

Publicity "Stunts"?

by Betty Barnes

Do you ever wonder why there's a typewriter on Vardell II that never seems to stop typing? Do you wonder who could be calling each time the telephone rings and what so many people could possibly want to know? Do you wonder what's happening when you hear the steady (or not so steady) rhythm of the addressograph, the chatting of soft (or not so soft) voices, the snip-snip of the scissors as twine is being cut, and the gentle (or not so gentle) thump of little packages into a large box? If you have been wondering about these sounds then we'd like to encourage you to continue reading this article. We'd like to explain these sounds to you and in so doing, introduce you to a real hub of activity called the Publicity Office and to its director, Mrs. Walter Bullock.

One major area of our work in the Publicity Office is connected with the Alumnae Association of the college. We have on file the names and current addresses of over four thousand graduates of F. M. C. Keeping the lists of addresses up to date for those many alumnae is a fulltime job in itself.

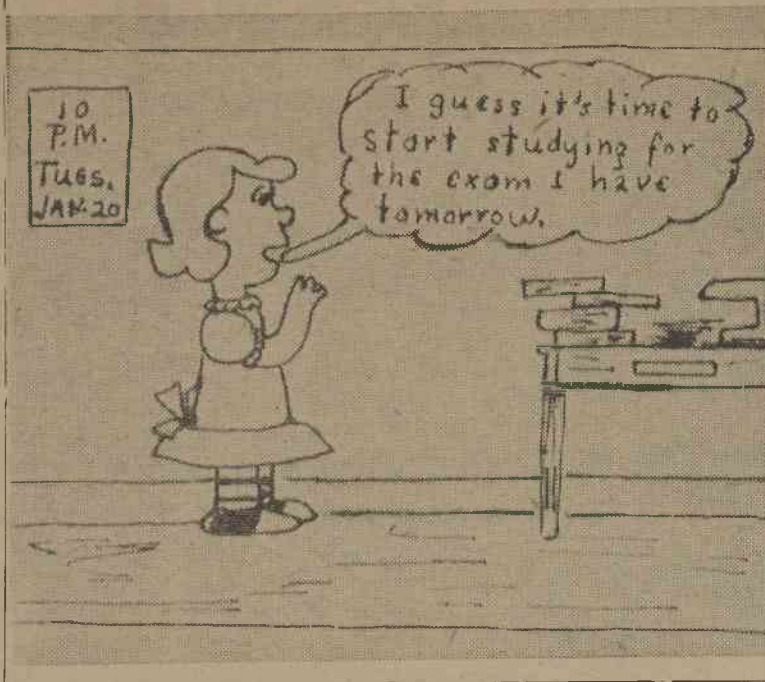
Requests from the alumnae are frequent and varied. Whether its helping someone trace a "lost" roommate who seems to have changed her name as well as her address, preparing a lengthy list of current addresses for a class president who wants to plan a reunion, or sending information to an alumna's seventh grade daughter who is writing a research paper on Flora Macdonald, Mrs. Bullock carefully considers each request and does her best to fill it.

In order to keep the alumnae up-to-date on college activities and vice-versa, Mrs. Bullock prepares an alumnae bulletin which is published four times a year. It is during the addressing and mailing of these bulletins that you notice so much extra activity in the Publicity Office. After the bulletins are addressed, they are tied in bundles and labeled according

to states or cities. Getting the bulletins ready for the press and then, some days later, getting them in the mail is a major task for Mrs. Bullock and the staff. But it all seems more than worthwhile when we receive letters from enthusiastic alumnae telling us how much they look forward to and enjoy reading the bulletins.

There are other important activities going on at this same time in the Publicity Office. Many news and feature stories are being sent every week to state, county, and local papers about activities of the college, administration, and individual or groups of students. From the arriving of new and old students in the fall to the graduation of the last senior in June, and then through the summer months, Mrs. Bullock is alert to opportunities for news and feature stories for F. M. C. Before every Concert Series, she and the staff are busy sending informational circulars to many interested friends in the area. Prior to faculty and senior recitals, Mrs. Bullock sends announcements, and afterwards, more complete write-ups. Copies of many of the newspaper articles are clipped out and put in a scrapbook which serves as further record of our activities. Many pictures that have been taken for the College catalogue or the newspapers are in the office files. On several occasions, news articles have been used by the Associated Press.

Getting an "inside look" at F. M. C. makes us on the staff more appreciative of our college, its past history, its present activities and yes, its future plans. This year's staff members, Linda Phillips, Jane Lowe, and Betsy Caruth join me in a real big tip of the hat to Mrs. Bullock who does such a grand job of keeping our college in a rise of publicity.



This Is Your Opinion

by Kelsey McGee

"The Skirl's" poll question, "What is your opinion about having a gossip column in the paper?" was chosen to help us, the staff, to get the ideas of the student body on the subject.

