

# The Mercer Cluster

Published weekly during the college year by the students of Mercer

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### FRATERNITY METHODS

According to the Associated Press, members of the Kappa Delta Epsilon fraternity of the University of Texas have decided to invite a thorough investigation by officials of the university of the death of Nolte McElroy, 19 year old pledge, by electric shock during fraternity initiation last Sunday night.

McElroy was placed between two sets of bed springs charged from a house electric light wire connected through a rheostat by which the current could be reduced. Although McElroy had been pronounced by physicians to be in excellent health, the shock caused his death.

There is no moral to be drawn from this particular case, since the death was wholly accidental; but such an occurrence brings fraternity methods to the attention of the public.

The Cluster has not changed its stand on fraternities as exposed in an issue early last year, when it attempted to answer an editorial in the Macon Telegraph. The Cluster believes that fraternities, since becoming an organic part of college life, have their legitimate place and are to be respected. In the editorial last year, this newspaper pointed to several weaknesses in the fraternity idea itself, and concluded, "Purification, not abolition, is needed."

The youth in college is supposed to be a man. We at Mercer sometimes take pride in calling ourselves "Mercer men". So it is at other institutions. Yet "fraternity men" have not yet outgrown their sadiam, their childish delight in manifesting alleged superiority by whipping freshmen and suffering unto them various indignities unworthy of the supposed enlightenment of the twentieth century collegian.

It isn't primarily a moral question, this business of hazing. An old gag that has passed from fraternal lip to fraternal lip for years is, "Spare the rod and spoil the freshman." Utter rot! Sage upperclassmen, slyly feeling their so-called superiority, speak of their "duty to the pledges" and other infantile platitudes as if these upperclassmen were greater men because of having resided in college longer than the first year men.

The Cluster will be surprised if this editorial does not produce rebuttals from the big fraternity brothers, for fraternities, though admirable organizations in some respects, always have been adverse to criticism. Furthermore, it is probable that some brother will rise to say that this is written by some "little guy with a bad case of sour grapes, some non-fraternity man with an inferiority complex."

On the contrary, however, the editor, managing editor and a large part of the staff of this newspaper are members of fraternities and hold their brotherhoods in high esteem. The Cluster welcomes letters on this subject, but respectfully requests that correspondents give intelligible reasons why anyone who considers himself an adult should sanction such an elementary, childish and senseless custom as paddling younger men, who may in all probability be superior in every way to the hazer, since the student body of Mercer is improving every year.

### CREDO

The liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely, according to our own conscience is the highest form of liberty.—Milton.

The Cluster, having become somewhat more settled, takes time this week for introspection. The Cluster is largely an expression of the principles of journalism as taught by Prof. Edgar E. Folk, a capable and experienced newspaperman and a writer of a family of writers.

At times, The Cluster has had squabbles with various administrative officers of the university; but on the whole this newspaper has had less trouble with censorship than the average college publication.

We begin this year with respect for the new administration. As The Cluster said last week, it desires earnestly to support Dr. Dowell and his colleagues.

So much for that. Looking to the news end, we cannot expect to print all the news first so long as the Macon Telegraph and the Macon News publish their sheets daily. We do expect, however, to give more of a campus angle to Mercer happenings than do the Telegraph and the News; and our readers need show no surprise at an occasional "scoop" of both the Macon dailies.

Last year it was a regular habit for The Cluster to break the news first. It will be remembered that this newspaper beat the Associated Press to the story of the changes in the faculty and administration published in our extra edition of Thursday, May 17.

To conclude this brief paper-to-reader talk, let the editors request that all organizations desiring publicity in The Cluster select their reporters and see that their copy is in The Cluster offices not later than 9 o'clock Monday nights.

### ALMOST A REALIZATION

The erection of a muchly needed law school building, which has been talked of for several years, and many times promised, seems rapidly to be approaching realization.

Definite action was commenced to raise the necessary funds towards the close of last year, when the board of trustees was informed that Mercer must have a law building if the law school were to retain its "A" rating. It was necessary to have \$25,000 on hand to commence the construction of the building.

At that time the trustees gave the authorization necessary to the drive to collect funds, and appropriated the lot formed at the intersection of Coleman avenue and Montpelier avenue to this fund. A slump in the real-estate and gasoline business has delayed the sale of this lot, but it is certain to be sold in the near future for a sum which, in addition to the amounts subscribed by various individuals, will enable construction of the building to be commenced immediately.

Thus a dream will be realized, to the extreme delight not only of the faculty and students of the law school, but to the pride of the entire university. The law school will be enabled to maintain the progress which it has made within recent years, and it is certain that many students will be attracted who will not tolerate the present quarters occupied by the law school.

