

A L U M N I , T H I S ' I S F O R Y O U

TWO SIDES OF FRATS

The Macon Telegraph last week got off its annual anti-fraternity editorial. It reprinted an article from the Georgia Alumni Record and added some disagreeable remarks for itself.

The Telegraph's stand on fraternities is peculiar. Usually given to a fair discussion, in the present case the great daily overlooks everything regarding the present fraternity system except its obvious faults. The objections to fraternities, according to the Record, and subscribed to by The Telegraph, are, in brief:

"They ensnare young people who are not yet old enough to distinguish between goodness and 'tommy-rot.' Their fine-spun notions of etiquette standardize more college men per year than could a hundred schools of Ford philosophy. Their false standards of value permit them to reject innumerable worthy students and accept a considerable number of rogues. At the national headquarters of each fraternity there are a number of suave, black-slapping, middle-aged gentlemen who receive a certain percentage of initiation fees and annual dues."

The Cluster grants that these evils exist to a certain extent, but cannot see how most of them apply to fraternities more than to the other organs of the college. The college curricula is arranged to ensnare the innocent and unenlightened youth into courses which may be good, but probably are tommy-rot. Surely the etiquette and culture of the fraternity is no more standardized than that of the average classroom, though the standardization is of a different nature.

Although their "false standards of value permit them to reject innumerable worthy students and accept a considerable number of rogues," no one has doubted that on the whole fraternity men are above the level of the non-frat group, even though the exceptionally brilliant student probably will not belong to a lodge. (This applies even more universally to Rotary and its imitators which The Telegraph supports.) And suppose "innumerable worthy students" are rejected; what of it? Fraternities are social, not honorary organizations.

Ah, sadly enough, there is no reply to the statement that the money-reapers are at national headquarters. There rests the strongest argument of the antics. The cost of fraternities is outrageous. The normal initiation fee is enough to support a thrifty student a month: Monthly dues seem exorbitant when one considers how little one gets from national headquarters.

The Telegraph makes the point that fraternities do more harm to those left out than good or harm to those elected. True, but inevitable: Man usually gains happiness at the expense of his fellowman. If there were no fraternities, there would be, by the gregarious nature of man, social clubs and cliques of a sort, and some one always would be left out.

Percy Marks has suggested that the campus be organized so that every student will be come a member of a fraternity. This would put the business in the hands of the college authorities, the fraters would rebel, new organizations spring up and snobishness continue. Cruelty cannot be modified by regulations.

The problem is a matter for the un-

(BY THE EDITOR)

In this, the first issue of the alumni edition—a present from The Cluster to alumni—the editor asks for consideration and a little patience from those interested in the experiment. The problems encountered in putting out a readable alumni page are not similar with those of the other part of the paper; the majority of interesting news concerning the men who have passed from the university is not to be found on the campus or even within the confines of Macon. We must, therefore, get much of the material via the post office or from people who are difficult to locate.

The time element in this issue has played an important and unfortunate part. Professor Wray notified the editor last week that he would like the edition to appear on the week following. Luckily we have found enough matter near at hand which could be rushed into print to fill the two pages devoted to alumni news. As to its quality, we leave that to the fair criticism of those who shall read it. As can be seen, many of the articles deal with local people and those who have but this year graduated from Mercer.

It is our hope that in the future some mention of the antics of Mercurians can be made even as far back as the beginning of the institution. This will require some head-scratching on somebody's part; and no more fertile head can be scratched than those who lived "away back yonder." Some little side light on college in the olden days, some humorous incident which happened to you or your school mates, some joke on a professor, some athletic game that was pulled from the fire in the last minute—that is the kind of stuff which makes good reading. Put the thought down in black and white and send it to the Alumni editor of The Cluster, care of Prof. C. B. Wray. We'll publish it "as is" or write it up in the form of a feature story.

There's another request we want to make of the men who used to go to Mercer. We want to hear about all the grads who are making their way in the world. Perhaps their achievements don't get in the daily press; perhaps no returning grad tells us that Bill 'O something is working hard enough to be president or that the pride of the class of 19—just recently bought a whole county; that's why the alumni don't hear about him, and that's why we ask the alumni to give us all the information possible about the men who went to Mercer.

