio State band



Nothing is more genuinely collegiate than the band which blares for parades, beats the feverish tempo for lusty football yells and performs in concert at the end of each quarter. W. I. Howard directs 60 piece NCC band. — McNeill Photo.

planning a year of varied and constructive programs. In addition to its annual Band Party the group will present recitals in chapel at various intervals and will participate in the departmental Social affairs. It will also sponsor recitals for its outstanding members of the senior class.

CHOIR GETS START

The North Carolina Choir was organized in the early 1930's under the supervision of Mrs. C. Ruth Edwards. The original choir was very small in contrast to the sixty-five-voice present choir. The North Carolina College Choir has grown under the direction of Mr. Samuel Hill, Miss Carolyn Jones, Miss R. H. Gil-

christmas program during the Vesper hour. Excerpts from the Messiah were presented, including For Unto Us A Child Is Born, four Soprano Recitatives, Glory To God, and The Hallelujah Chorus. Carols from many lands were also featured, which included carols from Russia, France, Hungary, England, Germany, and America.

The Music Department has turned out some of the most outstanding graduates of North Carolina College. This fact is evidence that the Department is doing its part in helping to shape the student in such a manner that he will be able to cope with life situations after college days. Among the outstanding graduates of the Department are: Allen Brown, Concert Pianist, who studied at North Caro-



Johnny Holloway is a typical product of the North Carolina College music department. Johnny is at present doing graduate work in music at Ohio State. The versatile musician has ability for composing and arranging in addition to being hailed as a saxophone and piano virtuoso. While at North Carolina College he played in the college band and led an orchestra.

Slate Of Officers For Omega Psi Phi Is Released

The Tau Psi chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity has released the following slate of officers for the year:

- Basileus, Randolph Johnson;
- Vice-Basileus, Joseph Campbell;
- Keeper of Records and Seal, Elbert O. Robinson;
- Keeper of Finance, Frederic Douglass;
- Chaplain, Thornton B. Haynes;
- Parliamentarian, Hilburn Sparrow;
- Dean of Pledges, G. A. Moore;
- and Reporter, Preston Diggs.

Five Omegas have been added to the chapter as transferees. They are Grace, Edmond, Davis, Plummer, and Baker.

Versatile Cheerleader Wants To Pen Novel

Anyone who stays around North Carolina College's campus more than two or three days is sure to meet a tall slender chap with a gift of gab who answers to the name of "Killer."

Actually the "Killer" is quite harmless, his real name being Walker Jason. The origin of the nickname isn't definite but it was all started during his freshman year here by some of his "friends."

Jason, quite a versatile student, is a native of Philadelphia, Pa. He graduated from the Overbrook high school there and later spent four years in the Navy where he became the Welterweight boxing champion of the Middle Pacific.

Before coming to North Carolina College, Jason worked as a semi-professional song and dance promoter which undoubtedly accounts, in part, for his versatility. During his freshman year he was a member of the boxing team; he also produced a highly successful show entitled "Night of Madness" which embraced all of "Bopdom," (an expression used to refer to a new type of music and all the accompanying DELIGHTFUL ANTICS

Squad, where his delightful antics and surprising acrobatics have been the highlight of many a football game. He successfully captures the school spirit and aids the students in doing so with his zestful and unique way of leading yells for the Eagles. He has helped pilot the student body spiritually through the football season and is now anxiously awaiting the basketball season.

Somewhat abashed, Jason admitted that his reasons for joining the Cheering Squad were a bit selfish. "I believe," he said, "that the Cheering Squad is the connecting link between the players and the spectators. Just as the quarterback calls the plays on the field, so the Cheering Squad calls the yells on the sidelines; and the psychological effect of a word of encouragement is well-known. When the fellows win a game, I like to feel as though I had an active part in it."

Jason, an English major, always finds time for his favorite hobby—reading. He started his own library and spends as much time as possible browsing through his books. His secret ambition is to write a great novel, and knowing him as we do, we don't doubt his success in this endeavor.



Season's Greetings

nineteen-50!

May your New Year's outlook be the brightest you've ever had! We hope to enjoy your continued friendship.

Student Council