### WESLEYANI WESLEYANI

There can be little doubt in the minds of Mercerians that the following had a great deal to do with the moving of Wesleyan college to Rivoli: the U-Drive-It System; Hertz Drive-It System; the Central of Georgia railway; Dixie Safety Coaches, Inc., and the Yellow Cab company.

Nevertheless, congratulations are in order. To Wesleyanians and to Wesleyan officials The Cluster and the students and faculty of Mercer university extend cordial although envious felicitations.

Those of us who were in Macon on September 12 beat our way one way or another to Rivoli—pardon, to Wesleyan, Ga.—and looked the place over while Bishop Candler orated. The general conclusion was that Wesleyan has a magnificent plant.

Don't get snooty about it, girls, because you'll have to meet us in town.

### PSHAW By Shaw

Which is a treatise on the maid question.

Mercer. Classes. Freshmen. Numerous freshmen. And fogs. Always fogs. And freshmen in fogs. No hair. Only fogs. Hair. Fogs. Fogs. Using fogs for hair. Perhaps. Nice fogs. Warm, moist fogs. Nize—nize fogs. Siren. Professors rudely wake freshmen. Happiness. Happiness for freshmen. No more classes for day. Only dreams. Dreams of Cherry street. Of dopes. Of shows. Of Wesleyanians.

A freshman steps forth from the crowd. He looks around him. He is awed. He hesitates, then wends his way toward Sherwood Hall and his room.

An interlude. Room in Sherwood hall. First floor. Sophomores converse. "When did you get in, Bill?" "S'morning." "Nice summer?" "Yep, nice. How about you Pete?" "Not so good. Dead town." "Nothing like getting back, eh Pete?" "Oh no, nothing like it." "I'll be getting up. Rooming upstairs. See you then, Pete." "Yeh. I know." Sophomore leaves room. He is heard on first step. The next step is a bit muffled. Then there is a gasping noise followed by choking, running feet and a cry for air. Bill enters room. Pete grins. A sickly grin. Bill gasps out the word "dust". "Yeh, I know," says Bill, "no maid-service this year." "Strouble? Strike for smaller rooms?" "No, something about demanding a bonus of an eskimo pie a term," I think. "Who could blame the school for telling them where to get off?" "Yeh, who could? Well, getta shovel?" "Yeh, but wait..."

Light steps on front steps of Sherwood. Timorous steps. Freshman steps. Bill goes to door. "FRESHMAN!" "Yeasir." Freshman comes to door and salutes. "Freshman, take off your cap." Freshman takes off cap. Hair revealed. Serious offense. "Freshman, what are you doing with hair?" "Playing football, sir." "Very good, freshman, where've you been?" "To class, sir." Surprise is registered on faces of sophomores. "Playing football and attending classes?" "Yeasir," very meekly. "Serious, freshman, quite serious. That calls for five licks, eh Bill?" "Make it ten." "Ten, then. Assume the angle, freshman."

Licks are administered with great gusto. Remarkable gusto.

Bill produces shovel. "A path to third floor, freshman." Pete comes forward from a place of retirement. "And shovel out the dust in my room." He gives room number.

Freshman leaves room. Sorrow is written on his face. Freshman looking very doeful. Dreams are forgotten. Dreams of dopes and Wesleyanians.

There are only realities. Life is real and steps are dusty.

Curtain indicates lapse of time. CURTAIN. Four hours pass. Four dusty hours.

### BLUE KEY HOLDS FIRST LUNCHEON

#### Mercer President Speaks At First 1928 Meeting of Honorary Fraternity.

For the first time since the opening of the school year, the Blue Key honorary fraternity held its regular bi-monthly luncheon at the Oriole dining rooms Monday evening at 7 o'clock. The fraternity was installed at Mercer last May with a charter membership of 17.

Dr. Spright Dowell, who was present at the meeting, gave the principal address of the evening. He stressed the importance of closer relationship and understanding between the students and the faculty and the Baptists of the state. He stated that in his opinion, the Blue Key will be able to bring about the desired relation as much, if not more, than any other organization on the campus.

The honorary fraternity's membership on the Mercer campus is limited to 20 men and those who at present are enrolled in the organization are: Will Ed Smith, president; Bill Wright, vice president; Ebb Kilpatrick, secretary; Parks Martin, treasurer; Bob Gilbert, sergeant-at-arms; Buford Boone, Clyde Carpenter, J. A. Curry, Gene Eller, John Gilbert, Jack Gregory and Luke Hill.

Dr. P. H. Anderson, faculty member and adviser of the organization was present and made a short address.



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Negro is seen climbing to top of Serwood. Close investigation. Breeze. No negro. Only dusty freshman. Climbs to top of Serwood. He stands up. He takes a breath of pure air. He sings lustily.  
On the city's western border, Looking for the sky.  
Dust entombed is Sherwood hall And I wonder why.