

"If You're Woogie, Call Me Boogie"

By DEAN CHARLES G. VARDELL

CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of their appearance)

Wittie Bithers, organ student—
Mary Cash
Folly Sawbuck—Ivy Hixson
Nancy Lightenpower—Edith Kirkland
The May-day Chairman—Josephine Wible
Chorus of Stooges—Mary Coons, Va. Horton, Margaret Horton, Brona Nifong, Marie Van Hoy, Marjorie Roach, Hazel Horton Read, Margaret Simpson, Florence Neely, Sue Durham.
Pinkie Paul—Katharine Bonney
Ann Dies-Hard—Lucille Vest
Merrygrin Blows—Sarah Burrell
I. Represent Stack—Jess Byrd
Hazel Pluckem Shorter—Eleanor Guthrie
Julia Markova Barrett—Elizabeth Hamrick
Jimmy Lowjones—David Weinland
Tommy Hijones—Vincent Confer
Van Jackson—Francis Anscombe
George Flat-sharp—Kenneth Evett
Chorus of Co-eds—Campbell, Curlee, Jordan, McEwen, Weinlick
Three Little Failem Ghosts—Elizabeth Johnston, Marie Van Hoy, Elizabeth Hedgecock
The Little Red Man—Nell Starr
Six other Little Red Men—Mary Jones, Betsy Confer, Anna Perryman, Margaret Horton, Mary Coons, Catherine Adams
The Chief Marshal—Kate Pyron
Another Marshal—Katharine Bonney
The former May Queen—Lelia Graham Marsh
Henry, her husband—E. D. Snavelly
Her numerous family—Twins—
Ramona Rodgers and
Mary Frances Anglin
Ham Horton
Little Girl—Sarah Lytch
Baby—herself.
Dr. Rondthaler—himself
The May-court (6 girls and 6 co-eds from Act I ensembles)
The Herald—Charles Gildersleeve (the greater) Vardell
The Failem Academy Whiz Kids—
Merri N. Count, the mathematical mystic—Mary A. Weaver
Ophelia Hamlett, Shakespearean specialist—Laura Sumner
Wee Freshman—Rachel Conrad
Sallie Jeanne Singer, Sophomore songbird—Ann Stone
Whizzler Whirler, the Whiz-Miss—Hazel D. Wheeler
The Kickova Strollin' Ballet Ensemble—Rebecca Averill, Hazel Horton Read, Mary Cash, Sarah Burrell, Brona Nifong, Jane Hewitt, Roy Campbell, Noble McEwen.
Pages—Ivy Hixson and Grace Siewers
Fan Bearers—Sue Durham and Eloise Garwood.
The May Court—Jess Byrd, Venus Fairecloth, Margaret Simpson, Minnie J. Smith, Mary Ina Shamburger, Pearl V. Willoughby and Co-eds:
Act I is laid in Delirium Hall, Failem College; Act II at the Sign of the Coffee Pot on Main Street; Act III, same as Act I. Time: the dim and distant future.
ACT I
Delirium Hall. The stage is bare except for reading desk and chairs at r. One or two benches on the front of the center section are empty. Enter Wittie Bithers, organ student, to play the prelude for Assembly. She strikes up "Solomon Levi" on the organ. Enter the Chorus of Stooges, led by Folly Sawbuck down one aisle and Nancy Lightenpower down the other. Stooges take front seats, Folly and Nancy ascend the steps to the platform. Meanwhile, the May Day Chairman, armed with a gavel, has taken the presiding chair at r. Folly and Nancy flourish batons and lead the chorus of stooges in the
Opening Chorus (tune: (Solomon Levi))
Folly: My name is Folly Sawbuck, I sling a wicked beat,
Nancy: And I am Nancy Lightenpower, I can't control my feet.
Folly: We hope to whoop excitement up, our taste for pep is keen
Nancy: The first of May is on its way, and we must have a queen.
Chorus: Ray for the May Queen,

