

Robert Graves' Nausicaa—

Narrates 'True Account' Of Odysseus' Return

By CHARLES L. GITTENS

Homer's Daughter, a powerful story of adventure, romance, and intrigue written by Robert Graves, is based on a classic tale from the *Odyssey*, told entirely from a woman's angle. We have had other novels similarly adapted from the classics and history, including Mr. Graves' very remarkable *Hercules, My Shipmate* and although possibly not of comparable literary merit, Frank Yerby's excellent historical novels. But I do not know of any other in which the past, mythical or real, is so cleverly and fascinatingly brought to life.

In *Homer's Daughter* the action of the story — the framework — is centered around the story of "Nausicaa and the Suitors"; Princess Nausicaa herself tells us the story. And therein lies the phenomenal success of *Homer's Daughter*; for by letting Princess Nausicaa tell the story of Odysseus in her own words, Mr. Graves gives us a vivid, entertaining account of the events that took place in the far away kingdom of Elyman.



GITTENS

TRAVELING MINSTRELS

In classical times the Sons of Homer was a guild of traveling minstrels who claimed descent from the poet and went from city to city throughout Greece, Asia Minor, Sicily, Italy, and North Africa performing from their repertory of heroic sagas. They were a somewhat privileged group, and it was as an honorary (or self-named, so to speak) Daughter of Homer that Nausicaa undertook to write the *Odyssey*.

Nausicaa relates many of the events that occur in the *Odyssey*, beginning at Book VI when she encounters Odysseus on the Phaeacian shore after his turbulent struggle in the sea. The only difference is that her "Odysseus" is in reality Aethon, son of Castor, and Phaeacia is actually the kingdom of Elyman in Sicily. We must remember that Nausicaa lived through these events and is merely relating to us what actually happened — a sort of "you were there."

ROYAL ENTERTAINMENT

At times we find ourselves the royal guests of Princess Nausicaa, dining sumptuously on steaming joints of mutton, pork, and beef, sipping zealously on draughts of rich wine, as Demodocus, the Palace minstrel, entertains us with stories such as the familiar "Paris and the Golden Apple" affair. Or while lounging about the Palace, we overhear Gorgo the goose-herd enthraling a group of wide-eyed youngsters with an old-fashion-

ed story about her ancestor Sicanus and his experiences in the cave of a one-eyed giant. Nausicaa tells us that in her final version of the *Odyssey*, she changed the names of her living characters, giving them pseudonyms.

Although the adventures of Odysseus are well known to many of us, I will give something of an idea as to how Mr. Graves launches the story. At the beginning of the account Laodamas, Nausicaa's brother, leaves the kingdom in search of an amber necklace to satisfy the desires of his temperamental, shrewish wife. When Laodamas does not return after an extended absence, Nausicaa's father, the King (Alcinous), goes in search of the missing son. Her uncle, left as Regent of the land during the King's absence, is murdered in a plot to overthrow the throne. And Nausicaa finds herself in an extremely touchy situation, for she is left with only her two younger brothers, her mother, and her sister-in-law to save the kingdom from destruction.

MUST CHOOSE HUSBAND

And "here's the rub." Before leaving the land, the King had proclaimed that whoever paid a satisfactory bridge price would be accepted as Prince Nausicaa's suitor. No sooner does he set sail than a hundred and twenty

eligible wooers encamp themselves in the Palace banquet court and declare that they intend to stay until one of them is chosen by Nausicaa to be her husband. The story of their obnoxiousness and treachery—each is interested in the throne rather than the Princess—is well-known and follows Homer's account rather closely. (In Homer, of course, Odysseus returns to find Penelope besieged by the wooers.)

SHIP-WRECKED SAVIOR

It is in her hour of greatest need that a stalwart, handsome young man, who later proves to be Nausicaa's delivered, is miraculously washed ashore in a storm. With the help of the shipwrecked stranger, Princess Nausicaa plans and wages a most disastrous campaign against the unwelcomed wooers. What follows is an exciting—and quite as gory—as anything you have ever read. Here is where the intrigue and romance of the opular historical novel is at its height.