"The Fly on the Wall" was written as an experimental column. Its authorship was not kept secret to protect anyone but to add the spice of mystery to it, and the author was to be revealed at the close of the year.

Ann Poe: "It's like this . . . I think we get enough gossip up and down the halls. Advertisers and other "outsiders" receive copies of our publication and form opinions of us . . . If you want to have gossip, why not pass out a mimeographed sheet weekly?"

Dotty Stone: "I don't like 'em, 'cause usually by the time it gets published, it's stale. 'Course, everybody would get the same version. (Thank you, Poe!)"

Gail Galloway: "We have enough gossip around in the school without having a gossip column."

Barbara Peek: "I think it is a good idea in a way. People enjoy it because sometimes it is right amusing, which also has something to do with the way in which it is reported. I enjoy reading it."

Janet Cox: "I think it's all right if it's kept on a light level and isn't used to slam someone. People can get embarrassed or hurt by some things which are printed about them."

Lily Harper: "I do not think we should have a gossip column because gossip spreads fast enough and by the time it reached the columnist, it would already be old."

Betty Lou Blackwell: "I couldn't care less about the whole subject. There are enough two-faced people without adding more coals to the fire."

Bet Thompson: "I think it'd be great! I could fill it up."

Frances Morton: "I think a college newspaper is the place for other things besides gossip. A college paper should contain items of more vital interest."

Dina Brown: "I think it's good as long as people can take it tongue-in-cheek."

Alma Harrell: "I think it's cute. We always used to look forward to seeing each other's names in the high school paper."

Mr. Robert Clifton: "The girls find it interesting and most of them read it, but I think it is rather high schoolish. You'll find that a lot of college papers don't have anything of that sort and most high school papers do."

Dean Query: "I don't think it would be much of a gossip column if it could be quoted in the paper."

Bud Johnson: "Unless the author of 'Fly on the Wall' is willing to doff his or her shady cloak of subtlety and don the bright cloak of integrity, I think the column should be discontinued."

"The Skirl" staff wishes to thank these people for voicing their opinions on this subject. It is hoped that the decision which is reached by the staff will have the approval of the readers of the "Skirl".

Calendar of Events

January

Tuesday 20— Reading Day. Wednesday 21-28— 1st semester final exams. Thursday 29— Registration for 2nd semester Friday 30— Classes resumed.

February

Sunday 1— U. T. S. drama team presents "The Prodigal" at Presbyterian Church. Friday 6— Mr. John Williams recital. Saturday 7— Possible basketball game at State and Student Council movie. Tuesday 10— Thursday 12— Spiritual Enrichment Week, Vespers 6:40 nightly. Thursday 12— Dr. Vardell's birthday. Tuesday 17— Founders Day chapel program. Thursday 19— Dining hall girls banquet. Friday 20— Concert: Les Chanteurs de Paris.

March

Monday 2— Miss Joyce Bryant's

More About Conservatory Notes

coming totally deaf. After this, all communication with him was carried on by writing for which purpose he always had a book of rough paper with a stout pencil at hand. He died in Vienna, March 26, 1827.

On Monday evening, January 12, 1959, the Tichman Trio, an ensemble of three noted young artists presented a program of major classical, romantic, and contemporary chamber music works written for the combination of clarinet, 'cello, and piano. This trio has toured for several years throughout the musical centers of Europe, and has won international fame for performance of trio arrangements of the great masters.

Mr. Skinner attended the annual Convention of the National Association of Teachers of Singing which was held at the Commodore Hotel in New York City, December 27 through 30. Highlights of the convention were a Metropolitan Opera performance of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly", the Broadway musical, "The Bells are Ringing," starring Judy Holiday, and a concert given by Margaret Harshaw, the new Wagnerian soprano at the Met.

Speakers appearing on the convention's panel were Nicholas Solernsky, musical editor of Encyclopedia Britannica, and various personalities associated with opera in America.

Of special interest to Mr. Skinner was a choral demonstration by Harry Robert Wilson of Teachers' College at Columbia University. He was assisted by The Batin High School Girls' Chorus of Elizabeth, New Jersey.

recital. Thursday 5— Friday 6— Christian Education Seniors' Field Trip to Richmond. Monday 9— Saturday 15— Red Springs' Religious Emphasis Week. Saturday 15— A. A. informal dance. Wednesday 18— Tuesday 24— Mid-semester testing period. Saturday 21— Home Concert of Choral Club. Wednesday 25 (noon)— Tuesday 21— Spring Recess.

April

Wednesday 1— Classes resume. Friday 3— Mid-semester grades due. Wednesday 8— Saturday 11— Annual Spring tour of Choral Club.

May

Saturday 2— May Day. Thursday 21— Reading Day. Friday 22— Friday 29— Final exams. Saturday 30— Alumnae Day. Sunday 31— Baccalaureate Sermon.

June

Monday 1— Commencement.

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