Trala-lalala-la
Cheers for the May Queen, Trala-lalala-la
Folly: O Failem is a college where beauty reigns supreme
Nancy: But when it comes to knowledge we just lick off the cream.
Folly: We have a bunch of platinum blondes and up-to-date brunettes
Nancy: So let's be gay and choose today the Queen of the Failem-ettes.
(Chorus: Ray for the May Queen, Trala, lalala, la
Cheers for the May Queen, Trala, lalala, la.
Oh, who do you wanta vote for, who do you wanta choose?
If I were just a Senior, I know I never could lose.
Who do you wanta vote for, who do you wanta pick?
We choose 'em fair, we choose 'em square.
Folly and Nancy (shouted): And nobody has a kick coming
Chorus: Nobody has a kick.
Song: May Chairman (Tune: "Buttercup")
I am the chairman,
You chose me the chairman,
My talents would make you turn green (thump, thump)
So bow to the chairman,
The chattering chairman,
My charms they would challenge the Queen. (thump, thump)
It's really a pity
To see my committee,
They cannot compete with my brain;
Their knowledge of music,
And drama makes you sick,
It's me that must stand all the strain.
Now in this election,
You'll make your selection,
You'll vote for the snazziest Queen,
She'll be the top pickin's
Of seven slick chickens
The smoothest that ever were seen.
So bow to the chairman
The chattering chairman
I'll run this election my way (thump, thump)
Make way for the chairman
You chose me the chairman
I'm bossing this show for today (thump, thump)
Chairman (from behind the reading desk. She can read this speech and most of the rest of her part:)
Stooges of Failem College (Cheers). Today we are gathered together to make the most important decision of the year; to select the most radiantly beautiful (thump), the most utterly fascinating (thump), the most utterly irresistible and and charming of all the Fair Flowerets of old Failem (thump, thump) AND to confer upon her the greatest and most refulgent honor that any scholastic institution can bestow upon any stooge (thump, thump, thump). In Short:
1st Stooze (interrupting) Whaddaya mean, in short?
2nd Stooze: Come on, sister, stop beatin' ya gums.
3rd Stooze: Let's get goin', I gotta go to Welfare's.
Chairman (raps vigorously): Silence in the Court. The next flip drip that opens her trap gets put in the elevator and sent upstairs to Pistol-pickin' Mama! (Resuming her speech). We are about to elect our May Queen, an honor in comparison to which the offices of President of the Senior Class, Head of the Stooze Government, President of Failem College, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Leading Campus Co-ed pale, fade, and wither away into pusillanimous insignificance. For the benefit of the Freshmen and the Co-eds. By the way, I don't see those co-eds. Does anybody know where they are?
Nancy Lightenpower: They were all having a pep meeting on the back campus when I came by after lunch.
Chairman: Miss Lightenpower, how often do you have to be reminded not to refer to the pleasure grounds of Failem College as the back campus?
Nancy: Pleasure grounds? Ha-ha! That gives me a big charge.
Chairman (gavel): Everything on this campus is to be called by its proper name, especially from the platform of Delirium Hall. For in-

