



the Mars Hill College

Hilltop

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MARS HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

November 23, 1968

New 'Miss Laurel' Begins Reign



Happiness, excitement and joy radiated in the face of Cynthia Ann Dixon, senior from Vernon Hill, Va., immediately after she was crowned "Miss Laurel of 1969" in the annual campus beauty pageant Monday night. The 21-year-old beauty is studying toward a Bachelor of Music Education degree and hopes to become a music teacher. Cynthia is the first senior to be chosen as "Miss Laurel" since the Laurel began holding the pageants and using "Miss America" standards of judging back during the 1965-66 school year. One of her predecessors was classmate Pam Culler, who was "Miss Laurel of 1967."

With Sally Spaulding and Dan Hayes serving as Master and Mistress of Ceremonies, "A Moment to Remember," the 1969 Miss Laurel Pageant, ended with the crowning of Cynthia Ann Dixon, a senior, as the new Miss Laurel.

Judges for the annual pageant were Mr. and Mrs. Alex B. Myers of Greenville, S. C., Mr. and Mrs. Tuck Gudger of Asheville, and Mr. John Kiriakides of Greenville. They interviewed all the contestants Sunday afternoon in the Faculty Lounge.

Following the introduction of the judges the pageant swung into the street clothes competition and, from there, moved swiftly into the talent presentations after which Bob Sparks, accompanied by the Stage Band, sang the theme song. The contestants presented talent programs in a spectrum that ranged from an original skit to a tap dance. The fifteen contestants, in order of appearance were: Mary Ann Fentress, Jarvis House; Norma Lynette Vaughn, Humphrey Home Management House; Elizabeth Marie Bennett, Freshmen; Delores Marie Deal, Juniors; Donna Jean Culler, Spil-

man; Anita Katherine Coggin, Huffman; Janet Parrish Lester, Sophomores; Nancy Carolyn Harrison, Fox; Constance Ann Henderson, Brown; Phyllis Ann Dorn, Moore; Cynthia Ann Dixon, Melrose; Janice Anne Gellak, Myers; Myra Rose Smith, Stroup; Nancy Maria Hunt, Treat; and Suzanne Bussey, Seniors. Anita Katherine Coggin was awarded the Most Talented Non-Finalist Trophy and tied with Myra Rose Smith for Miss Congeniality. This is the first year an award has been given to the most talented non-finalist.

The five finalists were: Donna Jean Culler, Nancy Carolyn Harrison, Cynthia Ann Dixon, Janice Anne Gellak and Myra Rose Smith. They each answered a question of vital political, religious or social importance to today's world after which the judges made their final decision.

Janice Anne Gellak was first runner-up with Cynthia Ann Dixon becoming the 1969 Miss Laurel.

Following the pageant a reception was given for the new Miss Laurel in the Faculty Parlor.

Operas Given

The Mars Hill College Opera Workshop presented "An Evening of Opera" Friday night, November 22, in Spainhour Hall under the direction of Douglas Therrell.

The first segment of the evening's program was a hilarious scene from the traditional opera, *The Marriage of Figaro*, by Mozart. Virginia Brassell won the hearts of the listeners as enterprising Susanna while Cynthia Ann Dixon captured the imagination of the audience as the young, confused and easily excited Cherubino. The part of the sophisticated Count Almaviva was played by James Hayes. The comic role of Basilio was very well played by William Gardner. An aria from the opera was well-performed by Janet Van Proyen.

A more dramatic production, *The Consul*, by Gian-Carlo Menotti, was next on the program. This very sorrowful scene was performed well by Virginia Brassell, Peggy Robinson and Roger Williams.

At this particular point on the program, William Gardner thrilled the audience with an aria from the opera *Rigoletto* by Menotti, "Questa o quello per me pari sono." Roger Williams and Cynthia Dixon presented a scene from *The Old Maid and The Thief* with remarkable credibility.

Janet Van Proyen and Kin Goble performed *The Telephone*, a one-act opera by Menotti.

—Jim Hayes

1-Act Plays Set Dec. 6-7

Two one-act dramas authored by two Mars Hill students are now being rehearsed in preparation for presentation to the public on Dec. 6-7. "The Star-Crossed Lover or Gond With the Wind," written by Tim Ellmore, is designated to poke fun at TV westerns with the characters for the most part being one-dimensional caricatures of the familiar western stereotype. Leading characters in the play will be played by Dan Hayes, Brick Tilley and Deborah Compton.

"Murphy's Last Stop," by Brick Tilley, is a horse-race plot with a twilight zone atmosphere. Characters in the drama will be played by Jim Johnstone, Rick Garrison, Teddy Cassells and Tim Ellmore.

Both plays were originally written as classroom assignments. "The Star-Crossed Lover or Gone With the Wind," will be under the direction of Mr. Thomas, while "Murphy's Last Stop" will be under the direction of Mr. Holcomb, both of the Drama Department.

Both plays were taken to Chapel Hill recently for a statewide drama workshop headed by Paul Green and Sam Selden. Both men are nationally and internationally known playwrights and authorities on drama. After the December presentation in the Owen Building, the plays may be performed in Asheville's Brandywine Theatre in the Manor House.

Shipment of Laurel Copy Goes to Press

Late April and the dedication of the 1969 college yearbook, The Laurel, may seem like a distant incident to most students; but to the staff of the annual it has a special significance associated with the dates Nov. 15, Dec. 15, Jan. 15 and Feb. 15.

Those are the deadlines for copy for the 1969 edition. The first one, which called for 50 pages of copy, pictures, headlines and layouts, was successfully met last week.

Included in the first shipment to the printer, Keys Printing Co. of Greenville, S. C., were the pages of the four class sections. The job of alphabetizing, sorting by class, labeling and logging in position on the dummy sheets more than 1200 pictures required much hard work by Editor Carol

Chandler, Hays Goodrum, Mat Graham and others of the staff.

In addition to including the pictures of 1195 students and 152 faculty and staff, there was a difficult job of listing the names of another 171 persons not pictured. Thus, all students, all administrative and faculty personnel, and all staff members normally listed in the college catalog will be included in the book either by picture or by name.

An interesting note on subsequent work to be done on the book is that the third deadline falls during the Christmas holidays. It will be necessary, therefore, for the staff to assemble 100 more pages of copy by Dec. 15. This will present some difficult problems. The editor and other staff members, however,

have expressed confidence that the job will be done and the book will be delivered on schedule late next April.

Upward Bounders On Campus Today

Fifty-five Upward Bound students will arrive on campus today to meet their assigned "buddies" (MHC students), discuss *Hobbit*, tour the campus and to meet in tutor-counselor groups to discuss Saturday programs as well as the Upward Bound program for next summer.

All this is an attempt on the part of Upward Bound to offer friendship and counseling services to high school students in this area.

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