Anyone who has read Homer's *Illiad* and/or *Odyssey*, who has the slightest liking for Greek or Roman mythology (and we all do), or who just plain enjoys down-right good reading cannot afford to miss *Homer's Daughter*. This book is definitely the answer to the readers' invocation to the Muses.

Warfield Closes Lyceum Series With Superb Concert Performance

By A. V. ROTIDE

On the evening of March 30, the celebrated William Warfield strode onto the stage of B. N. Duke Auditorium and sang Mozart's *Mentre ti lascio*. Before he had finished singing this one song, everyone in the packed auditorium knew that he was in for an evening of rare musical entertainment.

It has been a long, long time since a baritone of Mr. Warfield's quality has appeared on the NCC concert stage, or we believe, any other concert stage. He possesses a voice so vibrantly rich that it gives one the delightful feeling of being so full of music that one's cup of pleasure is going to flow over.

HIGHLY ACCLAIMED

The first half of the concert was composed of the works of Mozart, Loewe, Mendelsson and Brahms. Warfield, with a few exceptions, sang these songs in German. The song that met with the greatest ovation during this section of the program was Purcell's *The Trumpet Tune* from "Dioclesions."

The second half of the program, with the exceptions of Ballantadel *Mondo: Ecco il mondo*, from "Mefistofele" by

Boito and *Aria-Vison Fugitive*, from "Herodiade" by Massenet included folksongs and spirituals. It was in these areas that Mr. Warfield found his true medium. Singing with great ease and deep feeling he captivated the audience to the point where they wished he would continue singing for hours more.

The ovations accorded Mr. Warfield are not often heard in B. N. Duke. While he sang encores, the delighted audience would burst into applause upon a song being announced or in the middle of a song.

"PORGY" AND ENCORES

Mr. Warfield, who was long the star of "Porgy and Bess," did two of the numbers from this show as encores. They were "It Ain't Necessarily So" and "I Got Plenty of Nothin'."

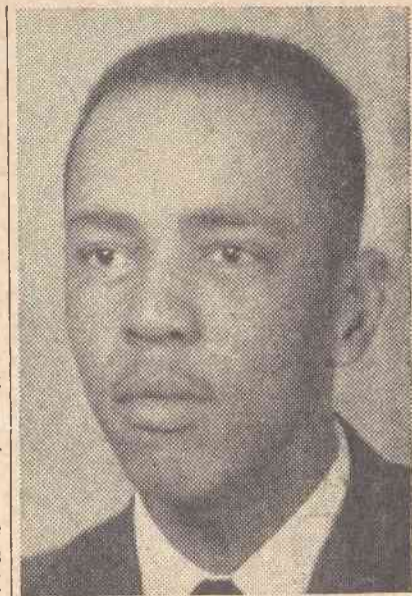
The last encore number that the superb artist did was "Ole Man River," the song that first brought him to the attention of the American public. And on this night, it doubtably brought him greater applause than any other song.

This was Warfield's first appearance at NCC. In fact, it was his first appearance in Durham.

Bowser Hailed As 'First Rate Guy'

By IONA CRAWFORD

The music assembly in the Administration Building was full of animated seniors excitedly talking about commencement plans. Standing over by a window was a serious looking student talking quietly to the secretary of the senior class. After a few minutes, he walked over to the platform, assumed the stage and called the meeting to order. This seemingly unassuming and quiet young man is Purcell R. Bowser, president of the senior class.



PURCELL R. BOWSER

Those who know Purcell know him as a guy who is not as quiet nor unassuming nor serious as a stranger might think he is. And every one on campus knows that he is friendly and has the qualities of good leadership.

Purcell emerged as a leader at Calvin S. Brown High School in Winton, North Carolina. When he graduated in June 1950, He had been president of the sophomore and senior classes, vice-president of the junior class, a member of the Crown and Scepter Club, and the New Farmers of America. Also active in sports, he is still remembered in Winton as a star football and basketball player.