stance, Miss Lightenpower did I not recently hear you, in a supposedly formal announcement from this very platform, refer to the Lower Recreation Room of the Sophronia Jackson Piffle Memorial Chemistry, Physics and Biology Laboratory as—heaven preserve us—in an awful voice)—Piffle-bottom!!!
1st Stooze: Come on, let's get goin'!
2nd Stooze: Get on with the election.
3rd Stooze: Make it snappy, I' gotta scam outa here.
Chairman: I don't like the idea of those co-eds having a pep meeting. What business have co-eds to show any pep around this campus?
Song—Nancy (Tune: "When you wore a Tulip")
Oh, where are the co-eds,
The cute little co-eds,
That make all our lives so bright,
We're fond of the small ones,
We love all the tall ones,
We pursue them day and night,
Ha-ha!
We can't do without them, we're crazy about them,
They do everything just right.
So where, oh where are the co-eds,
The cute little co-eds
That make all our lives so bright?
Ha-ha.
(Chorus repeats).
Chairman: And now, Stooges of Old Failem, hold up your hands. Do you solemnly promise, by the Snout of the Sacred Coffee-pot, by the Golden ball on the flagpole, at the Pinnacle of the Dromedary Building, AND by the southeast cornerstone of the Walk-over-you Bunk and Bust Co. to vote for your own particular friend and favorite as Queen of the Failem May—be she beautiful or be she ugly (thump), fat or thin (thump), bow-legged, pigeon-toed or knock-kneed (thump), black-headed, red-headed, towheaded or bald-headed (thump, thump, thump)
Chorus of Stooges (with hands extended)
Tune: "Georgia Camp-meeting"
We promise to vote for the Queen of the May
Away down in Failem.
She's gotta be cute and she's gotta be gay,
Away down on Failem Square.
A glamorous gal for a glamorous day,
Away down in Failem.
So don't be a meanie,
But vote for the queenie,
Queenie of the Failem May, Trla, da-da.
Folly: Queen, Queen, I'd certainly like to be,
Chorus: Tada-rada-lada-boom
Nancy: You can certainly see
Chorus: Tada-rada-lada-boom
Nancy: Ain't nobody like me.
Chorus: Tada-rada-lada-boom
Teedle-dee-dee
Chairman: Vote, vote, vote, you never can tell who'll be
Chorus: Tada (etc.)
Chairman: The campus beauty specific
Simply terrific.
Chorus: Queen of the Failem May. (Shouted) Boom!
(During chorus, half of the stooges, with hands extended, truck 16 steps to the right, the other half 16 steps to the left. At the word "vote" they turn and truck 16 steps back to their seats, sitting down suddenly on the word "Boom.") (Exit Folly Sawbuck to join the candidates. Nancy Lightenpower and the Chairman have donned caps and gowns. Nancy advances with a paper in her hand).
Nancy Lightenpower: Madame Chairman, I have the honor to present the following candidates for the degree M. Q.
Chairman: Did you say I. Q.?
Nancy L.: Not by a frog's eyebrow, M. Q., M. Q. I means something quite different.
Chairman: Well, read the list. (As the names are called the candidates enter. They are dressed in elaborate evening gowns. They walk and pose exaggeratedly, and line up for inspection. At each entrance there are cheers, jeers, whistles, and cat-calls from the stooges. Music.)
Nancy L.: (Reads with lots of

"oomph")
Miss Pinkie Paul
Miss Ann Dies-Hard
Miss Merrygrin Blows.
Miss I. Represent Stack
Miss Folly Sawbuck
Mrs. Hazel Pluckem Shorter ("Shaw-ta")
(before Hazel's entrance a harp is dragged in, behind which she poses, and which she begins to play with exaggerated arm-motions).
Chairman: That'll do, Hazel. This isn't Music hour, you know. (Hazel takes her place in the line, the harp is removed). All right, Nancy, are there any more?
Nancy: I'll say there's another one. (dramatically): MISS JULIA MARKOVA BARRETT. (Enter Julia. She wears a short white evening dress with ballet slippers. Ballet music. Her entrance is that of a prima ballerina. She does a short pas seul).
Chairman: Let the candidates for the degree M. Q. DRAW NEAR, and do their stuff. (Julia leads a promenade of the candidates around the stage and perhaps down the aisles and through the audience. As they return to their places, the music merges into the next song. As the song begins, a large box labeled Ballot Box, with a hinged cover and a slot, is brought out and placed in the center of the stage. During the song the chorus of stooges, dividing, ascend the stage from the two sides. One line passes in front of the box, the other line behind it. Stooges drop ballots, continuing in line in the opposite direction and descending steps on the opposite side from which they ascended.)
Song, Chairman, Nancy, Stooges and Candidates
(Tune: "Alexander's Rag-Time Band")
Come on and vote
Come on and vote
Come on and sing a rag-time note
It's in the bag
It's in the bag
We want a queen and not a hag.
She must walk and talk like a Boogie-woogie big-time May Queen
Come on and vote
Come on and vote
Come on and cast your rag-time vote.
(Repeat ad. lib until chorus is once more seated on the front benches). (At the close of the voting song, a disturbance is heard in the lobby. Enter, down the aisle, the chorus of Co-eds in procession, carrying signs such as:
"Co-eds Independent Organization, "We Want Representation,"
"Vote for an," and, prominently, "Why not a May King.")
Chorus of Co-eds (Tune: "Hail, Hail")
Hail! Hail! the gang's all here
Listen to the co-eds!
Come and join the co-eds.
Hail! Hail! the gang's all here
Come and join the co-eds now.
(The song is repeated as the co-eds come down the aisle, mount the stage, and confront the chairman, who raps for order)
Song: May Day Chairman (Tune: "My dreams are getting better")
Just whadda you mean, you measly men, by a stunt like this,
You boys are getting bolder all the time.
Get out of this place, shut up, go home and mind your biz,
You boys are getting bolder all the time.
I cannot imagine any one as stupid as you can be,
You're surely the very dumbest clucks that ever a girl did see,
The President ought to turn you over his royal knee
You boys are getting bolder all the time.
(Jimmy Lowjones steps out. He is spokesman for the co-eds.)
Song: Jimmy Lowjones (Tune: "I Want a Girl")
We want a king, we want a king
To rule the Failem May.
Don't want a queen, won't have a queen
We'll chase the queen away.
We've joined the union and we'll