Dean Smalley, '13, Recalls Campus Life in Olden Days

By Austin W. Gilmour

dergraduate members and the alumni, so long as the chapters remain law-abiding. The Georgia Alumni Record holds that fraternity members are too satisfied with the present system to attempt to improve it. The students, however, are due the liberty of having secret organizations if they please, and conducting them as they desire, regardless of the unfairness and inconsistency of the method chosen.

The unsuspecting freshman is another item to be dealt with. In our opinion, fraternities are worth the cost and exposure to standardization, despite their evils; but the freshman should know what he is doing when he pledges. The authorities might help slightly by requiring deferred pledging, but the true reform will come in every individual chapter. It is the moral duty of the chapter rushing the freshman to tell him all that can be told about a fraternity, exposing the ugly side of the picture as well as the beautiful—and, above all, leaving out the hookum.

The Cluster believes the pretty side of the canvas more than pays for the ugly. Nowhere is better fellowship found than in the fraternity home. In the chapter, men with varying opinions and beliefs can air their freely and be treated with courtesy. The frat house is the most pleasant place connected with the college. Certainly living conditions are better than in the dormitories of most institutions. Collegians are given to moronic pastimes, in fraternity houses as out; but in the chapter home will be found more good fellowship, more decent, if not cultured conversation, than anywhere else on the campus.

The Cluster rests its case. On the campus are scores of pledges awaiting initiation. The Cluster advises: Go, if you like the boys; but go with a clean, critical eye, resolving to meliorate your fraternity by making of yourself a more cultured, more democratic, less standardized man.

June J. Ellis, advertising manager of the Waycross Journal-Herald, who was editor of The Cluster the first two terms of last year, dropped in on us Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis spent the week-end in Macon visiting relatives of both parties.

Prof. W. T. Smalley was in a reminiscent mood the other morning. Leaning back in his chair in his office on the first floor of the administration building, he let his mind wander back 16 or more years to the days when he was an undergraduate at Mercer. He forgot the fact that he is dean of the Mercer freshmen and an exacting teacher of English. Those who can remember so far back in the history of the university will recall that he graduated in the class of '13.

The professor can't remember all his contemporaries who have made marks in the world, but Louie Newton and H. D. Johnson have stuck in his mind. A few are teaching at Mercer today, H. L. Batta, Ben Holtzclaw, and Lee Battle. Surely no alumnus is too old to remember Lee Battle!

Chapel Hasn't Changed

Of course when one can get a professor to talk about old times it is well to have him compare them with the present at the university. According to Prof. Smalley chapel hasn't changed one bit. "Chapel in my day was as boring as it is today, and the students objected to the services about as much as those who are compelled to attend now," he said. "I happened to be standing behind Hump Poole one day at the close of a chapel service, waiting for some long-winded preacher to stop his prayer. Hump began to fidget, and finally he turned to me and said, 'Don't you know that frets God?'"

"During the years I was at Mercer as a student there was an enrollment of about 400; but that was enough to cause all the trouble the teachers wanted. Boys in those days, you know, were as full of devilment as they are now."

"Most of the undergraduates lived in Sherwood hall and they made life for the supervisor pretty miserable. They would take great pleasure in rolling noisily things down the stairs. One time a waste-basket came down and rung the supervisor neatly around the head."

"Pistol" Jenkins

"In '18 the practice of cutting freshmen's hair hadn't come into vogue but the belt was in frequent use. I got a taste of it but it was of a somewhat lighter order than was usually

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MERCER'S ALUMNI OCCUPY MAJORITY OF STATE OFFICES



Dr. M. L. DUGGAN

STATE EDUCATOR IS MERCER GRAD

Dr. M. L. Duggan is Recently Elected Superintendent of Georgia Education

Dr. M. L. Duggan, the newly elected state superintendent of education, is another Mercer man in whom the college may well be proud. Behind him lies an enviable record of public service in the field of education; and before him the way is open for even more service.