Purcell, whose home is in Co-field, is a biology major and chemistry minor. That he is a good academic student can be determined by the fact that he

has been named to *Who's Who In American College's and Universities* and is a member of Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honorary Society. That he is active in extracurricular activities can be seen in his student government affiliations. He is vice-president of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Last year he was president of the "frat," and he is president of this year's graduating class.

This is the type of student that any school would be proud of and it gives the *ECHO* great pleasure to name Mr. Bowser as our Student of the Month.

Minister Says—

Christians Shouldn't Overdo It

By

REV. PRESTON N. WILLIAMS
College Minister

James Thurber tells the fable of a bear who frequently went on sprees of drunkenness and would come home at night in this condition, throw his weight around the house, break the furniture, frighten his children, and drive his wife to tears. Then one day he decided never to touch a drop again. Ever thereafter he would come home and demonstrate how fresh he still was at the end of the day and how vigorous his new manner of life had made him by doing gymnastic exercises in the living room, throwing his arms akimbo, thus again breaking the furniture, frightening his children, and driving his wife to tears. The moral of this tale is: It is better to fall flat on your face than to lean over backward too far.

THE PRE-EMINENCE OF CHRIST

Today it appears that the church is guilty of leaning over too far backward when it fails to proclaim the all-sufficiency of Christ in a society which has come to believe that any religion is all right just so it is a personal belief or opinion. If Christianity is to survive, it must seek to embrace the goal "That

in all things, He, Christ, might have the preeminence." To deny this goal is either to say Christianity is one among many religion and they are all equally true, or it is to say Christ is pre-eminent but only in matters of religion and not in the whole of life.

Both of these solutions are distasteful to the Christian. The first because it denies that Christianity possesses the truth; the second because it says that the truth possessed is limited and confined to only one aspect of life.

MUST HAVE ONE MASTER

If Christ is to be first in our life, we cannot have two or more masters. It becomes impossible for us to adopt or do anything purely upon the basis that everybody, society, or the cultured person is doing thus and so.

This is the way we ought to react as Christians. Nonetheless, we Christians too seldom act in such a manner. Instead, we abandon the habits of conduct, the attitudes of mind and heart which we learned in Christ, and adopt other ways of action and thought, not because we have found the former to be false Christian practices, but rather because society is against the Christian pattern of living and sanctions the other.

A CHRISTIAN'S DUTY

The true Christian never blandly casts aside his faith in order to embrace the latest fad, nor does he permit his faith to generate into a utilitarian device for the securing of some imagined idol; but he constantly uses his Christian faith as a God given standard by which he can test the truth and falsity of every aspect of society.

Christ pre-eminent means that the Christian stands not in the midst of society but partly outside of it, pointing out its failures and working to alter its (Turn to Page Ten)

FEARLESS FOSDICK
by AL CAPP

I'LL SAVE YOU, CHIEF!!

BUT—SOB—YOU RUINED MY SALE!! NOW HE DOESN'T NEED A HAIRCUT!!

BUT HE STILL NEEDS WILDROOT CREAM-OIL, ON WHAT'S LEFT!!

—AND, WHEN IT GROWS BACK, BE SURE TO CONDITION IT, THE NATURAL WAY, WITH WILDROOT CREAM-OIL, AMERICA'S FAVORITE!!

KEEPS HAIR NEAT, BUT NEVER—UGH!—GREASY!! RELIEVES DRYNESS!!

BUT MY NAME IS MISS PIMPLE-TON!!

GET WILDROOT CREAM-OIL, CHARLIE!!

WILDROOT CREAM-OIL HAIR TONIC

GROOMS THE HAIR BELIEVES DRYNESS REMOVES LOOSE DANDRUFF

WILBART CO., INC.

ONLY CREAM-OIL GROOMS AND CONDITIONS HAIR—THE NATURAL WAY!!—