Follies Revives Semicentennial

By ANNE WATTS

“The Grody Years,” a motley production, will be staged on December 14 and 15, in Hamman Hall, under the aegis of the Class of ’63.

Although considered a unit in the series of annual cultural offerings traditionally designated Senior Follies, “The Grody Years” celebrates a higher distinction: It shares in the Semi-centennial Academic Festival.


Charlie Dent, a substantial figure in the art world, directs “The Grody Years.” (Dent draws funny cartoons and directed the PALS Burlesque last year.)

Justin Kidd, scholar and veteran of Players productions, is the integrationist for Follies. (Kidd makes it one big lump instead of lots of little lumps.)

Crawling out of the lump is Goodman Beaver, a character so major that he’s played by two people: young by Jim Campbell and old by Giles Bumpas.

BEAVER IS A public relations man who becomes president of a Great University. “The Grody Years” commemorates the centennial of that university, stressing Beaver’s role.

Act I, a tale told by Goodman Beaver, treats fancifully the upbringing of founder William Marsh Rice. Young Rice, played by Sandy Parkerson, is born during Scene II. Mother Rice (Barbara Barrow) and Father Rice (Continued on Page 8)
FOLLIES--

(Continued from Page 1) 

(Jim Peden) are featured in Scene I.

PLAYING WITH dramatic licentiousness, "The Grody Years" anachronistically pretends Young Rice lived his first 21 years in a Skinner Box. Early nurse and later wife Elizabeth Baldwin (Elizabeth Vickrey) describes the box as a psychological contraption to control the babe's environment "and keep him from growing up to be repulsive."

He grows up to found the Rice Institute.

ACT II TELLS the Goodman Beaver story—how he came to Rice and what he wrought. Goodman's job was to make Rice students palatable to the public. He couldn't do it, so he covered the campus with a plastic dome—and kept real people out.

When the Anti-Sin Society, a herd of little old ladies led by Edie Cherry as Hortense, visits Rice in Act III, Beavers' image crumbles.

FOLLIES WAS written on a share-the-blame basis by Carol Childress, Justin Kidd, Barbara Barrow, Bill Haase, and Anne Watts. Ann Lassiter made occasional suggestions.

Dottie De Moss, business manager, and Meredith Ingram, director of advertising, predict "a tremendous financial success."

Tickets, on sale at the RMC and at the door, are $1 for the Friday performance which begins at 8 p.m., and $1.25 for the Saturday one which begins at 7:30 p.m.

You do not have to be a senior to attend.