



Photo by Bob Johnson

Preservation Hall Jazz Band kicked off Halloween night with two hours of New Orleans jazz. Kit Thompson's hot trumpet and antics in the aisle provided entertainment for a large audience. Mouse and the Boys played for a dance held at McKenna Armory after the concert.

# Jazz Band Leaves Audience Disappointed

by jwright

Kit Thompson's Preservation Hall Jazz Band wedged itself narrowly between "Eye of the Cat" and Mouse and the Boys. The audience unfortunately spent most of the two hours either perched on the edge of their seats waiting for its end or in a state of semi-sleep.

As with most concerts in the Chapel, Preservation Hall was what you made of it. It was nearly impossible to take advantage of the talent offered when more than an elbows length distance was put between the band and the crowd. Many were disappointed from the offset that they did not immediately enwrap the staunch Chapel in soul from the opening number (Algiers Stomp).

As this was not the road group which appeared last year it is unfair to compare them. The rhythm, the mellowed tones and shrill notes, the deep blues soul was prevalent if looked for. Particularly in Dark Town Strutter's Ball, Bill Bailey, Kit Thompson's Boogie Woogie and Panama Rag. The problem was it just didn't grab you out of your seat.

Reaction was nil yet the septegenarians were the finest of musicians. Manuel Paul on sax blew the shrill sweet notes of Big Lunch Blues, among others. While Albert Burbank on clarinet and Kit Thompson took their solo turns in the finest style. Trombone Lewis Nelson clowned around on the far left end but handled his respective solo slides with ease. Charlie Hamilton on piano opened "Hindustani" as if it were a rock ballad then swang into the blues format of doing one's own thing within the restrictive nature of the group.

This was one noted weakness. Much of the traditional jam session was lost in the Mercer amplifications system

which should be shot before the concert series goes any further.

The only way to get into the music which merged into variations of sameness as the end of the first half was to stomp, clap (accompanied by stares), sway and sing. Most of the selections were valid jazz numbers but they didn't ring any bells of recognition with most of the audience. Thus the total impression of monotony which could have been thwarted by an understanding of New Orleans Jazz itself.

To account for Preservation Hall's lack of spontaneity is the loss of their drummer (replaced by Ellex Bigard) the night before. They were terrific musicians but as far as possessing the charisma to draw the crowd into the mood they missed the boat at Mercer. (Sorry to say, the excellence of age isn't enough).

Preservation Hall's headquarters are in New Orleans in an ancient mansion approached by an alley built in 1750 which has been used in its time as an apartment house, art gallery, tavern and today as a walk-in

music hall dedicated to the preservation of authentic jazz. Out of the context of continuously flowing music and in-and-out stream of humanity this road group consisting of drums, sax, trombone, clarinet, piano and trumpet lost much of the essence and the nitty-gritty earthiness of black music on the formally bedecked and sensually restricted audience.

Down to the last three numbers Preservation Hall didn't project anything but well structured music. Only a toe or a baby finger were caught tapping most of the time.

For those who know and love "Tiger Rag," "In the Mood," and "When the Saints Go Marching In" Kit Thompson's march down the center aisle - with white baby bonnet, black face shining and trumpet in hand - was a red-palmed, hand-clapping experience.

Bring back Preservation Hall's touring companies for a third engagement but cram them into 314 C.S.C. Put them back in their authentic soul-filled corner.

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## Fraternity Profile

# SAE Observes Centennial

by Vivian Southwell

A centennial is an occasion for celebration in any group of people, and the Georgia Psi Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, founded September, 1870, can be especially proud of its one hundredth year of activity at Mercer. The twenty-second of one hundred-seventy-one SAE chapters established in the United States, Mercer's SAE brotherhood is recognized as one of the finest in the nation.

This is exemplified by the choice of Mercer's SAE president Charlie Witzleben as one of four undergraduates selected nationally for the faculty of SAE's annual Leadership School.

Plans are already underway for the big centennial celebration to be held March 6 and 7, 1970. Brothers are contacting past presidents, and a barbecue will be held November 18 at the lodge for Macon Alumni.

The National President, Executive Secretary, and Eminent Supreme Chronicler will be on hand for the spring events, which include class reunions, a golf tournament, a luncheon, cocktail party, and banquet at which Paul B. Jacob, Jr., National President will speak. The two-day affair will be featured in the August 1970, Record, SAE's national newspaper.

Mercer's SAE best reflects the progressive spirit of the

national organization in its Juvenile Rehabilitation Program. This new year-long project involves co-operating with the Macon Baptist Association to help twenty boys, ages nine to fifteen, adjust and feel socially accepted after being in detention homes.

The brothers have visited the boys and their parents in their homes and have brought the boys to the SAE lodge for informal recreation and help with schoolwork. Each pledge and his Big Brother are responsible for one boy. A cook-out for the twenty boys is planned, with Thanksgiving and Christmas parties anticipated.

Also, SAE's go to the detention home weekly to become acquainted with other young boys who may soon need help readjusting. The fraternity hopes to eventually have each brother in charge of one younger boy, in order to promote more personal relationships.

This rehabilitation program is SAE's entry in the National Community Service Project competition, involving all SAE chapters nationwide. The winning chapter receives one thousand dollars, as does the winning chapter's school.

## Sigma Alpha Epsilon



Mercer University

When asked about the role of SAE as an active campus fraternity, President Charlie Witzleben replied that he regarded it as an "educational experience." SAE tries to provide opportunities for learning that are relevant to the brothers, as well as to provide social and athletic opportunities. The pledges voted to have a three-hour study hall Sunday through Thursday nights.

The varied interests of the brothers are evident with members of SAE participating in almost every aspect of campus life.

## RWGA Sets Plans For This Year

At the RWGA meeting Nov. 3 programs for the coming year were discussed. Many of these programs will be open to the entire student body. A committee has been established to discuss the resolutions passed at the LAWS and the possibility of presenting a debate on one or two of those that are most relevant to the Mercer student. The Christmas committee hopes to make Christmas at Mercer a time of community and meaning for all women-students.

Plans for next quarter include Women's Week and a day of information for involvement. Tentatively all organizations and opportunities for services will be presented in displays with members available to give information about the organization and how to get involved.

## Scabbard and Blade Announces Members

Scabbard and Blade President Glenn Kirbo announced today that seven bids had been extended and accepted as new members in the military honor society of Scabbard and Blade. The new members are Kyle Carter, Ted Edwards, John Gifford, James Norman, Roger Rizk, Lamar Sizemore, and Bob Daniels.

The Scabbard and Blade is the nation's highest honorary cadet military leadership society. The active membership of the society is limited to the advance course ROTC cadets.

Its purpose is to unite in closer relationship the military departments of American colleges and universities, to preserve and develop the essential qualities of good and efficient officers, and to prepare the members, as educated men, to take a more active part in the communities where they reside.

The national Society of Scabbard and Blade was organized in 1904 at the University of Wisconsin. The Chapter at Mercer was organized as Company "H", 9th Regiment, on December 13, 1950.



Glenn Kirbo congratulates two new members of Scabbard and Blade. They are James Norman (left) and John Gifford (center).

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