In his re-election as superintendent in the September balloting he was simply succeeding himself in the office he has held since the death of former Superintendent F. E. Land over a year ago. His election came with the hearty support of the people and the press of the state.

When Mercer conferred upon Dr. Duggan the degree of Doctor of Pedagogy, Dean Jacobs, in introducing the Doctor, said "As a rural school superintendent he has done more for the elementary schools of Georgia than any living man."

Appointed by Governor

A year ago when Superintendent Duggan was appointed by the governor to fill the unexpired term of the late Superintendent Land he immediately issued an official announcement beginning with the following paragraph:

"To succeed Fort E. Land is to assume a tremendous responsibility. To the faithful discharge of the sacred trust imposed in the governor's appointment I consecrate myself and all the powers I can command. It shall be my ambition and endeavor to maintain the harmony so happily established by Superintendent Land in all the agencies of the state department of education and educational institutions from the remote small rural school to the head of the university system, and to promote the progress already planned. To achieve so great a task I shall need and claim the active sympathy, cooperation and support of every teacher, superintendent, school official and patriotic citizen of the state; and I shall greatly need more than human wisdom. If I did not believe that I would have these in liberal measure I would hesitate to assume so grave a responsibility."

Has Been Active

One of Superintendent Duggan's outstanding achievements is the putting into effect the equalization act of 1926. During the first month of Duggan's administration the Million dollar equalization fund appropriated was, and since then it has been, working to the advantage of all the coun-

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Georgia State Historian Notes Monotonous Occurrence of Mercer Names

GEORGE MOST PROMINENT

Candidate for Presidential Nominations Received Three Degrees From University

By Hugh Awtry

"Some day I am going to Mercer university just to see what there is in its atmosphere that causes its former students to list their attendance there 40 or even 50 years ago as among their most notable achievements."

This statement is attributed by Miss Sallie Boone, Mercer librarian, who knows practically everything about everything, to Miss Ruth Blair, Georgia State historian, who is in charge of the archives and related business at the Capitol. It is her duty each year to supervise the compilation of the Official Register, a book containing biographical sketches of all public officials of the state.

"I have noticed," Miss Blair said, "the monotonous recurrence of Mercer's name in the list of institutions which have supplied the men holding state positions. I find its alumni substantially out-numbering all others mentioned."

Political Whos Who

A glimpse into the roster of federal, state, city and county officials for the past year reveals Mercer men as providing a sort of private and monopolized "Who's Who in Politics." Listing these, with classes represented from 1881 to 1925, is something similar to taking the census. It is demonstrably a more serious undertaking than publishing even a large town telephone directory, party lines included.

Pointers-with-pride are afforded an auspicious take-off with three "Federal alumni," two of which only recently were elevated.

United States Senator Walter F. George, of Vienna, a recent candidate for the Democratic nomination for the presidency, may well lead the field. The junior senator received his B. S. degree from Mercer in 1900, his law diploma one year later, and was conferred the honorary LL. D. in 1920.

Judge Bascom S. Deaver, of the Federal Middle District of Georgia, was twice graduated, first in 1907 and later in 1910.

A Long List

Archibald Chappell, known to all present students of the school of law, was recently selected for the newly created post of Federal District Probation Officer with an indefinite tenure of office.

Mercer's three United States Congressmen went to college together. Two were classmates. They are E. E. Cox, Camilla, 1902; M. C. Tarver, Dalton, 1904; and Carl Vinson, Milldefgafile, 1902.

Nine State Senators represented Mercer at the Capitol last session, including E. B. Dykes, Vienna, President. After serving four terms as a Representative he is returning next session. He is a former member of the Governor's Mason commission and of the W. and A. railroad commission. The other Senators are Millard Eason, Brunswick, 1908; H. L. Howard, Sylvan, 1905; J. C. Lewis, Sparta, 1915; J. B. Jackson, Gray, 1900; Nathan E. Winship, Macon; F. M. Green, Perry, 1904; Howell Coos, Statesboro, 1904; and John I. Kelly, Lawrenceville, 1914, formerly private secretary to the late Senator Thomas E. Watson.

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