

Rogers Is Serious, Easygoing Folksinger

By SONIA MIZELL

The first impression of Gamble Rogers, the man, is that he is very serious, intelligent and quite deep in his thinking. As a folksinger, he maintains an easygoing air with a beautifully developed wry wit.

Gamble Rogers was the guest entertainer last week at the Green Garter coffee house. Mr. Rogers is on tour in a circuit of several colleges and universities in this area in connection with the Coffee House circuit. Before coming to UNC-C, he was at Bellerme College in Louisville, Kentucky and he goes next to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

As a true folksinger, Gambler Rogers has definite ideas about what folksinging really is. "I think most serious folk songs represent some kind of attempt at the narrative of something important to people. A lot of folk songs are like epic poems that didn't make it as poems, but have been sung by generations of people. We don't have an Odyssey or an Iliad like the Greeks, but we do have John Henry, Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill. The stories that sprung up about them are our stories," comments Mr. Rogers. Why are folksongs kept alive? "Folksongs have to be entertaining and amusing enough that people enjoy them for the amusement, but folk songs are kept because they clarify life for people," continues Gamble Rogers.

Mr. Rogers defines his approach to folk singing as southern. He says that the most sophisticated form of American folk songs comes

from the South. This southern music is "Talking Blues Folk." It allows the use of serious poetry. The Negroes use this form of singing the most.

When asked who he considers to be the master of folk music, Mr. Rogers mentioned several: Merle Travis, Robert Frost, Doc Watson and Mose Allison. "Here," he says, "we have a North Carolina poet, jazz pianist, New England poet, and country and western singer."

As a folksinger, Mr. Rogers says that his favorite type of audience is one where he and the audience are sharing an appreciation of something bigger. This compares with his statement that Bellerme College in Kentucky has been his favorite place to visit and perform so far. Here, the students in the audience were spirited and presented a tough challenge. Accordingly, he had to change his show to accommodate their special interests. They were strongly individualistic and had a surprisingly large amount of good musicians and poets in their num-

bers. By the time he left there, he was doing two shows a night, himself, then three or four singers and poets would get up and read this works. He even read some of his own poetry to them. Again, Mr. Rogers mentioned that he liked them because they challenged him and had their own ideas and talent. "That coffee house ended up in the utmost way -- with community contributors. Even some of the teachers read their poetry and sang," said Gamble Rogers.

Throughout his entire performance, Gamble Rogers showed a remarkable adeptness with his guitar. He has been studying the guitar for about fifteen years, and in the form of a true artist he continues to learn. At the present time he is widening his field of interest by studying jazz.

Although he studied architecture for several years in Florida, Gamble Rogers plans to continue his career in folk singing. He feels that folk music affords him a better chance of personal expression.



"I'M SORRY TO CALL OFF OUR DATE, WORTHAL. -- I -- STOP IT, FREDDY -- HAVE TO STUDY TO-NITE."

Rogues Editor, Staff Attend Conference

Rogues 'n Rascals editor Candy Kimbrell and staffers Cindy Texler and Sandra Brantley attended the Associated Collegiate Press Conference in Chicago during October 19-21.

The conference is designed to help staffs improve their publications and provides ample opportunity for staffs to have their questions answered by some of the leading authorities in the publications field.

In addition to publication improvement, workshops and campus problems sessions, ACP initiated a high powered session on "Free Press and Fair Trial," with a panel comprising some of

the country's leading authorities on this controversial press and social problem.

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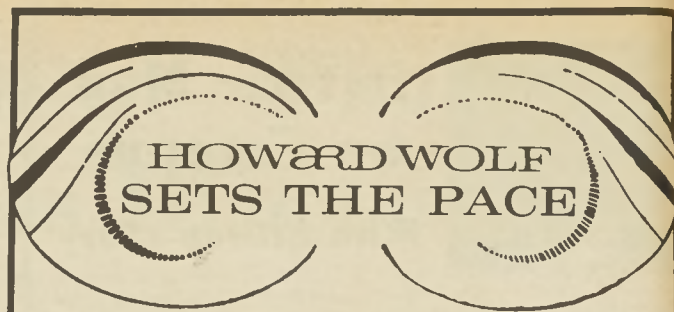
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