have you learn
That some sweet day the lowly worm will turn,
We want a king,
We'll have a king.
To rule the Failem May. (Chorus repeats)
Chairman: Do you have the audacity to stand there and tell me that you miserable worms are nominating a candidate for the position of May King?
Jimmy Lowjones: I mean just exactly that!
Chairman: In addition to, or in opposition to, the elected Queen.
Jimmy Lowjones (oratorically): In opposition, competition, rivalry, resistance, contravention, counteraction and utter supersedence to, for, of and against the elected Queen. vernacular again). Besides, she ain't elected yet.
Chairman: But she is elected, and it's all over but counting the votes. So shut up and go on home.
Jimmy Lowjones: We won't shut up, and we won't go home until we have presented our candidate and voted for him.
Chairman: Your candidate. Just which one o' you drips do you think could be elected May King of Failem College?
Jimmy Lowjones: Stand forth, Van Jackson. (cheers, jeers, catcalls, whistles).
Song: Van Jackson (Tune: "My object all sublime")
I want to be the king
I've got to be the king
Wherever I go, I'll have you know
I always am the king.
Such regal majes-tye
Is flushing from me eye,
It surely is a natural thing,
To want to be the king!
Chorus: It surely is a natural thing,
To want to be the king.
Van: I walk just like a king, I talk just like a king,
I frown and scowl, and bellow and howl,
Exactly like a king.
And when I snore at night, My subjects all take fright.
I snort and moan and grunt and groan
Precisely like a king.
Chorus: He snorts and moans and grunts and groans
Precisely like a king.
Van: You've always had a queen,
A nimini-pimini queen.
A look-like-lily, walk-down-the-hilly, Mannequin panick'em queen.
So is it very strange, That we should want a change?
Then vote for me, and I will be a hotsy-totsy king.
Chorus: Then vote for he and he will be, A hotsy-totsy king.
(During the song the co-eds cast their votes, led by Tommy Hijones, who goes out as soon as his vote is cast).
Chairman: You boys haven't got a Chairman's chance.
Jimmy Lowjones (nastily): You mean a chairman's chance, don't you?
Chairman: You're no gentleman!
Jimmy Lowjones: Oh, count the votes, count the votes.
(He and the chairman advance to the ballot box; the other co-eds and the candidates crowd around them. Just as they open the box, Tommy Hijones comes rushing in).
Tommy Hijones: Girls, the most wonderful thing has happened!
All the Girls: What?—Tell us!—What in the world! etc.
Tommy Hijones: You'd never guess!
Girls: Go on, tell us! I'm so excited. Spill it! etc.
Tommy Hijones: Who'd a' thought it?
Girls (continue their exclamation and crowd around Tommy. The ballot box is forgotten).
Tommy Hijones: Gather round and listen.
Song: Tommy (Tune: "I got Shoes")
I got news, You got news,
All Failem stooges got news,
Come an' gather 'round an' lemme tell you my news,
You're gonna think you're head-in' for heaven
Chorus: Heaven,
Tommy: Heaven!
Everybody wants a pair an'
Nobody's got a pair. Heaven!
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